Investigating Russia's soil type

Sample site C

Climate for C (Steppe)

- Precipitation (mm)
- Maximum day temperature
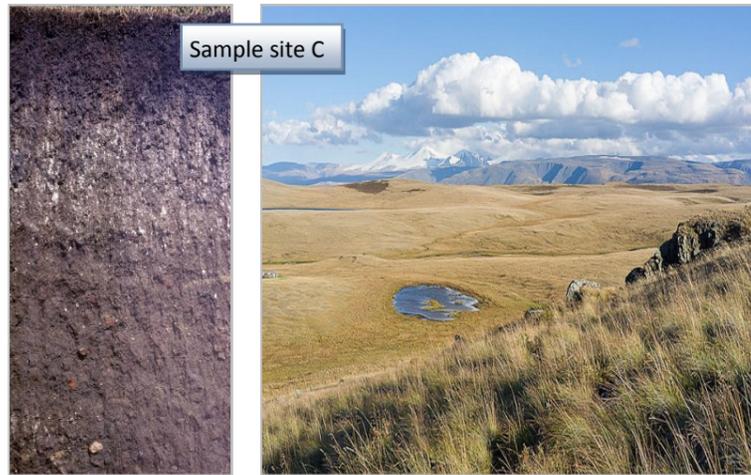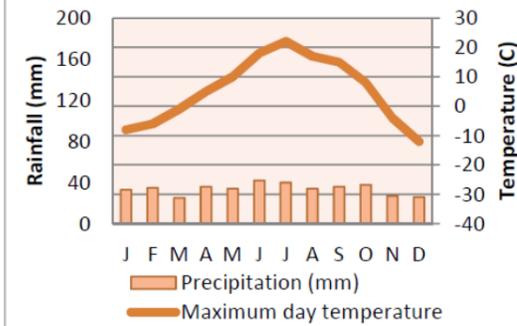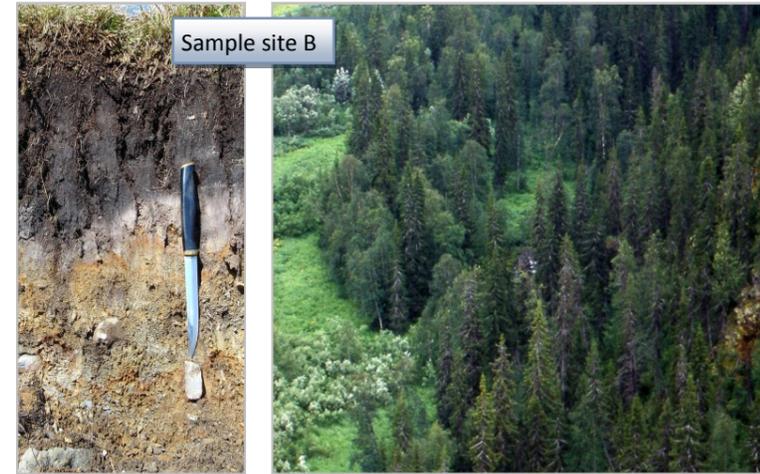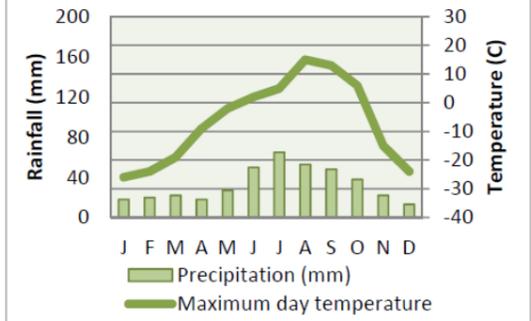
Above: A one metre-depth cross-section of a chernozem soil. Can you see the white deposits of calcium?

Sample site B

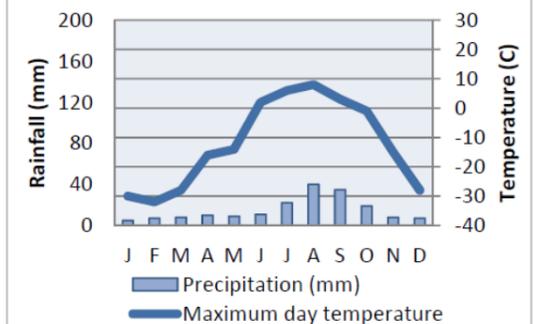## Climate for B (Taiga)

- Precipitation (mm)
- Maximum day temperature

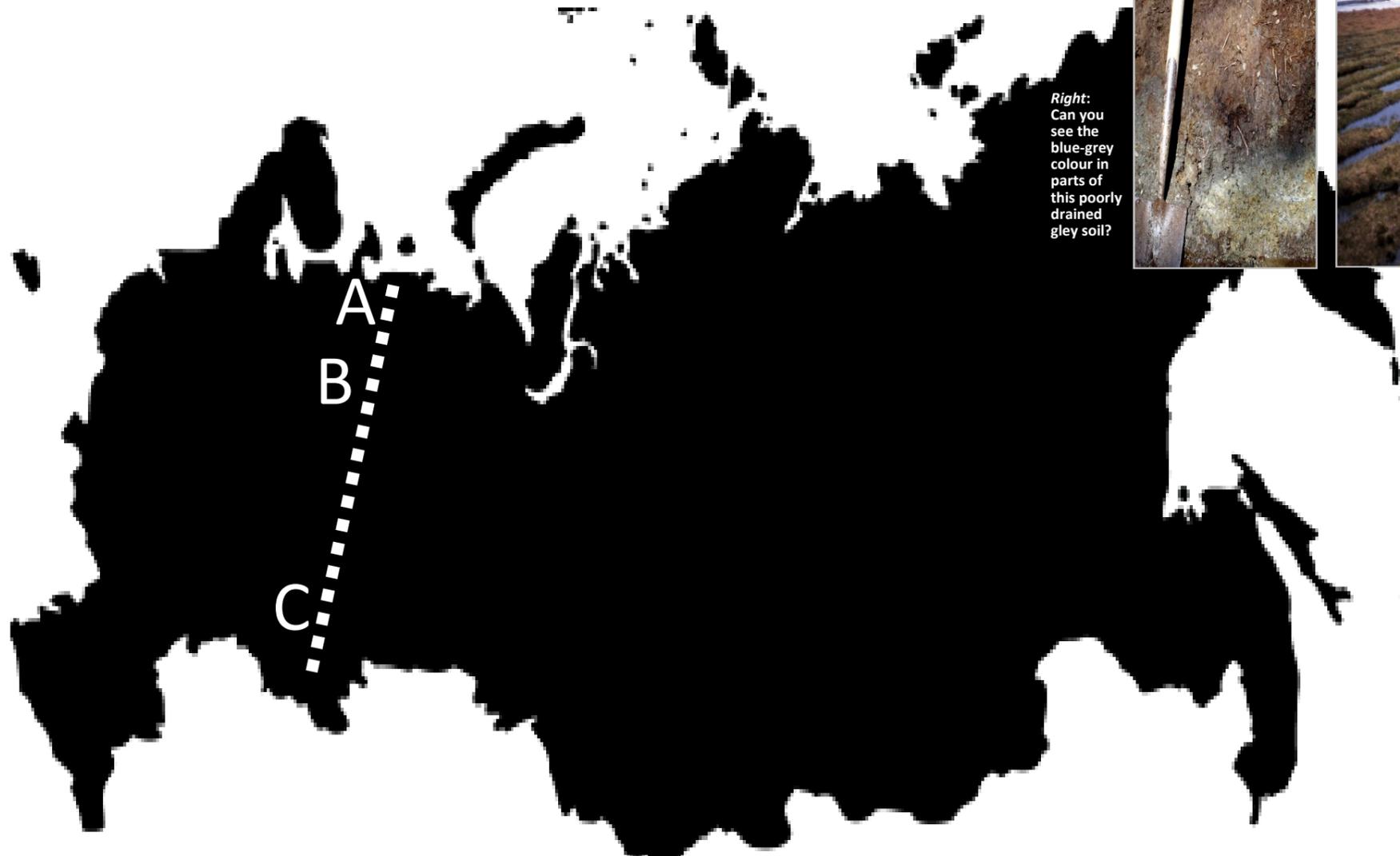*Above*: A one metre-depth cross-section of a podsol soil. Nutrients are washed downwards, creating horizons.

Sample site A

Climate for A (Tundra)

- Precipitation (mm)
- Maximum day temperature

Right: Can you see the blue-grey colour in parts of this poorly drained gley soil?

A

B

C

Classroom exercises

Using **all** of the resources, you will be describing and explaining the geographical connections between climate, vegetation and soil for the three sample sites shown.

For **each** of sample sites A, B and C, briefly answer all of the following questions:

a) Outline the main characteristics of the climate shown.
(*In your answer, try to provide the maximum and minimum temperature, an overview of how hot or cold this place appears to be, and an estimate of how much rain falls annually.*)

b) Describe the main **characteristics** of the vegetation or environment shown.
(*What kind of plants are shown? Is there snow cover?*)

c) Explain how the **climate** has influenced the vegetation and environment.

d) Name the **soil type** shown.

e) Explain **one** important way in which climate and/or vegetation has influenced the **appearance** of the soil type you have identified in your answer to (d).

Extension activity

How might the characteristics of the three environments shown influence what kinds of human activity can take place? Where is farming most likely to take place, and why? In what other ways are Russian people likely to be affected by the range of environments shown? You could think about the way homes might need to be designed, or the clothing people wear.