

# Economic Geography

Resources SOL WG.7a

# Natural Resources

- A natural resource is anything from nature that can be of value to humans.
- Renewable resources are natural resources that can replenish themselves with proper management and care.
- Nonrenewable resources are natural resources that are limited and will run out over time.

# Natural Resources

- Some examples of renewable resources are:
  - A. Soil (Arable land is land that can be farmed)
  - B. Water
  - C. Plants such as trees or even food crops
  - D. Animals
  - E. The Sun
  - F. Wind

# Natural Resources

- Some examples of nonrenewable resources are:
  - A. Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas)
  - B. Metals (gold, silver, iron, copper, bauxite)
  - C. Gems (diamonds, rubies, emeralds)
  - D. Minerals

# Human Resources

- Human resources are people and the skills people possess. Human resources can be:
  - A. The level of education of a person
  - B. Skilled labor refers to people who must be trained over a long period of time
  - C. Unskilled labor refers to people who can be trained in a short period of time
  - D. Entrepreneurial and managerial abilities refers to people who can start their own business and manage others

# Capital Resources

- Capital resources refers to:
  - A. Money
  - B. The level of infrastructure in a country.  
Infrastructure means technical structures that support a society such as roads, water supplies, power systems, and communication systems
  - C. Availability and use of tools, machines, and technologies

# Energy Resources

- A. Wood was used for thousands of years to produce energy and is still used in some parts of the world today, but it has caused widespread deforestation.
- B. Coal is used by most countries to produce energy today but it causes pollution when it is burned and mining coal can cause pollution.

# Energy Resources

- C. Petroleum or oil is used for transportation but it can cause air pollution.
- D. Nuclear power is cheap but it can create radioactive waste that is difficult to dispose of.
- E. Solar, wind, and hydroelectric power are sources of cheap renewable energy that do not cause pollution but they can be expensive to make and they are not aesthetically pleasing.



# Distribution of Resources

- Natural resources are not evenly distributed across the earth. Some countries have many natural resources and other countries have very few. The unequal distribution of resources can cause the following:
  - A. Economic interdependence - Countries must trade in order to get the resources they need.
  - B. Uneven economic development - Some countries will be rich and others poor.

# Distribution of Resources

- C. Energy producers and consumers
- D. Imperialism - Countries take over other regions of the world in order to exploit their natural resources.
- E. Conflict - Countries will fight over control of resources such as oil, diamonds, gold, or even guano.

# Culture's Perspective on Resources

- The use of a resource depends on a nation's culture, values, access to technology, and governmental priorities.
  - A. The priority of some countries is economic development.

# Culture's Perspective on Resources

- B.** The priority of some countries is shifting towards environmental conservation and sustainability.
- C.** The United States and Australia have indigenous minorities that own large areas.

# Technology and Resources

- New technologies can create a demand for a resource.
  - A. Steam Engine - Demand for Coal
  - B. Internal Combustion Engine - Petroleum
  - C. Computer Chips - Skilled Labor

# The Cost of Resources

- A. Resource depletion
- B. Environmental degradation
- C. Health problems

# The Benefits of Resources

- When people use resources they can:
  - A. Produce goods and services
  - B. Create jobs for people
  - C. Develop new technologies

# Economic Activity

- Primary economic activity is when a person deals directly with a resource such as fishing, farming, forestry, mining, ranching, and hunting.
- Secondary economic activity is composed of manufacturing and processing. Processing is when an unusable natural resource is refined into something useable. Manufacturing is when something is assembled.



# Economic Activity

- Processing can consist of sawmills, flour mills, oil refineries, and meat packing plants.
- Manufacturing can consist of automobile factories, furniture factories, and textile factories.
- Tertiary economic activity consists of service industries such as retail trade, information technology, banking, advertising, wholesaling, and transportation.

# Patterns of Land Use

- Economic activity that requires large areas of land - agriculture
- Economic activity that requires limited areas - manufacturing
- Compatibility of land use
  - Open space and residential areas
  - Landfills and residential areas