

Why Businesses Cluster

Read how resources, transportation, and people shape where work happens.

SS5G2 "Explain the reasons for the spatial patterns of economic activities."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that names an economic activity, meaning work or a business that produces, moves, stores, or processes goods. Circle the location for each activity, then write 1 by resource reasons, 2 by transportation reasons, and 3 by nearby-people reasons.

Economic Patterns in Georgia

- ① Near Savannah, Georgia, economic activity clusters around the busy port. Workers load containers onto ships, and trucking and rail companies move those goods inland. These activities are located there because the Savannah River connects the port to the Atlantic Ocean. Roads and rail lines link the port with other places, so businesses can send and receive goods efficiently.
- ② In southern Georgia, many farmers grow peanuts on broad fields. Peanuts grow well in the region's warm climate and sandy, well-drained soil. Peanut shelling plants and food-processing businesses are often near the farms. Being close to the crop helps companies get fresh peanuts quickly and spend less money moving large loads of unshelled peanuts.
- ③ Closer to Atlanta, distribution centers store products before stores order them. Companies choose sites near interstate highways and the airport, where goods can arrive and leave quickly. Atlanta's large population also creates many nearby customers and workers. Together, natural resources, transportation routes, and people's needs help explain why different economic activities occur in different parts of Georgia.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Which transportation connections make Savannah's port a useful place for loading ships and moving goods inland?

- 2 Why do peanuts grow well in southern Georgia?

- 3 Why are peanut shelling plants and food-processing businesses often near the farms?

- 4 How does Atlanta's population affect the location of distribution centers?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose two different economic activities named in the passage. Write three sentences that name each activity and its location, explain why each is located there, and tell one difference between the reasons.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that names an economic activity, meaning work or a business that produces, moves, stores, or processes goods. Circle the location for each activity, then write 1 by resource reasons, 2 by transportation reasons, and 3 by nearby-people reasons. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which transportation connections make Savannah's port a useful place for loading ships and moving goods inland?	The Savannah River connects the port to the Atlantic Ocean, and roads and rail lines connect it with other places.
2	Why do peanuts grow well in southern Georgia?	The region has a warm climate and sandy, well-drained soil.
3	Why are peanut shelling plants and food-processing businesses often near the farms?	They can get peanuts quickly and spend less money moving large loads of unshelled peanuts.
4	How does Atlanta's population affect the location of distribution centers?	Atlanta has many nearby customers and workers, so companies locate distribution centers there.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Loading containers onto ships happens near Savannah's port because the river, roads, and rail lines connect it to other places. Peanut shelling happens near southern Georgia farms because the crop is nearby, which saves money moving unshelled peanuts. Loading ships depends on transportation connections, while shelling depends on being close to a natural resource.

Accept only activities, locations, and reasons stated in the passage. For Your Turn, accept equivalent wording for transportation, nearby crops, natural resources, customers, or workers, as long as the student compares two passage-based activities.