

Why Businesses Settle

Connect economic activities to the geographic features that support them.

6.4.A “explain the geographic factors responsible for the location of economic activities in places and regions; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each geographic factor and circle each economic activity, then draw an arrow from each circled activity to a factor that helps explain its location.

Geography Shapes Work

- ① Across the United States, businesses choose locations for reasons connected to geography. Geography includes landforms, climate, water, natural resources, and access to transportation. On the Great Plains, wide, level land and fertile soil support large wheat farms. Farmers can use large machines across broad fields. In central Florida, warm temperatures and a long growing season help citrus growers produce oranges and grapefruits. These activities depend on conditions that are difficult to move to another place.
- ② Along the Gulf Coast, deep water and sheltered bays allow large cargo ships to reach ports. Houston's port links factories, warehouses, and stores with trade routes across the ocean and inland by rail and highway. This transportation access helps businesses move goods cheaply. Near some coastal areas, oil and natural gas deposits led to drilling, refineries, and chemical plants. These industries also need water for shipping and processing, so coastal locations offer several geographic advantages for industry.
- ③ Geography can also attract customers. Colorado's high mountains and reliable winter snow support ski resorts, equipment rentals, and lodging. In Arizona, visitors travel to see desert landscapes and the Grand Canyon, supporting guides, hotels, and restaurants. A place may have more than one advantage, but each business needs the features that fit its work. When explaining a location, connect the economic activity to a geographic factor, then tell how that factor helps the activity succeed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why are the Great Plains a useful location for large wheat farms? Use two geographic details from the passage.

2 How does transportation access help businesses at Houston's port?

3 Explain two reasons why drilling, refineries, and chemical plants are located near some coastal areas.

4 Compare Colorado and Arizona. What geographic feature supports tourism in each place, and what businesses does it support?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A new town is beside a navigable river, has flat fertile land, and lies near a forest. Choose one economic activity for the town, then write 3 or 4 sentences that name two geographic factors and explain how they would help the activity succeed.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each geographic factor and circle each economic activity, then draw an arrow from each circled activity to a factor that helps explain its location. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why are the Great Plains a useful location for large wheat farms? Use two geographic details from the passage.	The Great Plains have wide, level land and fertile soil. These features support large wheat fields and allow farmers to use large machines.
2	How does transportation access help businesses at Houston's port?	Deep water allows cargo ships to reach the port, and rail and highways connect it inland. Businesses can move goods cheaply on these trade routes.
3	Explain two reasons why drilling, refineries, and chemical plants are located near some coastal areas.	Coastal areas may have oil and natural gas deposits. They also provide water for shipping and processing.
4	Compare Colorado and Arizona. What geographic feature supports tourism in each place, and what businesses does it support?	Colorado's mountains and reliable snow support ski resorts, equipment rentals, and lodging. Arizona's desert landscapes and the Grand Canyon support guides, hotels, and restaurants.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A grain mill could be built in the new town. Flat, fertile land would allow nearby farms to grow grain. The navigable river could carry grain to the mill and send flour to other towns. The mill would use both farming land and transportation access.

Accept accurate explanations that connect an economic activity to a geographic factor and tell how the factor helps the activity. For Your Turn, students may choose different activities if their explanations logically use at least two of the town's stated features.