

Why Here?

Trace how geography shapes work, trade, and cooperation.

6.4 "Geography. The student understands how geographic factors influence the economic development and political relationships of societies..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline geographic factors that help explain where economic activities happen. Circle geographic factors that affect relationships between countries, then write E or P in the margin to show each factor's main effect.

Rotterdam's Geographic Advantages

- ① Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, grew into one of Europe's busiest ports because of its location near the North Sea and the mouth of the Rhine-Meuse river system. Ships can unload cargo there, and barges, trains, and trucks can carry it inland. The rivers link Rotterdam with industrial cities in several countries. This transportation network makes it practical for businesses to move containers, food, fuel, and manufactured goods between sea ports and inland markets quickly and cheaply.
- ② Rotterdam's port businesses include shipping companies, warehouses, ship repair yards, and oil refineries. Refineries were built there because tankers can deliver crude oil by sea, while pipelines and waterways move products onward. The flat delta provides room for docks, storage tanks, and rail lines. However, the low-lying land also requires dikes and pumps to limit flooding. A physical feature can create both an economic advantage and a costly challenge for the region's workers and businesses.
- ③ Geography also shapes political relationships. The Rhine flows through or along several European countries before reaching Rotterdam. Because upstream factories and farms can affect water quality downstream, governments work together on river rules and pollution limits. Open waterways support trade, but national borders, customs checks, and different laws can slow travel and raise costs. The Netherlands also cooperates with nearby countries on North Sea shipping safety and flood protection. Shared transportation corridors and shared natural systems give countries reasons to negotiate, make agreements, and sometimes disagree.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does Rotterdam's location help businesses move goods?

2 Name two economic activities in Rotterdam's port and explain why oil refineries are located there.

3 What physical feature gives Rotterdam space for port facilities, and what costly challenge comes with that feature?

4 Why do countries connected by the Rhine need to cooperate, and what can slow trade between them?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a place called Lakeside City or create your own place. Write four sentences explaining how its location, one physical feature or natural resource, and one transportation corridor or barrier affect an economic activity and a relationship with another country.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline geographic factors that help explain where economic activities happen. Circle geographic factors that affect relationships between countries, then write E or P in the margin to show each factor's main effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Rotterdam's location help businesses move goods?	It is near the North Sea and at the mouth of connected rivers, so ships can bring goods in and barges, trains, and trucks can move them inland.
2	Name two economic activities in Rotterdam's port and explain why oil refineries are located there.	Possible activities include shipping, warehousing, ship repair, and oil refining. Refineries are there because tankers deliver crude oil by sea and pipelines and waterways move products onward.
3	What physical feature gives Rotterdam space for port facilities, and what costly challenge comes with that feature?	Its flat, low-lying delta provides space for docks, tanks, and rail lines. The area needs dikes and pumps to limit flooding.
4	Why do countries connected by the Rhine need to cooperate, and what can slow trade between them?	Upstream activities can affect downstream water quality, so countries cooperate on river rules and pollution limits. Borders, customs checks, and different laws can slow trade.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lakeside City sits beside a deep lake near a border. Its deep water and nearby iron deposits support a shipyard and steel mill. A rail line carries steel to inland buyers, but winter ice can close the harbor. Lakeside City's country meets with its neighbor to set lake-water rules and keep the shipping route safe.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a geographic factor to an economic activity or political relationship. For the open response, accept any plausible invented setting that includes all required factors and clear cause-and-effect links.