

Resources at Work

How natural resources support jobs, trade, and public income

SS6E6.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. Then number three details that show how a resource affects jobs, trade, government money, or future production.

Resources Power Economies

- ① In northern Chile, companies mine copper ore from the Andes and nearby deserts. Copper is used in electrical wires, buildings, and many machines. Mine workers, truck drivers, engineers, and port employees earn income as the copper moves from mines to Pacific ports. Chile sells much of its copper to other countries. These exports bring foreign money into Chile's economy. The government can collect taxes and royalties from mining, then spend some of that money on public services and infrastructure.
- ② Canada's vast forests provide timber for lumber, paper, and other wood products. In a forestry region, workers harvest trees, run sawmills, and transport finished goods. A sawmill turns logs into boards, which adds value before sale. Lumber and paper can be sold within Canada or exported abroad. Forestry businesses buy equipment and pay wages, supporting other local businesses. When companies replant and protect forests, they help the resource continue providing jobs and products in the future.
- ③ Brazil's fertile soil and warm climate help farmers grow soybeans. Farmers sell soybeans for food, cooking oil, and animal feed. Processing plants crush beans into oil and meal, creating jobs beyond the farm. Brazil exports large amounts of soybeans, so world demand and prices can affect farm income and national export earnings. However, farmers and businesses must protect soil and water. Careful land use can help keep production strong while reducing damage to forests and nearby communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What natural resource does Chile export, and how do those exports bring money into the country?

2 Name two kinds of workers, other than mine workers, whose jobs are connected to Chile's copper industry.

3 How does turning logs into boards at a sawmill affect the value of Canada's timber?

4 Why can changes in world soybean prices affect Brazil's economy?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a country in Latin America that was not named in the reading. Write three sentences that name one natural resource, explain how it supports jobs or trade, and describe one challenge the country must manage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource. Then number three details that show how a resource affects jobs, trade, government money, or future production. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What natural resource does Chile export, and how do those exports bring money into the country?	Chile exports copper. Other countries buy it, bringing foreign money into Chile's economy.
2	Name two kinds of workers, other than mine workers, whose jobs are connected to Chile's copper industry.	Answers include truck drivers, engineers, and port employees.
3	How does turning logs into boards at a sawmill affect the value of Canada's timber?	Turning logs into boards adds value before the wood is sold.
4	Why can changes in world soybean prices affect Brazil's economy?	Brazil exports large amounts of soybeans, so changing world prices can change farm income and national export earnings.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mexico has petroleum, which is used for fuel and petrochemical products. Drilling, refining, and transportation create jobs, and petroleum sales can bring money into the country. Mexico must manage spills and changing oil prices, which can affect communities and government income.

Accept accurate examples of a Latin American country not named in the passage. The response should connect a specific natural resource to jobs or trade and identify a realistic challenge, such as pollution, resource protection, or changing prices.