



# Comparing country development

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Human Geography

Audience – Human geography

Time required – 15 minutes

**Activity** Explore factors that define levels of development.

**APHG Benchmarks** APHG: VI.B1. Analyze spatial variation in the Human Development Index.  
APHG: VI.B1. Explain social and economic measures of development.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Students will distinguish between more developed, less developed, and newly industrializing countries.
- Students will identify characteristics used to determine a country's level of development.

**Map URL:** <http://esriurl.com/humanGeoInquiry13>

## Ask

### Why do we study development?

- Development is “the process of improving the material conditions of people through diffusion of knowledge and technology.”
- ? How are more and less developed countries different? *[More developed countries (MDCs) have advanced socially and economically, whereas less developed countries (LDCs) are in the early stages of development.]*
- ? What is the Human Development Index? *[The Human Development Index, created by the United Nations, measures the development of countries socially, economically, and demographically.]*
- Click the link above to launch the map.

## Acquire

### What are examples of countries with different levels of development?

- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents of Map (Content).
- Turn on the two layers: HDI: High Development and HDI: Low Development.
- ? Which countries are in the very high development category? *[Norway, Australia, Germany, and others]*
- ? Which countries are in the low development category? *[Niger, Central African Republic, Chad and others]*
- ? Can a country have a middle level of development? *[Yes: a newly industrializing country or middle-income country.]*
- Turn on the layer, HDI: Medium Development.
- ? Which medium development country is an example of a newly industrializing country? *[Egypt or South Africa.]*

## Explore

### What characteristics help define a country's level of development?

- Click several countries to compare their data.
- ? How is gross domestic product (GDP) used to assess development? *[A high GDP, the total value of a country's goods and services in a year, can indicate a MDC.]*
- ? How is mean years of schooling used to assess development? *[The average number of years in school indicates an educated population. Mean years of schooling is usually lower in LDCs.]*
- ? How is life expectancy used to assess development? *[High life expectancy indicates access to medical care: people in MDCs usually have longer life expectancies than people in LDCs.]*

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## Analyze

### Why is there such a difference between the levels of development of countries around the world?

- Click the button, Basemap. Select National Geographic.
- ? Describe the general location of MDCs and LDCs. [*Many MDCs are located in the Northern Hemisphere.*]
- ? What is the Brandt line? [*A line believed to split Earth in two halves: the wealthy north and poor south.*]
- Draw a line along the 30-degree north parallel. (See Line ToolTip below.)
- ? Are there any exceptions to the rule? [*Yes. Australia is developed even though it is located in the Southern Hemisphere.*]

## Act

### What patterns exist among country development levels?

- ? Which regions have a great number of MDCs? Why? [*Europe and North America have more MDCs because of industrialization, trade, and education.*]
- ? What characterizes the middle development countries? [*They are spatially dispersed, often border water, and have trade partners.*]
- ? How can countries advance in their development? [*Industrialization, an educated population, specialization, and resource development.*]

### LAYER AND POP-UPS

- Turn on a layer of data.
- Click a selected country to display a pop-up that shows more information.

### LINE

- If you see a Modify Map button, click it.
- Click Add, and then choose Add Map Note.
- Type a name, use the Map Notes template, and click OK.
- Follow the 30-degree north parallel dividing the wealthy north and poor south. Change the color of the line to red.

## 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...

- Create a story map including elements of development to save and share with classmates.
- Use the Hot Spot analysis tool to uncover spatial clustering of high and low values for development indicators such as GDP per capita, life expectancy, and so on.

## TEXT REFERENCES

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

- *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activities* by McGraw Hill - Chapter 10
- *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture* by Wiley Press – Chapter 10
- *The Cultural Landscape* by Pearson – Chapter 9