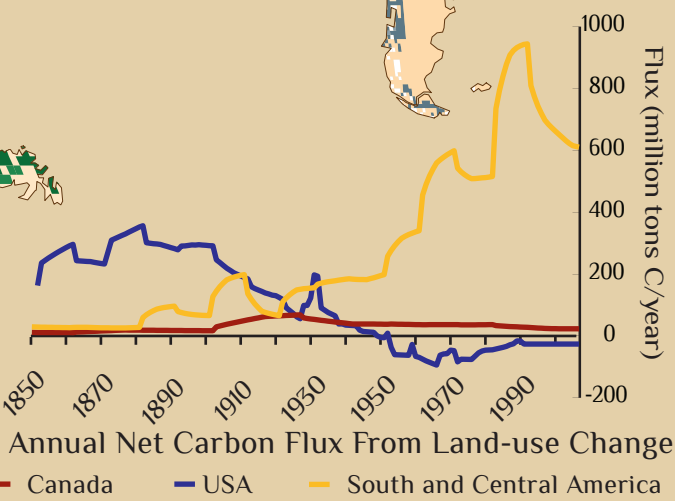
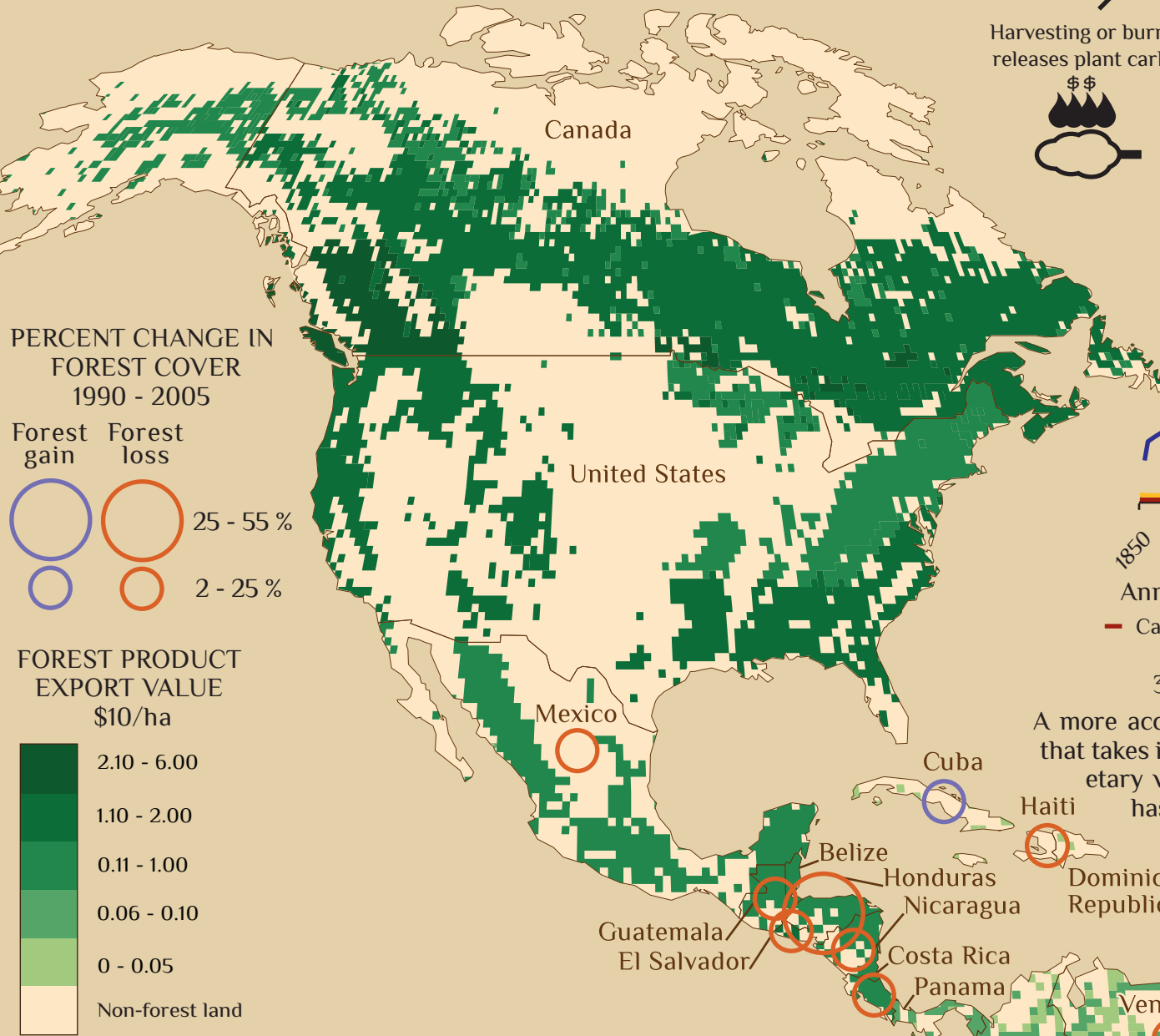
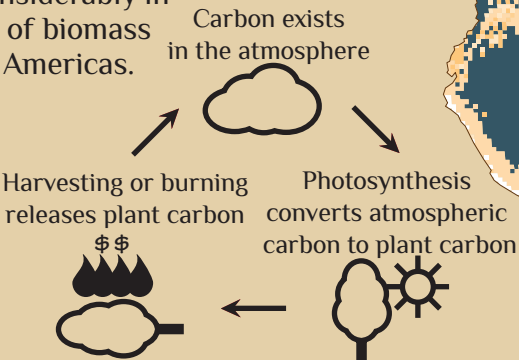
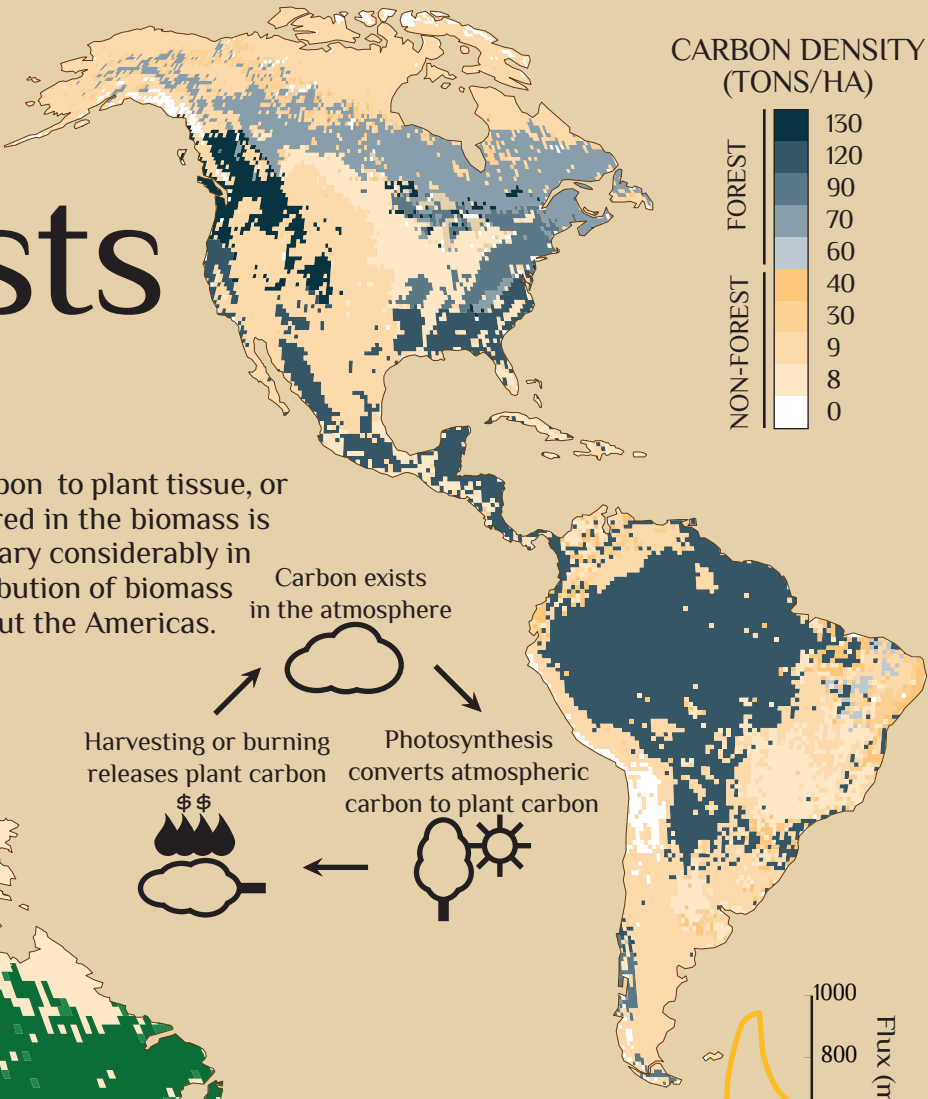


The Value of America's Forests

1. FORESTS AND THE CARBON CYCLE

Forests are the product of photosynthesis, where plants convert atmospheric Carbon to plant tissue, or biomass. When land is cleared, or forest products are harvested, the Carbon stored in the biomass is often released, returning the Carbon to the atmosphere. The forests of America vary considerably in the total amount of biomass in a given area. The map to the right shows the distribution of biomass density in forests and non-forest areas throughout the Americas.



3. A COMBINED LOOK AT FOREST VALUE

A more accurate depiction of the value of forests is one that takes into account both the Carbon density and monetary value. In the map to the left, the export value has been weighted based on forest area and Carbon density, with high Carbon having greater weight. This information, combined with the percent change in forest cover allows us to better understand Carbon emissions from 3 regions, seen in the graph above.

