Growth Factor Detectives

Analyze how resources, workers, investment, and trade shape economic growth in Europe.

SS6E9 "Describe factors that influence economic growth and examine their presence or absence in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Russia."

NAME ______________________________ DATE ______________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every factor that can influence economic growth, then write UK, G, or R in the margin beside one fact about each country to show where that factor is present or limited.

What Helps an Economy Grow?

1. Economic growth happens when a country can produce more goods and services over time. Important factors include educated workers, investment in machines and roads, natural resources, trade, new ideas, and stable laws. The United Kingdom has many trained workers, major universities, financial services, and links to world trade. It has fewer oil and gas resources than in the past and limited land for farming. Its growth also depends on investment in transportation, technology, and worker skills at home.

2. Germany's economy is helped by skilled workers, technical training, factories, research, and a strong transportation network. Many businesses make vehicles, machinery, chemicals, and other products for export. Germany has relatively few major oil and natural gas supplies, so it must import much of its energy. This dependence can raise costs when energy prices rise. Investment in clean energy, efficient machines, and research can help businesses produce more while using less imported fuel in the future.

3. Russia has large supplies of oil, natural gas, forests, and minerals. Selling these resources can bring income for businesses and the government. However, resource wealth alone does not guarantee steady economic growth. Russia also needs reliable roads and railways, investment, skilled workers, new technology, and rules that let businesses plan confidently. Heavy dependence on energy exports can make growth less stable because world prices change. Sanctions and reduced access to some foreign investment and technology have also limited growth opportunities in recent years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Name two factors that support economic growth in the United Kingdom. Then name one resource-related limit it has.

2. How can Germany's need to import much of its energy affect its economic growth?

3. Why do Russia's natural resources not guarantee steady economic growth? Name two other factors Russia needs.

4. Compare Germany and Russia. How does energy create a different economic challenge for each country?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose the United Kingdom, Germany, or Russia. Write exactly three sentences: identify one factor that supports its growth, identify one limit or challenge, and propose one action that could help its economy grow.

ANSWER KEY # Growth Factor Detectives

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every factor that can influence economic growth, then write UK, G, or R in the margin beside one fact about each country to show where that factor is present or limited. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two factors that support economic growth in the United Kingdom. Then name one resource-related limit it has.	**Support factors include trained workers, universities, financial services, world trade links, transportation investment, technology, and worker skills. The United Kingdom has fewer oil and gas resources than in the past and limited farmland.**
2	How can Germany's need to import much of its energy affect its economic growth?	**When energy prices rise, importing energy can raise costs for Germany. Higher costs can make it harder for businesses to produce goods efficiently.**
3	Why do Russia's natural resources not guarantee steady economic growth? Name two other factors Russia needs.	**World energy prices can change, making growth less stable when Russia depends heavily on energy exports. Russia also needs any two of these: reliable roads and railways, investment, skilled workers, new technology, or predictable rules for businesses.**
4	Compare Germany and Russia. How does energy create a different economic challenge for each country?	**Germany imports much of its energy, so rising energy prices can raise business costs. Russia exports energy, so changing world energy prices can make its economic growth less stable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Germany has skilled workers and technical training, which support manufacturing and exports. It has limited domestic oil and natural gas, so importing energy can raise costs. Germany could invest more in clean energy, which could reduce imported fuel use and help businesses produce efficiently.

Accept equivalent factors and clear cause-and-effect explanations that match the passage. For the open response, accept reasonable actions that connect directly to the country's stated support factor or challenge.