

## Ecoregion Go Fish

**Subject:** Social Studies

**Grade Level:** Elementary

**Idaho General Education Performance Standards:**

- Describe the physical regions of Idaho
- Identify major natural resources

**Time:** 20 min.

**Supplies:**

- Ecoregion cards
- Scissors
- Ecoregion PowerPoint

**Learning Objectives:**

Students will:

- Identify and visually describe ecoregions in Idaho
- Name characteristics of each ecoregion in Idaho

---

### Content Overview:

This activity provides students the opportunity to define the five ecoregions in Idaho.

---

## Instructional Approach:

### Interest Approach:

1. Write in a prominent location “what is watershed?”
2. Ask students if they’ve ever seen Jay Leno’s “jaywalking.” Put students in groups of 4 to 5. Have one student be the recorder, one the reporter, and the rest “people.” Record the “people’s” responses to the question and have the “reporter” report interesting / believed correct responses to the class.

- 
1. Place a large rock or overturned bowl into a glass baking pan. Pour water over the object in a location students can see clearly.
  2. Discuss which part of the water cycle this models (runoff).
  3. Let students know they will be discussing where runoff goes in their lesson today.

---

### Learning Activity:

1. Students will work in pairs. Each pair will be given a set of ecoregions cards (cut apart and mixed up). Keep one set uncut for answer key.
2. One student will deal 5 cards to each person.
3. Each person will take a turn asking the other if they have a card from one particular ecoregion to create “books” of
4. To receive a card the person must give at least two characteristics of the ecoregion they are asking for. Ex. Do you have a pacific bunchgrass card? It has deep rich soils and is found in the Palouse and Camas prairies. If they are looking for a picture card they must describe what the Pacific Bunchgrass ecoregions looks like.

5. If the person holding the card(s) has more than one, then they may give them any card from the Pacific Bunchgrass family.
  6. If the player does not have a card from that family he will tell his partner to “Go Fish”
  7. That player will take the top card from the deck.
  8. After collecting all 4 cards from the family, that person may lay down the family on the table.
  9. The person with the most cards on the table after a player has no cards left in their hand is the winner.
- 

**Attachments:**

- Go Fish Cards

# Salt-Desert Shrub Region



## Characteristics:

- Salty soils
- Cold temperatures
- Southern Idaho (Mountain Home area)
- Precipitation: <10”
- Excellent winter range for grazing animals



# Juniper Woodlands Region

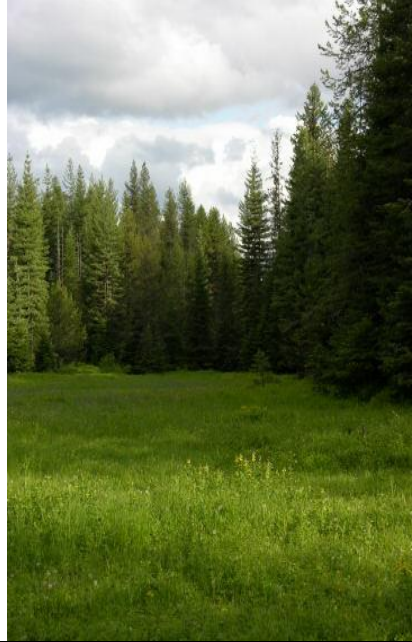


## Characteristics:

- Shallow, rocky soils
- Hotter climate
- Southern Idaho (Owyhee area)
- Precipitation: 12-30"
- Potential problem due to fire suppression



## Coniferous Forest & Mountain Meadow Region



### Characteristics:

- Volcanic ash, very fertile & deep soils
- Dense forest with open meadows
- Most of northern Idaho
- Precipitation: 40+
- Excellent wildlife habitat and summer range



## Pacific Bunch Grass



### Characteristics:

- Deep, rich soils
- Moist climate
- Palouse & Camas Prairies
- Precipitation: 12-30"
- Today, mostly farmland



# Sagebrush Grasslands Region



## Characteristics:

- Drier soils
- Hotter climate
- Plains, plateaus, valleys south of Salmon River
- Precipitation: 10-15"
- Classic western rangeland type

