Three Factory Paths

Compare industrial growth and development across three regions.

WG.C.6.3 "Compare contemporary patterns of industrialization and development in selected regions of the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one product or production method for each country, and circle one condition that helps or limits its industry. Number two sentences that directly compare countries.

What Factories Make, and What They Change

1 A phone assembled in Vietnam may contain chips and screens made elsewhere. In recent decades, foreign companies have built electronics and clothing factories there, helped by export ports, industrial parks, and a large workforce. Vietnam now ships many manufactured goods abroad, yet assembling imported parts does not always bring the same earnings as designing the parts. Factory work can raise household incomes compared with some farm jobs, while rapid industrial growth can also strain roads and air quality. Vietnam's expanding electronics industry differs from Bangladesh's heavier focus on clothing, even though both rely on overseas buyers.

2 In Bangladesh, garment factories make shirts and other clothing for global brands. The industry employs millions of workers, including many women, and has helped expand exports and paid work. Unlike Vietnam's growing electronics sector, Bangladesh remains more concentrated in clothing production. This concentration makes orders from foreign clothing buyers especially important. Low production costs can attract buyers, but factory safety, wages, and reliable electricity remain challenges. Improvements in some factories have followed pressure from workers, buyers, and regulators, yet conditions vary. Flooding also threatens transport links, showing why industrial growth depends on more than the price of labor.

3 Germany follows a different pattern. Its factories produce cars, machinery, and specialized equipment, often using advanced technology and highly trained workers. Apprenticeships help prepare workers for technical jobs. Compared with Vietnam and Bangladesh, Germany generally earns more per worker and pays higher wages, but firms face high labor and energy costs. German manufacturers may design complex products at home while buying parts from other countries. Across all three places, exports connect factories to world markets. Their different products, skills, and costs show that industrialization does not follow one path, and development gains do not erase environmental or workplace problems.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Vietnam and Bangladesh differ in what their factories make, and what do they have in common as exporters?

2. How do Vietnam's role in phone production and Germany's role in complex products differ?

3. How do the challenges linked to industrial growth differ between Vietnam and Bangladesh?

4. Compared with Bangladesh, what advantage does Germany have in manufacturing, and what cost do its firms face?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose Bangladesh makes factory electricity more reliable. In four sentences, compare how this change might affect its position relative to Vietnam and Germany. Use two details from the passage and name one challenge the change would not solve.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · WG.C.6.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one product or production method for each country, and circle one condition that helps or limits its industry. Number two sentences that directly compare countries. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Vietnam and Bangladesh differ in what their factories make, and what do they have in common as exporters?	**Vietnam has a growing electronics industry as well as clothing factories, while Bangladesh is more concentrated in clothing. Both depend on overseas buyers.**
2	How do Vietnam's role in phone production and Germany's role in complex products differ?	**Vietnam assembles some products from imported parts, while German manufacturers may design complex products at home and buy parts from abroad. Designing parts can bring higher earnings than assembly.**
3	How do the challenges linked to industrial growth differ between Vietnam and Bangladesh?	**Vietnam's rapid growth can strain roads and air quality. Bangladesh faces challenges with factory safety, wages, reliable electricity, and flooding that threatens transport.**
4	Compared with Bangladesh, what advantage does Germany have in manufacturing, and what cost do its firms face?	**Germany has advanced technology and highly trained workers, while its firms face high labor and energy costs. Bangladesh can attract buyers with lower production costs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

More reliable electricity could help Bangladesh's clothing factories fill orders from overseas buyers. It might help the country compete with Vietnam, which also exports clothing but has a growing electronics industry. Electricity alone would not give Bangladesh the advanced technology and highly trained workers used by German factories. It would also leave flooding as a threat to transport links.

Accept comparisons that use accurate passage details, even if students choose different examples. For Part 3, look for a plausible effect of reliable electricity, comparisons with both Vietnam and Germany, and a challenge that remains.