Clues in Numbers

Compare four measures of a country's development

6.C.6.4 "Identify and compare the characteristics of developed and developing countries by analyzing data (e.g., literacy rate, life expectancy, per capita income, and infant mortality) used by geographers to measure development."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four measures geographers use. Circle the words that show whether a higher or lower value usually points to more development.

What Can Numbers Tell Us?

1. Geographers compare countries using several clues about daily life. Literacy rate is the share of adults who can read and write; a higher rate often points to more access to education. Life expectancy is the average number of years a newborn is expected to live; a higher number often points to better health conditions.

2. Per capita income estimates the average yearly income per person, so a higher figure often suggests more resources. Infant mortality counts deaths of babies under age one per 1,000 live births; a lower number often points to better health care and living conditions. The table shows these four measures for three imaginary countries.

DEVELOPMENT MEASURES IN THREE IMAGINARY COUNTRIES

Country	Adult literacy (%)	Life expectancy (years)	Per capita income (USD/year)	Infant deaths (per 1,000 live births)
Harborland	98	82	$48,000	4
Plainsland	69	66	$3,800	38
Rivermark	93	74	$12,000	18

3. Harborland has stronger results than Plainsland on every measure: higher literacy, longer life expectancy, higher income, and fewer infant deaths. Rivermark falls between them. These patterns suggest that Harborland is more developed than Plainsland. But a single number cannot tell the whole story. Averages can hide differences between people within the same country.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which country shows the strongest overall pattern of development? Support your choice with two measures from the table.

2. Compare Plainsland and Rivermark using literacy rate and life expectancy. Which country has the stronger results?

3. Compare Harborland and Plainsland using per capita income and infant mortality. Explain which direction points to more development for each measure.

4. Rivermark's literacy rate is close to Harborland's. Why would literacy rate alone give an incomplete comparison of these countries?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a fourth imaginary country. In four or five sentences, give a value for each measure that does not match any value in the table, decide whether your country is more like Harborland or Plainsland, and explain your choice using at least two measures.

ANSWER KEY

Clues in Numbers

GRADE 6 · 6.C.6.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the four measures geographers use. Circle the words that show whether a higher or lower value usually points to more development. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which country shows the strongest overall pattern of development? Support your choice with two measures from the table.	**Harborland. Its adult literacy rate is 98%, and its life expectancy is 82 years, both the highest in the table.**
2	Compare Plainsland and Rivermark using literacy rate and life expectancy. Which country has the stronger results?	**Rivermark has the stronger results. Its literacy rate is 93%, compared with 69% in Plainsland, and its life expectancy is 74 years, compared with 66 years.**
3	Compare Harborland and Plainsland using per capita income and infant mortality. Explain which direction points to more development for each measure.	**Harborland's higher per capita income, $48,000 versus $3,800, points to more development. Its lower infant mortality, 4 versus 38 deaths per 1,000 live births, also points to more development.**
4	Rivermark's literacy rate is close to Harborland's. Why would literacy rate alone give an incomplete comparison of these countries?	**Other measures differ more: Rivermark's life expectancy is 74 years versus Harborland's 82, and its infant mortality is 18 versus Harborland's 4 deaths per 1,000 live births.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I invented Bayhaven, where adult literacy is 96% and life expectancy is 79 years. Its per capita income is $39,000, and infant mortality is 7 deaths per 1,000 live births. Bayhaven looks more like Harborland than Plainsland because its literacy rate is high and its infant mortality is low. Its income and life expectancy are also much closer to Harborland's figures.

Accept other invented values if none match the table, the four measures form a reasonable pattern, and the comparison follows the correct direction for at least two measures. For the short answers, accept any accurate supporting measures from the passage or table.