Growth Clues

Find the factors that can help or limit economic growth.

SS6E3 "Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico."

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraphs 2 and 3 only, underline each phrase that shows a growth factor or a limit on growth. Write B, C, or M above each underlined phrase to show whether it describes Brazil, Cuba, or Mexico.

Why Economies Grow

1 Economic growth happens when a country can produce more goods and services over time. Natural resources, such as fertile land, oil, or minerals, can supply materials. Human capital means workers' education, health, and skills. Capital goods, including machines, roads, and factories, help workers produce efficiently. Entrepreneurs start or expand businesses and take risks. Governments can support growth by protecting property, building infrastructure, and keeping rules dependable. These factors may be present in different amounts, so countries do not grow in the same way.

2 Brazil has major natural resources, including iron ore, farmland, forests, and water for hydropower. Its large population provides workers, and its farms, mines, and factories produce for home markets and trade. Roads, ports, and schools have improved in many places, adding capital goods and human capital. However, uneven education, poverty, and transportation problems in some regions can limit productivity. Brazil also has many entrepreneurs, but complicated taxes and regulations can make it harder for small businesses to grow.

3 Cuba has a highly educated population and strong health care, which strengthen human capital. The government owns or directs much of the economy. This can limit private entrepreneurship and access to modern machines or investment. Cuba has some farmland, nickel, and tourism, but fewer natural resources than Brazil. Mexico has oil, minerals, farmland, and a large workforce. Trade with nearby markets has brought factories and investment. Yet uneven schooling, weak infrastructure in some areas, and crime can hold back growth.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name one natural resource that supports Brazil's growth and one challenge that can limit Brazil's productivity.

2. What is one strength of Cuba's human capital? What two growth factors can be limited by government control of much of the economy?

3. Identify two factors that support economic growth in Mexico. Then identify one problem that can hold back its growth.

4. How can roads, ports, and schools help Brazil produce more goods and services?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose Brazil, Cuba, or Mexico. Write exactly three sentences that name one limited growth factor, propose one action to improve it, and explain how the action could help the country produce more goods or services.

Growth Clues

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In paragraphs 2 and 3 only, underline each phrase that shows a growth factor or a limit on growth. Write B, C, or M above each underlined phrase to show whether it describes Brazil, Cuba, or Mexico. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name one natural resource that supports Brazil's growth and one challenge that can limit Brazil's productivity.	**Brazil has resources such as iron ore, farmland, forests, or hydropower water. Uneven education, poverty, or transportation problems can limit productivity.**
2	What is one strength of Cuba's human capital? What two growth factors can be limited by government control of much of the economy?	**Cuba has an educated population and strong health care. Government control can limit private entrepreneurship and access to modern machines or investment.**
3	Identify two factors that support economic growth in Mexico. Then identify one problem that can hold back its growth.	**Mexico has oil, minerals, farmland, a large workforce, factories, and investment from trade. Uneven schooling, weak infrastructure, or crime can hold back growth.**
4	How can roads, ports, and schools help Brazil produce more goods and services?	**Roads and ports are capital goods that help move materials and products. Schools build human capital by improving workers' education and skills.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Cuba has limited access to modern machines and investment. Cuba could allow more private businesses to buy modern equipment. Better equipment could help workers produce more goods and services.

Accept any accurately identified factor or limit from the passage. For Part 3, accept reasonable actions and explanations that clearly connect an improved growth factor to greater production.