Wealth of nations
from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World Geography

**Target audience – World geography learners**

**Time required – 15 minutes**

**Activity**

Study percentages of GDP in different economic sectors to explore patterns of development around the world.

**Social studies standards**

C3:D2.Eco.13.6-8. Explain why standards of living increase as productivity improves.

C3:D2.Geo.4.6-8. Explain how cultural patterns and economic decisions influence environments and the daily lives of people in both nearby and distant places.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Evaluate production by sector and GDP as a suitable measurement of economic development.
- Define “developed” and “developing.”

**Map URL:** http://esriurl.com/worldGeolnquiry12

**Ask**

Where do countries have the highest range of % GDP in agriculture?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents.
  - GDP is defined as the “value of all final goods and services produced within a nation in a given year.” The main categories are agriculture, services, and industry.
- Click the layer name, % GDP Agriculture. Click the button, Show Legend.
- Most countries with >40% of GDP in agriculture are located on which continent? [Africa]
- On which continents do all countries have ≤40% of GDP in agriculture? [North America, South America, Europe, and Australia]

**Acquire**

How do countries’ % GDP in agriculture compare to services?

- Turn off the layer, % GDP Agriculture. Click the % GDP Services layer name and show its legend.
- On which continents do all countries have >40% of GDP in services? [North and South America, Australia]
- Most countries with ≤40% of GDP in services are located on which continents? [Africa and Asia]
- What relationship do you see between the agriculture and services maps? [Generally, where one is high, the other is low]
- Turn off the layer, % GDP Services. Click the % GDP Industry layer name and show its legend.
- Which continent has the most countries with ≤20% of GDP in industry? [Africa]
- According to the three economic sector maps and your previous answers, where are most of the developing countries located? [Africa]

**Explore**

What do GDP factors look like for Ecuador and Saudi Arabia?

- In the map, find and click Ecuador.
  - What percentage of Ecuador’s GDP is in agriculture? Industry? Services? [6.3%, 33.5%, 60.2%]
    - A country with a high percentage of its GDP in industry and services and lower percentage in agriculture is typically considered developed.
  - According to the data, is Ecuador a developed or developing country? Explain. [Developed]
- In the map, find and click Saudi Arabia and Somalia.
  - What percentage of Saudi Arabia’s and Somalia’s GDP is in agriculture? Industry? Services? [Saudi Arabia: 3.3%, 67%, 29.8%; Somalia: 65%, 10%, 25%]
  - Would you classify Saudi Arabia and Somalia as developed or developing countries? [Saudi Arabia: Developed, Somalia: Developing; students should note change in % GDP in agriculture]

Ask

- Where do countries have the highest range of % GDP in agriculture?
- How do countries’ % GDP in agriculture compare to services?
- What do GDP factors look like for Ecuador and Saudi Arabia?
Based on the data that you collected on Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia, are the economic sector criteria a good indicator of a country’s economic status? Explain your answer. [Answers will vary. Economic sector criteria appear to be good indicators of developing or developed status in some cases but not all–]

The total amount of energy consumed in a given country is also an indicator of development. A low level of energy consumption signals a developing country.

Turn off all layers. Turn on the layer, Energy Use KJ. View its legend.

Which category Energy Use is there for Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia? [Ecuador: lowest; Saudi Arabia: second lowest; Somalia: lowest]

Typically, developing countries have a low GDP per capita. Developed countries are high in both GDP per capita and energy use.

Turn off the layer, Energy Use. Turn on the layer, % GDP Per Capita. View its legend.

Which category % GDP Per Capita is there for Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia? [Ecuador: lowest; Saudi Arabia: middle; Somalia: lowest]

How does energy use affect a country’s developed or developing status?

Is economic sector criteria a good indicator of a country’s developed or developing status?

Based on the data that you collected on Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, and Somalia, are the economic sector criteria a good indicator of a country’s economic status? Explain your answer. [Answers will vary. Economic sector criteria appear to be good indicators of developing or developed status in some cases but not all]

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• Enrich the data in the map, exploring what types of occupations that the people in the population centers have.
• Explore the distance between rivers (buffers) and the locations of the world’s most populated cities.

TEXT REFERENCES

- World Cultures and Geography by McDougal Littell
- My World Geography by Pearson