

Resources Around Earth

Compare how natural resources are distributed across world regions.

WG.2.a "comparing the distribution of major natural resources throughout world regions;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each world region, circle each natural resource, and draw a line between two regions with different resource patterns.

Uneven Supplies, Connected Regions

- ① Natural resources are not spread evenly across Earth. Geology, climate, and past processes shape where materials are found. In West Asia, often called the Middle East, large oil and natural-gas fields lie beneath parts of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. These fuels are exported to many regions. The area has little fresh water in many places, so several countries use desalination, which removes salt from seawater, and they import some food.
- ② South America contains major stores of copper in Chile and Peru, while Brazil has large iron ore deposits. Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina hold important lithium resources, used in rechargeable batteries. The Amazon Basin provides timber, freshwater, and biodiversity, although forests are also protected and managed in different ways. Unlike West Asia's concentration of petroleum, South America's well-known resources include several metals and vast biological resources. Mining and farming can bring income, but they can also threaten water quality or forests if poorly managed.
- ③ Across Africa, mineral deposits are especially important in different places. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a major source of cobalt, used in batteries, and Zambia produces copper. Botswana is known for diamonds, while South Africa has major deposits of platinum and gold. Africa also has oil and natural gas in countries such as Nigeria and Algeria, but these fuels are less concentrated in one small area than in West Asia. Comparing regions shows that trade links places with different resource supplies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What energy-resource pattern makes West Asia different from Africa?

2 What resource is found in both South America and Africa? Name the countries named for that resource.

3 How does South America's resource pattern differ from West Asia's resource pattern?

4 Why can regions with different resource supplies trade with one another? Use one example from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing West Asia, South America, and Africa. Name at least one resource in each region, describe one difference in distribution, and explain how the differences could lead to trade.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each world region, circle each natural resource, and draw a line between two regions with different resource patterns. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What energy-resource pattern makes West Asia different from Africa?	West Asia has a strong concentration of oil and natural-gas fields, while Africa has oil and natural gas spread across countries such as Nigeria and Algeria.
2	What resource is found in both South America and Africa? Name the countries named for that resource.	Copper. Chile and Peru are named in South America, and Zambia is named in Africa.
3	How does South America's resource pattern differ from West Asia's resource pattern?	South America has major metal resources, including copper, iron ore, and lithium, plus biological resources. West Asia is especially known for concentrated petroleum resources.
4	Why can regions with different resource supplies trade with one another? Use one example from the passage.	Regions can exchange resources that are more available in different places. For example, West Asia has oil and natural gas, while South America has major copper resources.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

West Asia has large oil and natural-gas fields. South America has copper, iron ore, and lithium, while Africa has cobalt, copper, diamonds, platinum, and gold. Petroleum is more concentrated in West Asia than in Africa. These different supplies can lead regions to trade for resources they do not have in the same amounts.

Accept equivalent comparisons supported by the passage. For the open response, check for all three regions, accurate resource examples, a distribution comparison, and a logical trade explanation.