

Place Shapes Work

How land, climate, water, and transportation guide U.S. jobs and businesses.

5.12.B "identify and explain how geographic factors have influenced the location of economic activities in the United States;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each geographic factor and circle each economic activity. Draw an arrow from each factor to the activity it helps explain.

Why Businesses Choose Places

- ① Businesses often choose locations because the land, water, climate, and resources help them do their work. On the Great Plains, wide, flat land and rich soil make it easier to grow large fields of wheat. Farmers also use machines across these open fields. As a result, farming and grain elevators, which store crops before shipping, are important economic activities there.
- ② In central Florida, warm temperatures and a long growing season support citrus groves. Oranges need warmth and can be harmed by hard freezes. Nearby roads, rail lines, and ports help growers move fresh fruit to stores in other places. The climate first attracted citrus farming, and transportation routes later helped the business send its products to customers.
- ③ Along Washington State's coast, deep water and protected harbors allow large ships to dock. The Pacific Ocean also provides routes to Asian markets. These features helped Seattle become a busy center for trade, ship repair, and shipping. Workers can load goods onto ships and receive goods from other countries. Water access has influenced which businesses grow in this coastal city.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which geographic factors help wheat farming on the Great Plains? Explain how they help.

2 Why is citrus farming an important economic activity in central Florida?

3 How do roads, rail lines, and ports influence the citrus business in Florida?

4 Explain how water access has influenced businesses in Seattle.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a place in the United States that is not named in the passage. Name one economic activity there and one geographic factor that supports it, then write two sentences explaining how the factor influences the activity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each geographic factor and circle each economic activity. Draw an arrow from each factor to the activity it helps explain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which geographic factors help wheat farming on the Great Plains? Explain how they help.	Wide, flat land and rich soil help farmers grow large wheat fields and use machines across open land.
2	Why is citrus farming an important economic activity in central Florida?	Warm temperatures and a long growing season support orange trees, which need warmth and can be harmed by hard freezes.
3	How do roads, rail lines, and ports influence the citrus business in Florida?	They help growers move fresh fruit to stores in other places.
4	Explain how water access has influenced businesses in Seattle.	Deep water and protected harbors let large ships dock, and the Pacific Ocean provides routes to Asian markets. These features support trade, ship repair, and shipping.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Maine, lobster fishing is important because the cold Atlantic Ocean provides habitat for lobsters. Fishers can catch lobsters in these waters and sell them on shore.

Accept accurate U.S. examples that name a specific place, an economic activity, and a relevant geographic factor. The explanation must clearly connect the factor to why the activity occurs there.