

Reading Development Clues

Use several indicators to describe economic development.

6.8.B “describe levels of economic development of various societies using indicators such as life expectancy, gross domestic product (GDP), GDP per capita, and literacy.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the table, write 1 above the GDP header, 2 above the GDP per capita header, 3 above the life expectancy header, and 4 above the literacy header, then underline the highest value in each of those four columns.

More Than One Number

- 1 Economic development describes how well a society can provide goods, services, learning, and health for its people. One number cannot tell the whole story. GDP is the value of goods and services produced in a year. GDP per capita divides GDP by population, so it gives a rough picture of economic output per person.
- 2 Other indicators show conditions beyond production. Life expectancy is the average expected lifespan. Literacy is the share of people who can read and write. Higher GDP per capita, longer life expectancy, and higher literacy often point to higher development. Still, indicators are clues, not guarantees. A country can have a large GDP because it has many people.
- 3 The data below compares three fictional societies. Look across every indicator before describing a society's development level. If indicators point in different directions, explain the difference instead of relying on one number. For example, a total GDP can reflect population size, while GDP per capita focuses on output per person.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR THREE FICTIONAL SOCIETIES				
Society	GDP, billions of dollars	GDP per capita, dollars	Life expectancy, years	Literacy, percent
Harbor Republic	480	48,000	82	99
Sundara	720	9,000	70	78
Highlandia	90	30,000	79	95

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which society has the highest total GDP? What is its GDP?

2 Which society has both the highest GDP per capita and the longest life expectancy?

3 Compare Sundara and Harbor Republic. How do their GDP and GDP per capita values show why total GDP alone cannot describe development?

4 Which society appears to have the lowest overall level of economic development? Use two indicators from the table as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences describing Highlandia's level of economic development compared with the other two societies. Use at least two indicators, and explain why Highlandia's total GDP does not tell the whole story.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In the table, write 1 above the GDP header, 2 above the GDP per capita header, 3 above the life expectancy header, and 4 above the literacy header, then underline the highest value in each of those four columns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which society has the highest total GDP? What is its GDP?	Sundara, with a GDP of 720 billion dollars.
2	Which society has both the highest GDP per capita and the longest life expectancy?	Harbor Republic.
3	Compare Sundara and Harbor Republic. How do their GDP and GDP per capita values show why total GDP alone cannot describe development?	Sundara has the higher total GDP, 720 billion dollars compared with 480 billion dollars. However, Harbor Republic has a much higher GDP per capita, 48,000 dollars compared with 9,000 dollars.
4	Which society appears to have the lowest overall level of economic development? Use two indicators from the table as evidence.	Sundara appears lowest overall because it has the lowest GDP per capita, 9,000 dollars, the shortest life expectancy, 70 years, and the lowest literacy rate, 78 percent.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Highlandia appears to have a middle level of economic development compared with the other two societies. Its GDP per capita is 30,000 dollars, life expectancy is 79 years, and literacy is 95 percent, all between Harbor Republic's and Sundara's values. Its total GDP is lowest, which may reflect a smaller population.

Accept evidence-based descriptions that use at least two accurate Highlandia indicators and compare them correctly with the other societies. Students may describe Highlandia as middle or moderate because its GDP per capita, life expectancy, and literacy values are between the other two societies.