Resources in Demand

How changing technology reshapes what regions need

6-9.WG.3.6 "Explain how the demand for important natural resources evolved in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each statement about demand rising or falling, then circle the activity or technology that caused the change.

What the World Needs

1. In the 1800s, factories in Britain burned coal to power steam engines, and trains used it to move goods. Demand for coal grew as factories and railways spread. Later, many British trains switched to diesel or electricity, and coal use there fell. Across the world, China's rapid industrial growth after the 1980s increased its need for coal, especially to make electricity and steel. In recent years, China has also built more wind and solar power, but coal still supplies much of its electricity.

2. Oil followed a different path. In the early 1900s, cars were still uncommon in many places, so fuel demand was limited. As car ownership grew in the United States, demand for gasoline rose. After World War II, more cars and trucks in Western Europe also raised demand for oil. Many countries bought oil from producers in the Middle East, where large oil fields were developed. Today, electric cars are growing in number, but planes, ships, and many road vehicles still use fuels made from oil.

3. Lithium shows a newer change. In the late 1900s, lithium was used in products such as glass and ceramics. Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries spread in the 1990s, increasing demand for lithium used in electronics. In the 2010s and 2020s, sales of electric cars rose in China and Europe, raising battery demand further. Much lithium is mined in Australia and Chile, while battery makers in other regions buy it. The changing demand for each resource reflects what people build and use, as well as the energy choices they make.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did demand for coal change in Britain and China at different times? Explain what drove each change.

2. Why did demand for oil rise in the United States and later in Western Europe?

3. How did uses for lithium change from the late 1900s to the 2010s and 2020s, and how did that affect demand?

4. In China, how have two different activities affected demand for coal and lithium?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a coastal region where most delivery trucks use diesel today. Over the next 20 years, businesses replace many of them with electric trucks. In four to five sentences, explain how demand for oil and lithium in that region might change and why, and give one reason oil demand might remain.

ANSWER KEY

Resources in Demand

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.3.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each statement about demand rising or falling, then circle the activity or technology that caused the change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did demand for coal change in Britain and China at different times? Explain what drove each change.	**Coal demand grew in Britain as factories and railways spread, then coal use fell as trains switched fuels. China's need for coal rose with industrial growth, especially for electricity and steel.**
2	Why did demand for oil rise in the United States and later in Western Europe?	**Growing car ownership raised gasoline demand in the United States. After World War II, more cars and trucks raised oil demand in Western Europe.**
3	How did uses for lithium change from the late 1900s to the 2010s and 2020s, and how did that affect demand?	**Lithium was used in glass and ceramics, then growing use of rechargeable batteries for electronics increased demand. Rising electric car sales in China and Europe increased battery demand further.**
4	In China, how have two different activities affected demand for coal and lithium?	**Industrial growth increased China's need for coal to make electricity and steel. Rising electric car sales increased demand for lithium used in batteries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Today, delivery trucks in this coastal region create steady demand for oil-based diesel. As businesses switch to electric trucks, demand for oil for deliveries would fall. Demand for lithium would rise because the new trucks need batteries. Oil demand would not vanish if ships at the port still burn fuel made from oil.

Accept answers that connect each change in demand to a specific activity or technology. For Your Turn, students may give another plausible use for oil that continues after the truck switch.