Living Standards Lens

Use GDP per capita to compare average economic resources.

SS.7.E.3.4 "Compare and contrast the standard of living in various countries today to that of the United States using gross domestic product (GDP) per capita as an indicator."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each number in the data table, then write 1, 2, 3, or 4 beside the country names from highest to lowest GDP per capita. This helps you compare average economic resources per person.

Comparing Economic Resources

1 Standard of living describes the goods, services, safety, and choices people can usually afford. One useful indicator is GDP per capita. GDP is the value of goods and services produced in a country in one year. Per capita means per person, found by dividing GDP by the number of people. A higher amount often suggests more economic resources per person.

GDP PER CAPITA, 2023 ESTIMATES

Country	GDP per capita, current U.S. dollars
United States	$82,769
Mexico	$13,926
India	$2,485
Norway	$87,745

2 The table uses 2023 estimates in current U.S. dollars, so each amount can be compared using the same unit. GDP per capita is an average, not a paycheck received by each resident. A country can have a high average while some families have low incomes. Prices, public services, health, education, and the distribution of income also affect daily life.

3 To compare standards of living, first compare each country's GDP per capita with the United States. Then state what the difference may suggest about average economic resources. Avoid claiming that every person lives the same way. A careful comparison uses GDP per capita as evidence, while recognizing that it does not measure every part of a person's standard of living.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which listed country has a GDP per capita higher than the United States? Which two listed countries have lower amounts?

2. Which country's GDP per capita is closest to that of the United States? About how much higher or lower is it?

3. Compare Mexico and India using the table. What does the difference suggest about average economic resources per person?

4. Why should you use more than GDP per capita when comparing standards of living? Give two factors from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences comparing the United States with Mexico and India. Use GDP per capita values as evidence, explain what they suggest, and include one limit of this indicator.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each number in the data table, then write 1, 2, 3, or 4 beside the country names from highest to lowest GDP per capita. This helps you compare average economic resources per person. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which listed country has a GDP per capita higher than the United States? Which two listed countries have lower amounts?	**Norway is higher than the United States. Mexico and India are lower.**
2	Which country's GDP per capita is closest to that of the United States? About how much higher or lower is it?	**Norway is closest. Its GDP per capita is about $4,976 higher than that of the United States.**
3	Compare Mexico and India using the table. What does the difference suggest about average economic resources per person?	**Mexico's GDP per capita, $13,926, is about 5.6 times India's $2,485. This suggests Mexico has more average economic resources per person, but it does not describe every person's income or life.**
4	Why should you use more than GDP per capita when comparing standards of living? Give two factors from the passage.	**GDP per capita is only an average and does not show how income is distributed. Other factors include prices, public services, health, and education.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States had $82,769 per person, which was far above Mexico's $13,926 and India's $2,485. These amounts suggest that the United States had more average economic resources per person. However, GDP per capita cannot show how income is shared or whether people receive strong public services.

Accept reasonable comparison language that uses the listed values accurately. For the open response, require three sentences, both Mexico and India, a supported comparison with the United States, and one valid limitation of GDP per capita.