

Land or Livelihood?

Sort natural features from economic activities in Russia and Central Asia.

WG.6 "The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of Russia and Central Asia by identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical feature is a natural part of Earth's surface or environment. It was not created as an economic activity by people.

The Tian Shan is a mountain range in Central Asia.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

An economic activity is work that produces, moves, sells, or uses goods and resources. People organize these activities to earn income or meet needs.

Cotton farming in Uzbekistan is an economic activity.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PHYSICAL or ECONOMIC for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain which words helped you sort each one.

1. Lake Baikal

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

2. Oil extraction in Kazakhstan

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

3. Wheat farming in southern Russia

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

4. Ural Mountains

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

5. Natural gas pipeline exports

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

6. Caspian Sea

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

7. Steppe grassland

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

8. Vehicle manufacturing in Russia

PHYSICAL

ECONOMIC

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 3: Write one new PHYSICAL example from Russia or Central Asia and one new ECONOMIC example from Russia or Central Asia.

PHYSICAL _____

ECONOMIC _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one ECONOMIC item from Part 1. Write one sentence explaining how a nearby physical feature or location can support or limit that activity.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Lake Baikal	PHYSICAL	Lake Baikal is a natural freshwater lake in Siberia.
2	Oil extraction in Kazakhstan	ECONOMIC	Extracting oil is an industry that produces a resource for sale and trade.
3	Wheat farming in southern Russia	ECONOMIC	Growing wheat for food and sale is an economic activity.
4	Ural Mountains	PHYSICAL	The Ural Mountains are a natural mountain range in Russia.
5	Natural gas pipeline exports	ECONOMIC	Moving and exporting natural gas is part of trade and the energy economy.
6	Caspian Sea	PHYSICAL	The Caspian Sea is a large natural body of water bordering parts of Russia and Central Asia.
7	Steppe grassland	PHYSICAL	Steppe is a broad natural grassland landscape.
8	Vehicle manufacturing in Russia	ECONOMIC	Manufacturing vehicles is an industrial economic activity.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PHYSICAL:** The Pamir Mountains are a natural physical feature in Central Asia.
- **ECONOMIC:** Copper mining in Kazakhstan is an economic activity.

Challenge: Oil extraction in Kazakhstan is supported by petroleum deposits near the Caspian Sea, but moving oil across long distances can be costly.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly identify a natural feature or a human economic activity. For Part 2, students should cite clues such as lake, mountains, grassland, farming, extraction, exports, or manufacturing.