Resources and Roads

Trace how natural resources can shape economic development across Africa.

SS7E3.d *"Explain how the distribution of natural resources affects the economic development of Africa."*

NAME ______________________ DATE ____________

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural resource or support, such as roads or trained workers, that the passage names. Circle each economic result connected to those resources or supports so you can trace cause and effect.

More Than What Is Underground

1 Africa has many natural resources, but they are not spread evenly. Nigeria has large petroleum reserves, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo has major deposits of cobalt and copper. Botswana has diamonds, and Ghana produces gold and cocoa. These resources can bring export money when companies sell them to other countries. However, a resource helps development most when roads, electricity, trained workers, and stable government systems allow people to extract, process, and transport it safely.

2 For example, oil exports have given Nigeria important income, but relying heavily on oil can create risks. If world oil prices fall, government revenue may drop quickly. Oil spills can damage farmland and fishing areas, reducing other ways people earn money. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, cobalt is used in rechargeable batteries. Yet mines need safe working conditions, reliable transportation, and fair laws. Without these supports, a country may export raw materials for low prices instead of gaining more jobs from processing them.

3 Resource distribution also shapes connections between African countries. A country with fertile land may sell food to neighbors, while a country with minerals may buy that food and sell mining products. Ports and railways can link inland mines or farms to world markets. When governments invest export earnings in schools, health care, clean water, and transportation, more people can benefit. When profits leave the country or are controlled by only a few people, resource wealth may not improve life for most citizens. Resources create opportunities, not automatic prosperity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can the uneven location of natural resources lead African countries to trade with one another?

2. What supports does the passage say are needed for cobalt mining to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo develop economically?

3. Why can heavy reliance on oil exports create an economic risk for Nigeria?

4. Give one way export earnings can help many people and one reason resource wealth may not improve life for most citizens.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine an African country has a large copper deposit but few paved roads. In three or four sentences, explain one economic opportunity, one challenge, and one investment that could help more citizens benefit.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource or support, such as roads or trained workers, that the passage names. Circle each economic result connected to those resources or supports so you can trace cause and effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can the uneven location of natural resources lead African countries to trade with one another?	**Countries may sell resources they have, such as food or mining products, and buy resources or goods from neighboring countries.**
2	What supports does the passage say are needed for cobalt mining to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo develop economically?	**Safe working conditions, reliable transportation, and fair laws are needed. The passage also explains that processing can create more jobs.**
3	Why can heavy reliance on oil exports create an economic risk for Nigeria?	**If world oil prices fall, Nigeria's government revenue can drop quickly.**
4	Give one way export earnings can help many people and one reason resource wealth may not improve life for most citizens.	**Export earnings can be invested in schools, health care, clean water, or transportation. Wealth may not help most citizens if profits leave the country or are controlled by only a few people.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The copper deposit could bring export income and jobs. Few paved roads would make it expensive and slow to move copper to a port. The government could invest some export earnings in roads and worker training. Better transportation and skills could help local businesses process copper and create more jobs.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that connect a resource's location to trade, jobs, export income, or economic risks. For the open response, look for a clear opportunity, a transportation challenge, and a realistic investment linked to broader benefits.