Fields and Factories

How land, water, workers, and transport shape production

6-9.WG.2.11 "Analyze the locations of the major manufacturing and agricultural areas in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each farming area and circle each manufacturing area. Number the clues that explain why each activity is located there.

Why Here and Not There?

1. Across North America, different places do different jobs. The broad Great Plains support wheat farming because there is room for large fields, though rainfall varies from place to place. Farther east, the Corn Belt's rich soils and summer rain support corn and soybeans. Around the Great Lakes, cities such as Detroit became centers for making vehicles and machinery. Lakes, railroads, and nearby markets helped factories move materials and finished goods. These areas are connected, but the best place to grow a crop is not always the best place to build a factory.

2. In eastern China, the North China Plain is a major farming area for wheat and corn. Its level land supports large fields, but farmers often need irrigation when rain is scarce. Farther south, the Yangtze River basin supports rice farming in wetter areas. Near the river's mouth, the Yangtze Delta includes Shanghai and a dense belt of factories that make electronics and other goods. River routes and seaports connect these factories to suppliers and customers. Farms and factories may be close, but they rely on different mixes of land, water, transport, and workers.

3. South America shows another pattern. Argentina's Pampas, a broad grassland, is a major area for cattle, wheat, and soybeans. Productive soils and open land make farming and grazing possible across large areas. To the northeast, Brazil's São Paulo area is a major manufacturing center, with factories making vehicles and other products. Its large workforce, roads, and access to the port of Santos help goods reach buyers. A farm may send crops to a city for processing, but a vehicle factory needs many parts, workers, and routes to markets. Location shapes what each area produces.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why do the Great Plains support wheat farming while cities around the Great Lakes support manufacturing?

2. How do the location needs of farms on the North China Plain differ from those of factories in the Yangtze Delta?

3. Why are the Pampas suited to farming and grazing, while the São Paulo area is suited to manufacturing?

4. What transport advantage do manufacturing areas near the Great Lakes and the Yangtze River share?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a region with a fertile inland plain, a river leading to a coastal port, and a city with many workers. In 4 to 5 sentences, place a grain-growing area and a farm-equipment factory, explain each choice, and compare your plan with two regions in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.2.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each farming area and circle each manufacturing area. Number the clues that explain why each activity is located there. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why do the Great Plains support wheat farming while cities around the Great Lakes support manufacturing?	**The Great Plains have room for large wheat fields. Great Lakes cities have transport routes and nearby markets that help factories move materials and goods.**
2	How do the location needs of farms on the North China Plain differ from those of factories in the Yangtze Delta?	**North China Plain farms use level land and may need irrigation. Yangtze Delta factories benefit from river routes and seaports that connect them to suppliers and customers.**
3	Why are the Pampas suited to farming and grazing, while the São Paulo area is suited to manufacturing?	**The Pampas have productive soils and open land. The São Paulo area has a large workforce, roads, and access to the port of Santos.**
4	What transport advantage do manufacturing areas near the Great Lakes and the Yangtze River share?	**Both have water routes that help factories move materials or finished goods.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would grow grain on the fertile inland plain because its soil and open space could support fields. I would put the farm-equipment factory in the city, where it could hire workers and ship machines by river. The plain is like the Pampas because both offer land for farming. The city is like the Great Lakes manufacturing area because transport routes help factories move goods.

Accept other accurate comparisons that connect an area's location to its farming or manufacturing advantages. Students may place the factory near the port if they explain how workers and shipping would support it.