Resource Routes

How Australia's natural resources support economic activity

SS6E12.d "Describe the role of natural resources in a country's economy."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural resource named in the passage. Circle the words that show how each resource affects Australia's economy.

Resources at Work

1 Australia's economy uses natural resources, materials found in nature, to create jobs, goods, and income. Iron ore is mined in Western Australia and shipped overseas, where it is used to make steel. Coal and natural gas are also sold to other countries for energy. When businesses export these resources, money enters Australia. Mining companies pay workers and buy equipment, while governments can collect taxes and royalties. These payments help support services such as roads, schools, and hospitals.

2 Natural resources also shape farming and fishing. Fertile soil, rainfall, and irrigation water allow Australian farmers to grow wheat, fruit, and vegetables and raise cattle and sheep. These products supply Australian families and are exported, bringing income to farms, transport businesses, and ports. Oceans provide fish, shellfish, and other seafood for food and trade. However, drought can reduce water supplies and crop harvests. This shows that an economy can depend on natural conditions that change from year to year.

3 Some resources can be renewed if people protect them. Forests can provide timber, but replanting trees helps keep future supplies available. Sun and wind are resources that can produce electricity without being used up. Australia's growing renewable-energy industry needs workers to build, operate, and repair solar and wind equipment. Careful management matters because overfishing, land damage, or pollution can lower future income. By using resources wisely, Australia can earn money today while protecting economic opportunities for tomorrow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do iron ore exports affect Australia's economy?

2. What natural resources support Australian farming, and how do farm products help other businesses?

3. What economic problem can drought cause, according to the passage?

4. Why can careful management of forests, fisheries, land, and water protect future income?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one natural resource used in Australia that was not named in the passage. In 4 or 5 sentences, explain how it can create jobs or income and describe one way people can manage it responsibly.

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource named in the passage. Circle the words that show how each resource affects Australia's economy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do iron ore exports affect Australia's economy?	**Iron ore exports bring money into Australia. Mining also creates jobs and leads companies to buy equipment.**
2	What natural resources support Australian farming, and how do farm products help other businesses?	**Fertile soil, rainfall, and irrigation water support farming. Farm products bring income to transport businesses and ports when they are exported.**
3	What economic problem can drought cause, according to the passage?	**Drought can reduce water supplies and crop harvests, which can lower farm income and affect an economy that depends on those natural conditions.**
4	Why can careful management of forests, fisheries, land, and water protect future income?	**Careful management helps prevent overfishing, land damage, and pollution. It keeps resources available so they can continue to create income and jobs in the future.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bauxite is mined in several parts of Australia and is the main ore used to make aluminium. Mining and processing bauxite can provide jobs and income for workers, businesses, and governments. Aluminium can be sold in Australia or exported to other countries. Mining companies must manage land and water carefully so that the resource creates benefits without causing long-term environmental damage.

Accept answers that accurately connect a natural resource to economic effects such as jobs, products, exports, income, taxes, or related businesses. For the open task, accept a valid Australian resource not named in the passage and a realistic management practice.