Connections That Count

How infrastructure shapes development

WG.4.12 "Explain the meaning of the word infrastructure and analyze its relationship to a country's level of development. Compare and contrast the process and advancement of developing and developed nations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three examples of infrastructure, underline two ways infrastructure can affect development, and write 1 and 2 beside two differences in the countries' infrastructure needs.

What Keeps a Country Connected?

1. At dawn, a fishing boat reaches a coastal town. Whether its catch can reach buyers depends on more than the crew. Infrastructure is the shared physical and digital systems that let daily life and the economy function, including roads, ports, power lines, water networks, and internet connections. A working road and reliable electricity can get fish to a cold-storage building before it spoils. Businesses can then sell more and pay workers. Clean water and dependable power also help schools and clinics operate. These systems do not create prosperity alone, but they make many kinds of work and public service possible.

2. Imagine a developing country where a growing city has a modern port, but nearby towns still face frequent power cuts and damaged roads. Its government might extend the electric grid and repair a highway in stages because funds and trained crews are limited. Better connections could help farmers sell crops farther away and could attract firms that need reliable delivery. As wages and tax revenue rise, the government may have more money for upkeep and new projects. Yet growth is not guaranteed: poorly maintained systems, high costs, or unequal access can keep benefits from reaching many households.

3. In a developed country, most homes and businesses may already have dependable roads, water, and electricity. Its main challenge may be replacing aging pipes or upgrading internet service rather than building a first connection. Both countries must plan, pay for, and maintain infrastructure, and both can have neighborhoods left behind. The difference is often the starting point and the resources available, not whether one country works hard. Infrastructure and development reinforce each other: reliable systems support productivity and health, while greater income and tax revenue can fund better systems. Neither country moves forward at the same speed everywhere.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could a working road and reliable electricity affect the income of fishing workers?

2. How could extending the electric grid and repairing a highway eventually help pay for more infrastructure?

3. How do the infrastructure priorities of the developing and developed countries differ? What work must both still do?

4. Why might a modern port in the developing country fail to improve life for many households in nearby towns?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a developing, mountainous country where landslides cut villages off from markets. In four or five sentences, propose two infrastructure investments in the order you would make them, explain how each could affect work or public services, and compare those priorities with a developed country facing the same hazard.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three examples of infrastructure, underline two ways infrastructure can affect development, and write 1 and 2 beside two differences in the countries' infrastructure needs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could a working road and reliable electricity affect the income of fishing workers?	**They help get fish into cold storage before it spoils, so businesses can sell more and pay workers.**
2	How could extending the electric grid and repairing a highway eventually help pay for more infrastructure?	**Better connections may help farmers and attract firms. Rising wages and tax revenue could then provide money for upkeep and new projects.**
3	How do the infrastructure priorities of the developing and developed countries differ? What work must both still do?	**The developing country may extend basic connections and repair damaged roads, while the developed country may replace aging systems or upgrade service. Both must plan, pay for, and maintain infrastructure.**
4	Why might a modern port in the developing country fail to improve life for many households in nearby towns?	**Power cuts, damaged roads, high costs, or unequal access could keep households from benefiting from the port.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would first strengthen the slopes beside the main road so trucks can reach villages more often. More reliable deliveries could help farmers sell crops before they spoil. Next, I would install emergency radio towers so clinics can call for help when a landslide blocks the road. A developed country facing landslides might focus instead on replacing older slope barriers because most of its villages already have road access. Both countries would need to maintain their systems, but their starting points would shape their priorities.

Accept other plausible investments if the response puts them in order, connects each to work or public services, and makes a reasonable comparison with a developed country. Students should not imply that infrastructure alone guarantees development.