Growth Down Under

Examine what helps and limits Australia's economic growth.

SS6E12 "Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Australia."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline factors that can support economic growth in Australia. Circle conditions that can limit growth, so you can compare Australia's advantages and challenges.

Australia's Growth Factors

1. Economic growth happens when a country can produce more goods and services over time. Australia has valuable natural resources, including iron ore, coal, natural gas, and farmland. Mines and farms provide materials and food that can be sold within Australia and to other countries. Selling these products brings income that businesses and governments can invest. However, resources alone do not guarantee growth. A country also needs workers, equipment, knowledge, and ways to move products to buyers.

2. Australia's people can also support growth. Schools, universities, and job training help workers build skills. Skilled workers can design software, care for patients, improve farms, and operate complex machines. Businesses use capital, such as tools, factories, computers, and machinery, to make work more productive. Roads, railways, ports, and reliable communication systems help connect producers with markets. These investments can lower the time and cost of moving goods, especially between Australia's cities, farms, mines, and trading partners.

3. Australia also has conditions that may limit growth. Much of the population lives along the coast, while some mines and farms are far from major cities and ports. Building transport links across long distances can cost a lot. Droughts can reduce water supplies for farming, and severe weather can damage crops or roads. Australia trades with many nations, so overseas demand for its exports affects jobs and income. Economic growth is stronger when advantages, such as skilled workers and investment, outweigh these challenges.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can Australia's natural resources lead to economic growth?

2. Name one example of skilled labor and one example of capital or infrastructure from the passage. How does either example support growth?

3. Why can long distances between mines or farms and major cities make economic growth harder in Australia?

4. Compare one factor that supports Australia's growth with one condition that can limit its growth.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an Australian industry or business idea. In 4 sentences, describe two factors that could help it grow, one challenge it could face, and one practical response to that challenge.

ANSWER KEY **Growth Down Under** GRADE 6 · SS6E12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline factors that can support economic growth in Australia. Circle conditions that can limit growth, so you can compare Australia's advantages and challenges. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can Australia's natural resources lead to economic growth?	**Mines and farms produce materials and food that can be sold in Australia and overseas. The income can be invested by businesses and governments.**
2	Name one example of skilled labor and one example of capital or infrastructure from the passage. How does either example support growth?	**Answers may include trained workers who design software, care for patients, improve farms, or operate machines, plus capital or infrastructure such as machinery, roads, railways, ports, or communication systems. These help people produce or move goods and services more efficiently.**
3	Why can long distances between mines or farms and major cities make economic growth harder in Australia?	**Transport links across long distances cost a lot to build. Distance can also raise the time and cost of moving products to markets.**
4	Compare one factor that supports Australia's growth with one condition that can limit its growth.	**A supporting factor may be natural resources, skilled workers, capital, or transport systems. A limiting condition may be long distances, drought, severe weather, or changing overseas demand for exports.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A solar-power business in inland Australia can grow because the region receives abundant sunlight. Trained electricians and engineers can install and maintain the equipment. The business may be far from large cities and electricity lines. It could invest in transmission connections and training for local workers.

Accept any accurate factor from the passage that is connected to increased production, trade, income, or efficiency. For the open response, accept realistic Australian examples that include two growth factors, one challenge, and a sensible response.