

Australia's Trade Links

Trace how place, climate, and resources shape life and trade.

SS6G12.a "Describe how Australia's location, climate, and natural resources impact trade and affect where people live."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that explain where people live, circle each natural resource, and number the sentences that explain how Australia trades with other places.

Coasts, Climate, and Cargo

- ① Australia is an island continent in the Southern Hemisphere, between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Its long coastline gives ports such as Perth, Melbourne, and Brisbane links to ships traveling to Asia and other regions. Australia is close to many Asian markets, including China, Japan, and South Korea. This location helps businesses send goods overseas and receive products made elsewhere. Most people live along the coast, where ports, jobs, and transportation connections are easier to find.
- ② Much of Australia's interior is dry or desert, with scarce water and very hot temperatures in some places. These conditions make farming and daily life harder for large populations there. In contrast, many coastal areas have milder temperatures and more reliable rainfall. Cities on the east, southeast, and southwest coasts have grown because water, farmland nearby, and services support residents. Tropical northern areas have wet and dry seasons, and some communities there are smaller and farther apart.
- ③ Australia has valuable natural resources, including iron ore, coal, bauxite, and natural gas. Companies extract or mine these resources and transport them by rail, road, or pipeline to ports. From the ports, ships carry many of these exports to buyers in Asia. Resource jobs can bring people to mining towns and port cities, although some remote sites have few permanent residents. Trade also brings income that supports businesses and services in places connected to export routes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do Australia's long coastline and location near Asian markets affect trade?

2 Why do more people live in many coastal areas than in the dry interior?

3 Describe the route a natural resource can take from Australia to a buyer in Asia.

4 How can resource exports affect a port city and a remote mining site differently?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Plan a new Australian trade town in four sentences. Choose a coastal or interior location, name one resource from the passage that it could export, describe one climate condition it must consider, and explain how trade and jobs could affect settlement.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that explain where people live, circle each natural resource, and number the sentences that explain how Australia trades with other places. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Australia's long coastline and location near Asian markets affect trade?	The coastline provides ports for ships, and nearby Asian markets provide buyers for Australian goods.
2	Why do more people live in many coastal areas than in the dry interior?	Coastal areas often have milder temperatures and more reliable rainfall, water, farmland nearby, services, and transportation connections. The interior is dry, hot in some places, and has scarce water.
3	Describe the route a natural resource can take from Australia to a buyer in Asia.	A resource is extracted or mined, moved by rail, road, or pipeline to a port, and then carried by ship to buyers in Asia.
4	How can resource exports affect a port city and a remote mining site differently?	Exports can bring jobs, businesses, and services to port cities. Remote mining sites can have resource jobs but may have few permanent residents.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town would grow on the southeast coast near a port. It would export iron ore by rail to ships traveling to Asian buyers. The milder temperatures and more reliable rainfall would help support residents. Port and resource jobs could attract people, so businesses and services would grow nearby.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that connect location, climate, or a named resource to trade or settlement. For the open response, require all four parts: location choice, passage resource, climate condition, and an explanation of trade or jobs affecting where people live.