Resources and Riches

Compare resources across three regions and their effects on wealth.

7.G.5 "Compare and contrast the distribution of natural resources in Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific; describe how natural resource distribution can impact the wealth of a country."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the natural resources and circle the places where they are found. Number two sentences that show why resources alone may not make a country wealthy.

What a Country Has, What It Earns

1. Imagine three cargo ships leaving different ports. One carries copper from Zambia in Africa. Zambia has rich copper deposits, but many African countries do not. The Democratic Republic of the Congo also has large copper deposits, while some countries have fewer valuable minerals to sell. Africa has other resources, including oil in Nigeria and fertile soil in parts of East Africa. Copper exports can bring Zambia income and jobs. Yet mining equipment and transport cost money, and a drop in copper prices can reduce that income.

2. Across Asia, resources are uneven too. Saudi Arabia has large oil reserves, while China has major coal deposits. Japan has few domestic fossil fuels and imports much of the energy it uses. Oil sales can help Saudi Arabia pay for roads and services, but oil prices can rise and fall. Japan shows that a country can be wealthy without large fuel deposits: it imports materials and earns money by making and selling goods. Unlike Zambia's copper, Saudi Arabia's oil is burned mainly for energy.

3. In the Southwest Pacific, Australia has large iron ore deposits, and Papua New Guinea has copper and gold. Many smaller island countries have limited mineral deposits but can earn money from fishing rights in their surrounding waters. Australia sells iron ore to countries that make steel, including China. Like Zambia's copper and Saudi Arabia's oil, Australia's iron ore can bring export income. Still, where resources occur does not decide a country's wealth by itself. Transport, trade, prices, and how governments use income also shape whether people benefit.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are resources unevenly distributed within both Asia and the Southwest Pacific? Give one example from each region.

2. Compare one mineral resource in Africa with one in the Southwest Pacific. How are the regions' resources alike, and how do they differ?

3. How can Saudi Arabia and Japan both earn money despite their different supplies of fossil fuels?

4. How can exports bring income to both Zambia and Australia? Why might that income not always benefit people?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two fictional countries: one in Africa has forests inland but little fuel, and one in the Southwest Pacific has steady coastal winds but few trees or minerals. In five sentences, compare their resources and explain how each could affect wealth, including one challenge for each country.

ANSWER KEY

Resources and Riches

GRADE 7 · 7.G.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the natural resources and circle the places where they are found. Number two sentences that show why resources alone may not make a country wealthy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are resources unevenly distributed within both Asia and the Southwest Pacific? Give one example from each region.	**In Asia, Saudi Arabia has large oil reserves, while Japan has few domestic fossil fuels. In the Southwest Pacific, Australia has large iron ore deposits, while many smaller island countries have limited mineral deposits.**
2	Compare one mineral resource in Africa with one in the Southwest Pacific. How are the regions' resources alike, and how do they differ?	**Both regions have minerals that can be sold: Zambia has copper, and Australia has iron ore. The minerals named for these two countries differ.**
3	How can Saudi Arabia and Japan both earn money despite their different supplies of fossil fuels?	**Saudi Arabia can earn money by selling oil. Japan has few domestic fossil fuels but earns money by making and selling goods.**
4	How can exports bring income to both Zambia and Australia? Why might that income not always benefit people?	**Zambia can sell copper, and Australia can sell iron ore. Transport costs, changing prices, or decisions about how income is used can limit the benefits.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The African country has inland forests, while the Southwest Pacific country has steady wind along its coast. The African country could sell timber and use the earnings to pay for schools. Moving logs from inland forests to a port could be costly. The Southwest Pacific country could use wind power to reduce spending on imported fuel. Building and repairing wind turbines could cost a lot, so neither resource guarantees wealth.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and explanations in Part 2. For Part 3, accept plausible ways each fictional country could benefit from its resource and a distinct challenge for each.