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/worldGeoInquiry12

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 by Sector - 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 by Sector - Agriculture. Click the % GDP by Sector - 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 by Sector - Services. Click the % GDP by Sector - 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]
Analyze

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

– 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 KJ. 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]

Act

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]

SEARCH BY LOCATION

• In the Find Address Or Place (search) field, type a place name or keyword.
• Choose a search result that appears below the field or click the Search button.

TURN A MAP LAYER ON AND OFF

• Make sure that the Details pane is selected, and then click Contents.
• To show individual map layers, select the check boxes next to the layer names.
• Hint: If a map layer name is light gray, zoom in or out on the map until the layer name is black. The layer can now be turned on.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at http://www.esri.com/schools. THEN TRY THIS...

• 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

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these middle school texts.

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

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