Powering Industry

Resources, policy, and industrial change in two regions

WG.C.6 "Analyze the impact of industrialization on economic development. Examine the significance of access to natural resources, energy, and technological innovations (e.g., wind, solar, nuclear) to the economic development of a region..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two links between a resource or technology and economic activity. Circle two government decisions, then label a physical change 1 and a political change 2.

Two Paths to Industrial Growth

1 On Vietnam's coast, a factory making electronic parts needs reliable electricity, workers, and a route to buyers. Ports link its products to global markets, while imported components fill gaps in local supplies. Vietnam also has coal, rivers that support hydropower, and strong sunlight in some regions. These resources can power factories, but electricity lines must reach them. Rapid solar construction has sometimes outpaced the capacity of those lines, so generating power does not guarantee that factories can use it. During dry periods, saltwater can move farther into the Mekong Delta, threatening crops and putting pressure on farming livelihoods.

2 Policy shapes what firms can build. Before reforms began in 1986, Vietnam's centrally planned economy put major production decisions in state hands. The government directed resource use, but factories had fewer incentives to respond to customer demand. After the Đổi Mới reforms, private businesses and foreign investors gained more room to operate, although the state still guides major industries. Export factories grew as investment and trade expanded. Government choices about power lines, land use, and factory permits still influence which areas attract jobs. A shift toward market activity did not remove the government's role in development.

3 Germany offers a different path. Its highly developed economy has skilled workers, advanced machinery, and extensive transport networks. Compared with Vietnam, Germany has higher average incomes, but development is uneven within both countries. German manufacturers need imported minerals and energy as well as local workers and technology. In its market economy, firms decide much of what to produce, while government rules and subsidies encourage wind and solar power. After Russian pipeline gas supplies fell sharply in 2022, high energy costs challenged industries that use large amounts of energy. Technology, resource access, and political decisions can reshape industrial growth even in wealthy regions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might Vietnam's rapid solar construction fail to provide more usable power for factories?

2. How did Vietnam's economic reforms change opportunities for businesses compared with central planning?

3. Compare industrial development in Vietnam and Germany. Use one detail about each country's industries and one detail about income.

4. How does a change described in the passage put economic activity at risk in each country?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a windy, landlocked region with copper deposits and hydropower plants. A long drought reduces river flow, and the government begins allowing private companies to build wind farms; in 5 to 6 sentences, explain how these changes could alter industry and jobs, including one limit on development.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two links between a resource or technology and economic activity. Circle two government decisions, then label a physical change 1 and a political change 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might Vietnam's rapid solar construction fail to provide more usable power for factories?	**Solar construction has sometimes outpaced the capacity of electricity lines, so power may not reach factories.**
2	How did Vietnam's economic reforms change opportunities for businesses compared with central planning?	**Under central planning, the state made major production decisions. Reforms gave private businesses and foreign investors more room to operate, helping export factories grow, although the state still guides major industries.**
3	Compare industrial development in Vietnam and Germany. Use one detail about each country's industries and one detail about income.	**Vietnam's export factories grew as trade and investment expanded. Germany has advanced machinery and a highly developed economy, with higher average incomes than Vietnam.**
4	How does a change described in the passage put economic activity at risk in each country?	**In Vietnam, saltwater moving farther into the Mekong Delta threatens crops and farming livelihoods. In Germany, falling Russian pipeline gas supplies led to high energy costs that challenged industries.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Copper deposits could support mining and metal processing, but a drought would reduce hydropower for those industries. With less electricity, some factories might cut shifts or delay expansion. Allowing private wind farms could attract investment and create construction and maintenance jobs. Wind power might help mines and factories operate more steadily if new transmission lines connect the farms to them. Without those lines, the region could struggle to turn its resources into lasting industrial growth.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and effects. For Part 3, look for a plausible chain linking drought, the policy change, industry, jobs, and a limit on development.