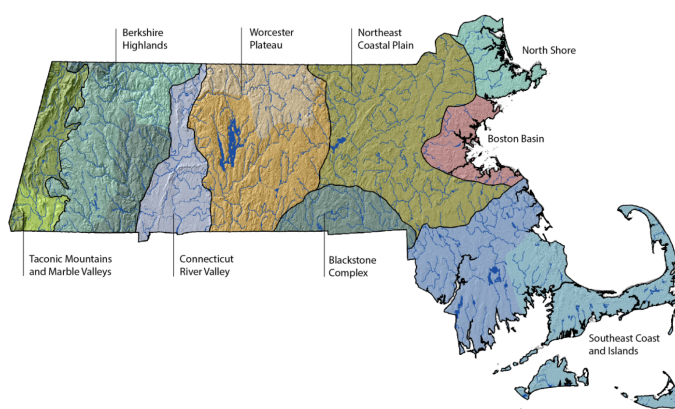


ECOREGIONS OF M.A.

*What makes Massachusetts ecologically diverse?
An at-home activity provided by the Hopkins Memorial Forest*

OVERVIEW

Ecoregions are areas where ecosystems (and the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources) are generally similar. From the western mountains of the Taconics ecoregion to the sand dunes of the Southeast Coast ecoregion, Massachusetts is made up of 9 ecoregions, each with unique ecosystems, plants, and animals.



MATERIALS NEEDED


- This sheet
- Scissors
- Colored pencils

PROCEDURE

1. Using a **light green** colored pencil, color in the **Taconic Mountains and Marble**

Valleys in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”

Taconic Mountains and Marble Valleys




color me!

- Limestone outcrops
- Rich soils
- Hills and valleys

2. Using a **red** colored pencil, color in the **Berkshire Highlands** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”


Berkshire Highlands




color me!

- Oak-hickory forests
- Berkshire mountains
- Spruce-fir forests


3. Using a **light blue** colored pencil, color in the **Connecticut River Valley** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”

<p style="text-align: center;">Connecticut River Valley</p> 	<div data-bbox="878 380 1365 537" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">color me!</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Good soils for farming● Flat land along river
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4. Using an **orange** colored pencil, color in the **Worcester Plateau** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”

<p style="text-align: center;">Worcester Plateau</p> 	<div data-bbox="878 984 1365 1142" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">color me!</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● High, flat land● Wetlands and peatlands● Hardwood forests
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5. Using a **purple** colored pencil, color in the **Blackstone Complex** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”


Blackstone Complex	
	<div>color me!</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oak-pine forests● Hills● Mild climate

6. Using a **yellow** colored pencil, color in the **Northeast Coastal Plain** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”

Northeast Coastal Plain	
	<div>color me!</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oak-white pine forests● Acidic soils● Floodplain forest

7. Using a **dark blue** colored pencil, color in the **North Shore** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”

North Shore




color me!

- Sand and silt
- Salt marshes
- Oak forest

8. Using a **brown** colored pencil, color in the **Boston Basin** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”

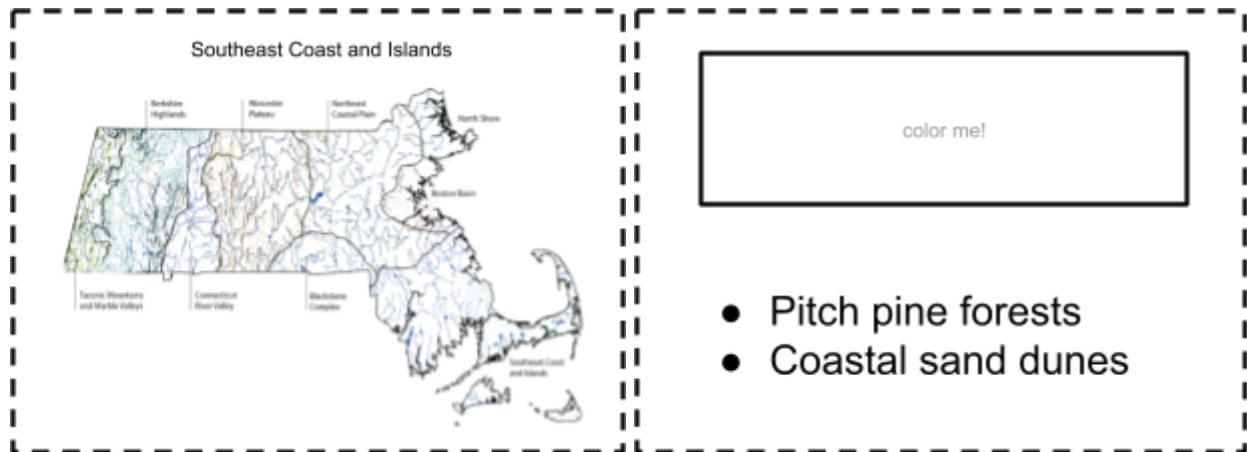
Boston Basin



color me!

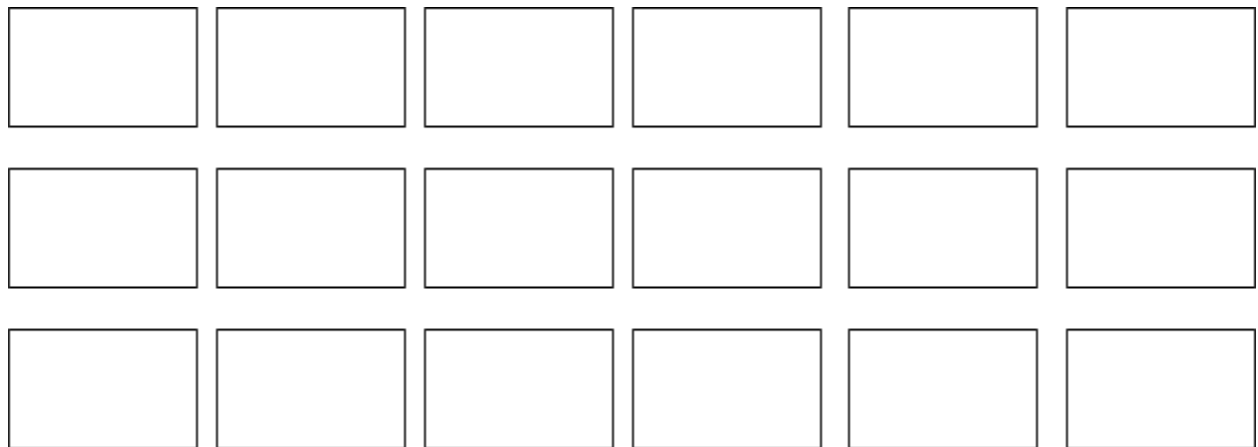
- Most urban ecoregion
- Salt marshes
- Shrubland

9. Using a **dark green** colored pencil, color in the **Southeast Coast and Islands** in the map as well as the box marked “color me!”



10. With scissors, carefully cut out each of the 18 tiles you colored, along the dotted lines.

11. **Playing the game:** randomly arrange the tiles face down in a grid, as shown below. Players take turns flipping over two tiles of their choice: if the tiles are an **ecoregion** tile and a corresponding (the colors match) **characteristics** tile, the tiles are removed and the player gains a point. If the tiles are the same type (two **ecoregion** tiles or two **characteristic** tiles) or the tiles flipped do not match (they are different colors), then the tiles are flipped back face down and the player’s turn ends with no point gain. The game ends when all tiles have been matched. **The player with the most points wins!**



Starting position of the tiles (all face-down)