A nighttime photograph of the Toronto skyline, featuring the CN Tower and various skyscrapers with their lights reflecting in the water. The scene is dark, with the city lights providing the primary illumination.

# What's The Word Around Town

TORONTO

BY LINDSEY THORNE



# Physical Landforms

**Identify two different types of landforms found in/around your town.** Lake Ontario and Niagara Escarpment

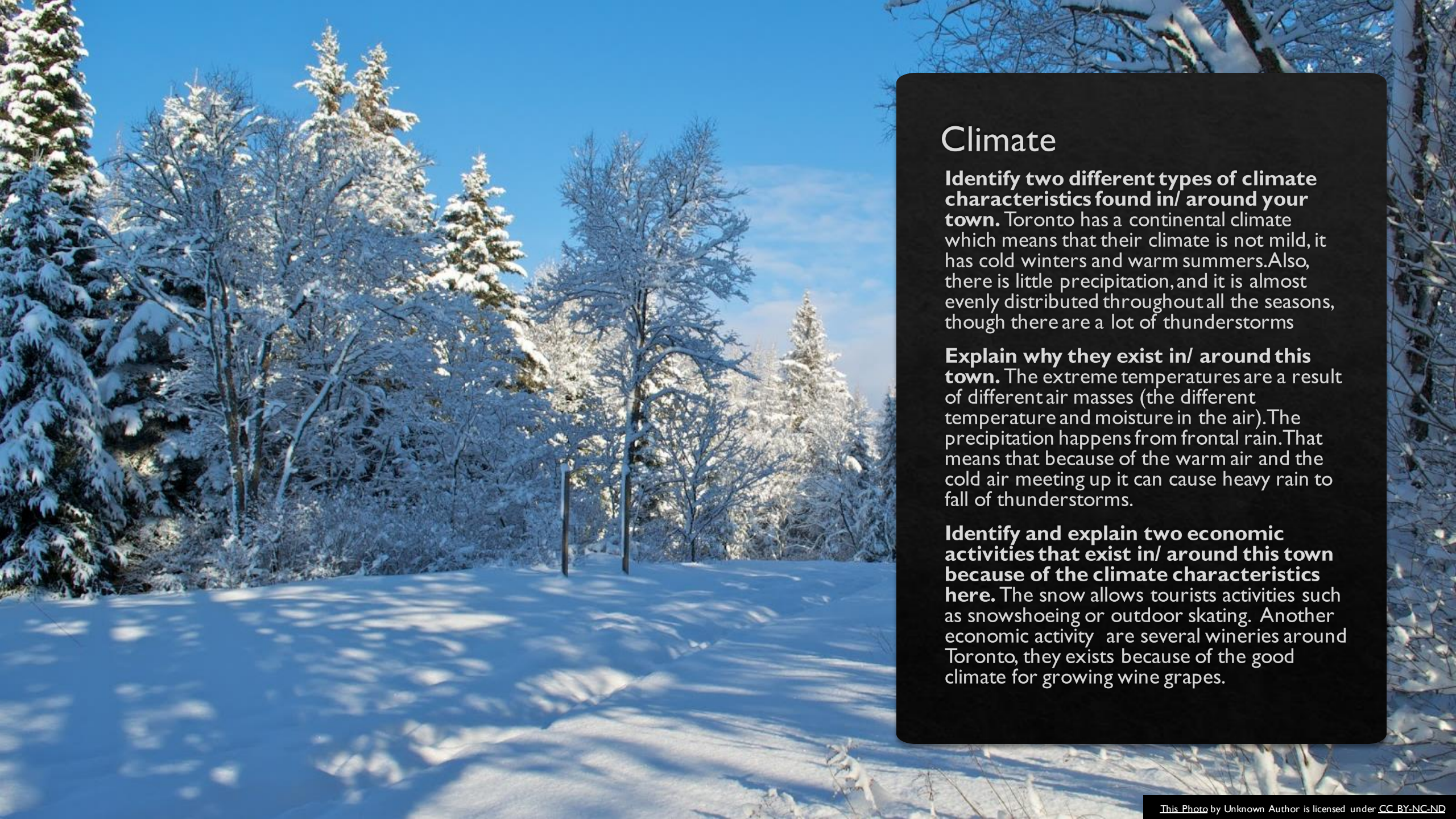
**Explain why they exist in/ around your town.**

Lake Ontario was formed from melting glaciers, like all the other of the great lakes. But the escarpment was more complicated. A long time ago, there the area around Toronto was submerged in water. As years went by, dirt and mud drifted to the bottom of the ocean and formed sediment. Some of the deadliest species who lived in this ocean got fossilized. Once the water dried up, wind, rain and ice shaped the landscape, forming the Niagara Escarpment.

**Identify and explain two economic activities that exist in/ around this town because of those physical characteristics.** In Lake Ontario there are several fisheries as well as hydroelectricity from dams in rivers leading to the lake. There are tourist attractions from boaters and swimmers. As for Niagara Escarpment there are archeological sites to study some of the fossils as well as hiking and skiing attractions.







## Climate

**Identify two different types of climate characteristics found in/ around your town.** Toronto has a continental climate which means that their climate is not mild, it has cold winters and warm summers. Also, there is little precipitation, and it is almost evenly distributed throughout all the seasons, though there are a lot of thunderstorms

**Explain why they exist in/ around this town.** The extreme temperatures are a result of different air masses (the different temperature and moisture in the air). The precipitation happens from frontal rain. That means that because of the warm air and the cold air meeting up it can cause heavy rain to fall of thunderstorms.

**Identify and explain two economic activities that exist in/ around this town because of the climate characteristics here.** The snow allows tourists activities such as snowshoeing or outdoor skating. Another economic activity are several wineries around Toronto, they exists because of the good climate for growing wine grapes.



# Vegetation

## **Identify two different types of vegetation found in/around your town.**


Fruit bearing trees such as apple trees, cherry trees or peach trees are found around Toronto, as well as there is the Deciduous forest region. There are all kinds of deciduous trees (such as cucumber, tulip, black gum, blue ash, sassafras and walnut trees) but also coniferous trees (such as eastern white pine, tamarack, eastern red cedar and eastern hemlock).

**Explain why they exist in/around this town.** The ravines are where most of the trees are located. The creeks that run through these ravines provide enough water to sustain the trees. These valleys have a complicated ecosystem that is fundamental to the survival of the vegetation.

**Identify and explain two economic activities that exist in/ around this town because of the vegetation types here.** In Toronto there are farmers markets that sell fresh produce. Near Toronto is Algonquin Park where you can camp the night under the tree canopy.







## Environmental Issue

All the great lakes are very polluted from multiple reasons. For example, people are always dumping garbage. Garbage isn't the only thing being dumped, phosphorus is being put into the lakes from agriculture, this causes the growth of algae which kills different lake plants and animals. There are also tributary dams which kill most of the fish.

Another problem is the zebra and quagga mussels are in the lake. They are both invasive, because they over filter the water which lets sunlight to the bottom of the lakes. This increases the growth of algae (which takes some of the oxygen out of the water and kills fish). Global warming is slowly evaporating the water.

The lakes are important because they are a main source of fish for Ontario. It also is a source of hydroelectricity and the main sources of drinking water for cities around the lakes.



# Solutions

On the shores of some of the great lakes people have organised cleanups of the beach. There have been suggestions to properly dispose of chemicals (such as cleaning solutions) rather than pouring them down the drain.

It's also important to remember the three R's, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. That means to try to reduce the amount of single use plastics you buy, reuse for them for as long as you can and to recycle any recyclable plastics.





## Future

Fifty years from now we will have invented a robot that uses sensors to pinpoint the location of zebra or quagga mussels then exterminate them. This robot will be microscopic so it can travel through sewage pipes. The machine will execute the mussels by drilling through their shells into the hearts of the mussels.

I chose this solution because it would be very difficult for humans to go underwater to exterminate the mussels. My idea is supported by the fact that many futuristic sci-fi movies and books have robots doing jobs for humans. That is because machines are usually more efficient than people.





*That's all Folks!*



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