



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.]*

more 

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