Fuel for Change

Compare resources, population, and industry in two countries

8.C.12.2.A "Compare natural resources, population, and industrialization."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each of the first two paragraphs, underline one natural resource, circle one population change, and write 1 and 2 beside two kinds of industrial work. Use your marks to compare Britain and Japan.

Two Paths to Industry

1. In nineteenth-century Britain, coal seams and iron ore lay near growing towns. Coal fired steam engines, while iron became rails and machines. Factory owners built textile mills and ironworks near fuel and transport routes. Britain's population grew during the century, and many people moved from farms to cities for paid work. Those workers helped factories expand, but crowded neighborhoods also formed around the mills. Britain did not produce every material it needed: textile mills relied heavily on cotton shipped from places such as the United States and India.

2. Japan followed a different path after its government began major reforms in 1868. Japan had coal deposits, especially on Kyushu, but limited iron ore for its growing industries. It imported iron ore and machines while building railroads, shipyards, and textile mills. Japan's population also grew, and workers increasingly moved toward cities, although many families still lived in farming villages. Government leaders invested in factories and railways to strengthen the country. Silk thread, made in Japanese mills from locally raised silkworms, became an important export.

3. Both countries used workers and available resources to build industry, yet their choices were not identical. Britain's nearby coal and iron helped support heavy industry early in the nineteenth century. Japan used its coal too, but imported iron ore and machinery helped its factories spread later in the century. In each country, population growth helped supply labor and increased demand for goods. It also meant that cities had to handle more residents. Neither country industrialized by relying only on what lay within its borders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the supply of coal and iron ore differ between Britain and Japan, and how did that difference affect industry?

2. How did population changes help industry in both countries? What problem did growing cities face?

3. Compare two kinds of industrial work in Britain with two in Japan. Which kind of work did both countries do?

4. What did each country bring in from abroad to support its industries, and how were those imports different?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a region in the late 1800s with large forests, fast rivers, little coal, and a growing population. In four sentences, compare how its resources and population might shape industry with Britain and Japan, and name one good it might import.

ANSWER KEY

Fuel for Change

GRADE 8 · 8.C.12.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each of the first two paragraphs, underline one natural resource, circle one population change, and write 1 and 2 beside two kinds of industrial work. Use your marks to compare Britain and Japan. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the supply of coal and iron ore differ between Britain and Japan, and how did that difference affect industry?	**Britain had coal and iron ore near growing towns, which supported steam engines, machines, and ironworks. Japan had coal but limited iron ore, so it imported iron ore for its growing industries.**
2	How did population changes help industry in both countries? What problem did growing cities face?	**Population growth supplied workers and increased demand for goods in both countries. Cities had to handle more residents, and crowded neighborhoods formed in Britain.**
3	Compare two kinds of industrial work in Britain with two in Japan. Which kind of work did both countries do?	**Britain had textile mills and ironworks; Japan had textile mills and shipyards. Both had textile mills.**
4	What did each country bring in from abroad to support its industries, and how were those imports different?	**Britain imported cotton for its textile mills. Japan imported iron ore and machines for its growing industries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Unlike Britain, this region has little coal, so it might use its fast rivers to power mills. Its forests could supply wood for sawmills. Like Britain and Japan, its growing population could provide factory workers and increase demand for goods. The region might import iron ore for machines, as Japan did.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons of resources, population, and industries. For Part 3, accept a plausible industry and import if the response explains how the imagined region differs from or resembles both countries.