Beyond the Label

Compare shared traits and different experiences of development.

WG.C.6.4 "Describe common characteristics of developed nations and compare variations in levels of development."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three characteristics common in developed nations. Circle one difference between the Netherlands and the United States and one difference between Norway and Japan to show how development varies.

What Does Developed Tell Us?

1. At a busy port in the Netherlands, cranes unload containers while trains carry goods inland. This scene hints at several traits common in developed nations: reliable transportation, skilled workers, and businesses that use advanced technology. Many people work in services such as health care, finance, and education, rather than farming. People often have access to schools, electricity, clean water, and medical care. Average income is relatively high, and many residents live long lives. Yet a national average can hide differences among neighborhoods and households. Development describes living conditions as well as the size of an economy.

2. The Netherlands and the United States both have high average incomes, major service sectors, and modern infrastructure. Their health systems, however, differ. In the Netherlands, nearly everyone is required to buy a basic health insurance plan, with government support for people who need help paying. In the United States, coverage comes through a mix of employers, government programs, and plans people buy themselves; some people remain uninsured. Income inequality is also greater in the United States than in the Netherlands. Being developed does not mean every resident has the same access to resources or the same financial security.

3. Norway and Japan offer another comparison. Both have highly educated populations, advanced industries, and long average life expectancies. Norway earns substantial export income from oil and natural gas and also has a large service sector. Japan imports most of the fossil fuels it uses and exports manufactured goods, including cars and machinery. Japan also has an especially large share of older residents, creating pressure on its workforce and care systems. Norway faces aging too, but not to the same extent. These differences show why one label cannot tell the whole story of a country's economy or people's lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two features do the Netherlands and the United States share that are common in developed nations?

2. How do health insurance coverage and income inequality differ between the Netherlands and the United States?

3. How do Norway and Japan differ in their energy resources and exports?

4. What population challenge is greater in Japan than in Norway, even though both countries have long average life expectancies?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent two developed countries and write five sentences comparing them. Name two traits they share, invent a different challenge for each country, and explain how those challenges affect people's opportunities.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond the Label

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.C.6.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three characteristics common in developed nations. Circle one difference between the Netherlands and the United States and one difference between Norway and Japan to show how development varies. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two features do the Netherlands and the United States share that are common in developed nations?	**Both have major service sectors and modern infrastructure.**
2	How do health insurance coverage and income inequality differ between the Netherlands and the United States?	**Nearly everyone in the Netherlands must buy basic health insurance, while some people in the United States remain uninsured. Income inequality is greater in the United States.**
3	How do Norway and Japan differ in their energy resources and exports?	**Norway exports oil and natural gas. Japan imports most of its fossil fuels and exports manufactured goods.**
4	What population challenge is greater in Japan than in Norway, even though both countries have long average life expectancies?	**Japan has a larger share of older residents, which puts greater pressure on its workforce and care systems.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Harborland and Highland both have skilled workers and reliable electric power. In Harborland, housing near major job centers costs much more than many workers can afford. In Highland, homes are more affordable, but fast internet is harder to get in remote towns. High housing costs could force Harborland workers to live far from their jobs, while limited internet could restrict Highland residents' work options. Both countries could be considered developed, yet their residents face different barriers to opportunity.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons for the short answers. For Part 3, look for two shared traits, a distinct and plausible challenge in each invented country, and an explanation of how each challenge affects opportunity.