

Resources Shape Places

Compare how resources influence work, land use, and choices.

WG.2 "The student will apply history and social science skills to evaluate the significance of natural, human, and capital resources by comparing the distribution of major natural resources throughout world regions..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each natural resource, circle each human or capital resource, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three statements that connect a resource to an economic activity or land use.

Why Resources Matter

- ① Natural resources are materials from Earth, but they are not spread evenly. Brazil has large iron ore deposits and wide areas suited to growing soybeans. Iron ore supports mining and steelmaking, while soybeans support farms, storage facilities, and export ports. In contrast, Saudi Arabia has vast petroleum reserves beneath its deserts. Oil extraction, refining, and shipping shape many jobs and land uses there. These differences help explain why regions specialize in different economic activities over time.
- ② Resources also work together. A copper deposit is a natural resource, yet it cannot become useful in a market without human and capital resources. Workers contribute skills, decisions, and labor. Capital resources include trucks, drills, rail lines, and factories that people make and use to produce goods. In Chile, copper mines often depend on costly equipment and routes to Pacific ports. The mines can create jobs, but they can also change dry land and compete for limited water.
- ③ People may judge the same resource use differently. A company may favor opening a new mine because sales can pay workers and taxes can support public services. Nearby residents may support those benefits but worry about dust, water quality, or loss of grazing land. Environmental groups may argue for strict limits or protection of a habitat. A careful decision compares evidence, including jobs created, water available, and the cost of restoring land after mining. It also considers who receives benefits and who carries risks.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do Brazil's iron ore and Saudi Arabia's petroleum help explain different economic activities in the two places?

2 For copper mining in Chile, name one human resource and two capital resources from the passage.

3 State one economic benefit and one land or water concern connected to copper mining in Chile.

4 Why might a mining company and an environmental group disagree about opening a new mine? Name one type of evidence a careful decision should compare.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a country or world region not named in the passage and one natural resource found there. Write exactly four sentences that explain its economic activity and land use, name one human resource and one capital resource, give two viewpoints about using it, and state a decision you support with one reason.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each natural resource, circle each human or capital resource, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside three statements that connect a resource to an economic activity or land use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Brazil's iron ore and Saudi Arabia's petroleum help explain different economic activities in the two places?	Brazil's iron ore supports mining and steelmaking. Saudi Arabia's petroleum supports oil extraction, refining, and shipping.
2	For copper mining in Chile, name one human resource and two capital resources from the passage.	Human resource: workers and their skills, decisions, and labor. Capital resources: any two of trucks, drills, rail lines, or factories.
3	State one economic benefit and one land or water concern connected to copper mining in Chile.	A benefit is jobs. A concern is changing dry land or competing for limited water.
4	Why might a mining company and an environmental group disagree about opening a new mine? Name one type of evidence a careful decision should compare.	A company may favor jobs, sales, and taxes, while an environmental group may favor limits to protect habitats. Evidence may include jobs created, water available, or restoration costs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indonesia has nickel deposits on Sulawesi, where mining and smelting provide export income and change forested land into industrial sites. Geologists and machine operators are human resources, and trucks and smelters are capital resources needed to produce nickel. Mining companies may favor expansion for jobs and sales, while nearby communities may worry about forest loss and polluted water. Indonesia should require pollution controls and land restoration because these rules protect communities while allowing carefully managed jobs.

Accept accurate equivalent examples from the passage for resource types, economic activities, land uses, perspectives, and evidence. For the open response, accept different regions and resources when all four required ideas are present and the claim includes a reasonable supporting reason.