# Resources in Use

Compare how three countries use energy and freshwater

**SS24.WH.18b** "Compare and contrast the current consumption of natural resources in various countries across the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Circle one shared resource use and underline one difference for each country pair. Write 1 beside marks about the United States and India, and 2 beside marks about the United States and the UAE.

### What Does a Country Use?

1. A phone charger, a farm pump, and an air conditioner all draw on natural resources. Comparing countries takes more than asking which one uses the most. A country with many residents can use a large amount overall even if each person uses relatively little. Per-person use divides a country's total use by its population, so it answers a different question from national use. The United States, India, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) offer a useful comparison. Their climates, populations, and economies differ, so the resources people use and the reasons they use them differ too.

2. In both the United States and India, homes and businesses use electricity, and farms draw freshwater to grow food. Yet electricity use per person is much higher in the United States. Oil and natural gas provide much of its energy, while coal remains a major source of India's electricity. India's huge population means that lower use per person does not necessarily mean low use nationwide. Farming is a major user of freshwater in India, where irrigation supports crops during dry periods. Farming also uses water in the United States, but household and industrial demands add to its total.

3. The United States and the UAE both use oil and natural gas, and electricity powers air conditioning in both countries. The UAE's hot, dry climate makes cooling especially important. Unlike the United States, the UAE has very limited natural freshwater and relies heavily on desalination, which removes salt from seawater for human use. Desalination itself needs energy. The United States has more natural freshwater overall, although some of its regions face shortages. India and the UAE face different water pressures too: irrigation is a major demand in India, while securing drinking water in the UAE often depends on desalination.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does electricity use per person in the United States compare with India? Why might India's total use still be large?

2. How is freshwater use for farming similar in the United States and India, and what other demands add to U.S. use?

3. How are the United States and the UAE alike in energy use, and what makes cooling especially important in the UAE?

4. How does access to natural freshwater differ between the United States and the UAE, and how does the UAE respond?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Compare India and the UAE in four sentences. Describe one similarity and two differences in their use of energy and freshwater, then explain why per-person use and total national use could lead to different conclusions.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.18b

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle one shared resource use and underline one difference for each country pair. Write 1 beside marks about the United States and India, and 2 beside marks about the United States and the UAE. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How does electricity use per person in the United States compare with India? Why might India's total use still be large? | **Electricity use per person is much higher in the United States. India's large population means its total use can still be large.** |
| 2 | How is freshwater use for farming similar in the United States and India, and what other demands add to U.S. use? | **Farms use freshwater in both countries. Household and industrial demands also add to U.S. use.** |
| 3 | How are the United States and the UAE alike in energy use, and what makes cooling especially important in the UAE? | **Both use oil and natural gas, and both use electricity for air conditioning. The UAE's hot, dry climate makes cooling especially important.** |
| 4 | How does access to natural freshwater differ between the United States and the UAE, and how does the UAE respond? | **The United States has more natural freshwater overall. The UAE has very limited natural freshwater and relies heavily on desalination.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

India and the UAE both use electricity and need freshwater. Coal remains a major source of India's electricity, while the UAE uses oil and natural gas and needs energy for cooling and desalination. Irrigation is a major demand for freshwater in India, but the UAE relies heavily on desalination because natural freshwater is scarce. Comparing use per person with national totals could change which country appears to use more, because their population sizes differ.

Accept comparisons supported by the passage. Students should distinguish per-person use from national totals without claiming that the passage gives exact totals.