

Y9 Geography home learning – Week 13

What is the Key Question and topic I am studying? – What are Development Indicators?

This is the third lesson of recapping the topic of **Development** that we studied at the start of Y9. This is a topic that is very important for studying GCSE geography and it will be really helpful for you when we re-start your normal lessons in school.

Can I still do this work if missed the ‘Live lesson’?

Yes! You go to this link and carry out the lesson independently first.

- **Oak National Academy Link**

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/lessons/what-factors-influence-development>

Then, you can also go on and do this work below if you have time and would like to properly consolidate and extend your understanding. Or, you can just do the work below instead of the Oak National Academy lesson. This might be a good idea if you don't have good access to the internet for about the length of a lesson.

Do I have to do the home learning work as well as the ‘Live lesson’?

At this stage we are not going to say you must also do the home learning, but this will be an excellent opportunity to consolidate and extend your understanding of the work covered in the live lesson.

If I don't do the home learning after the live lesson will I fall behind and find the next live lesson harder to follow?

For now this will **not** be the case. You will not fall behind your class mates as long as you do a minimum of either the live lesson or the home learning. But clearly you will be better off if you can do both.

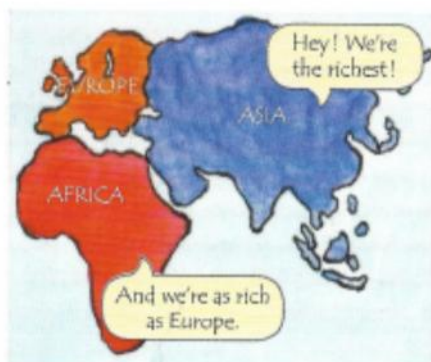
4.6 How did the development gap grow? – part 1

Why are some countries much more developed than others?
This unit gives some reasons.

The development gap

As you saw, some countries are much wealthier and more developed than others. Why? In this unit and the next, we look at some reasons.

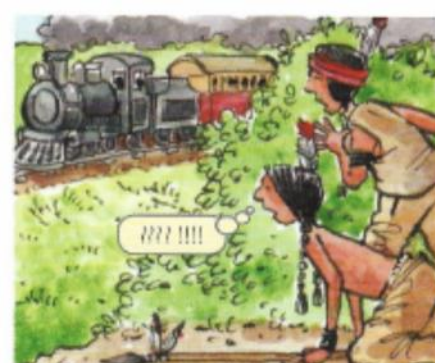
1 Historical reasons



Think about this! 1000 years ago, Asia was the richest continent, overall. And people in Europe and Africa had a similar level of wealth.



But things change. And by 1750, the **Industrial Revolution** had begun in Britain. It spread, and Europe leaped ahead in wealth and development.

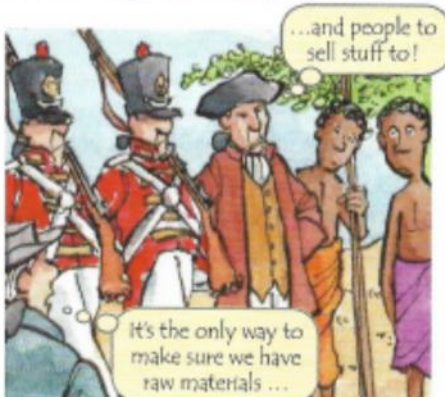


Europeans had already settled in North America. So industries began to develop there too – and North America began to grow wealthy.

Meanwhile, Europeans had been exploring Africa, South America, and Asia. They had found lands rich in natural resources. Trading soon followed.



The Europeans traded for things like gold, ivory, tobacco, spices – and in some places, slaves. But as time went by they grew greedier ...



... and took over places as **colonies**. So now they were in control. And the materials and slaves they shipped out made many Europeans very rich!



Eventually, the colonies won their independence. But most were left with few roads, schools, hospitals, or skills ... and much unrest.

Overall, several European countries – including Britain – grew richer and more developed by exploiting colonies. But they did little to develop their colonies. Many ex-colonies, such as Malawi, are still very poor today. Some are still unstable. (But some, like Singapore, are doing fine.)

What if...

... the UK was one of the world's poorest countries?

2 Geographical reasons

A country's location, and climate, and natural resources, can play a big part in helping it to develop.



In a hot dry landlocked country, with poor soil and few other natural resources, development may be very difficult.



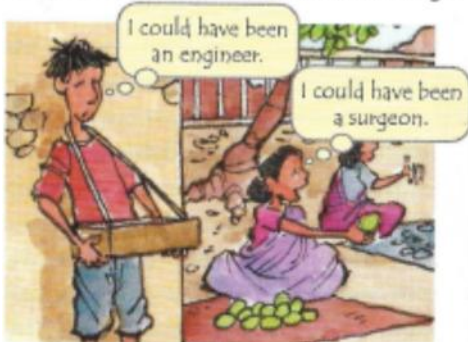
But some countries have rich soil, and a climate that helps farming. And natural resources – such as oil – that other countries are keen to buy.



Some countries benefit greatly from their location. Singapore – as you saw – is an example. It sits in one of world's busiest shipping routes.

3 Health and education

A well-educated, skilled, and healthy workforce helps a country to develop. People can come up with bright ideas, and work together to tackle problems. But poor countries are at a disadvantage.



Poor countries have lots of bright young people. But many don't get a good education. (There aren't enough trained teachers, for one thing.)



Diseases such as malaria, TB and AIDS are common in many poor countries. If you are unwell, and undernourished, you can't work.



If you are poor, most of your energy will go into finding food, and water, and firewood. You won't be able to think about much else.

Your turn

- A – D** are facts about some different countries. For each, explain how this could have held back development.
A It is hemmed in by mountains, and hard to reach.
B A tribal war has been going on there for 10 years.
C Millions of its people are suffering from AIDS.
D The colonisers built only a few roads and schools.
- Of the four conditions described in **1**, which do you think could be put right, or at least improved, to help that country develop? Explain your choice.
- The UK is among the world's most developed countries. Using ideas in this unit, see if you give five reasons to explain why. (Don't forget geographical reasons.)

4.7 How did the development gap grow? – part 2

Here we give more reasons to explain why poor countries find it hard to escape from poverty.

Keeping the gap wide

In Unit 4.6, you met some reasons for the development gap between countries. Now let's look at other things that help to keep poor countries poor.

Why...

... do we still go to war?

4 Conflict and corruption



A country has a better chance of developing if it is at peace, with a stable and wise government, and a strong and fair legal system.



But many poor countries do not have stable governments. Many are deep in **conflict**, with a big waste of life – and money.



In many countries, **corruption** adds to the problem. Leaders and officials take bribes, and steal money that should be spent on the poor.

There is some corruption in every country. But it is widespread in some of the poorer countries, and has a big impact on development.

5 Relying on a few exports

Usually, countries earn money by selling things to other countries.



Many poor countries rely heavily on selling just one or two **cash crops** to other countries, to earn money. But that's risky ...



... because the amount they earn for a crop can tumble. For example, if other countries decide to grow lots of it too. Or if ...



... the demand for the crop falls. For example, tobacco is Malawi's main cash crop. As people give up smoking, the demand for tobacco will fall.

It's not just crops. The same is true of other **commodities** too – like metals, and even oil. Their prices can fall. So it's risky to rely on just one or two things.

6 Lack of industry

You can usually earn more by selling factory goods than crops and raw materials. For example, suppose your country grows cocoa.



You can sell your cocoa on the world market. Chocolate companies in richer countries will buy it to make chocolate.



The chocolate companies like to buy cocoa cheaply, if they can. But they charge quite a lot for chocolate – and can charge more every year.



So their profits rise, while your earnings may fall. How nice it would be to make your own chocolate, and export it!

But it costs a lot to set up factories. Poor countries may not have the money or expertise to get started. Even if they do, the electricity supply may fail. Or poor roads may make transport difficult. So it's hard to run a factory efficiently.

Meanwhile the richer countries make a profit by processing commodities from the poorer countries. By processing them they **add value**, and get even richer.



▲ A cocoa farmer in Ghana. Those yellow pods contain cocoa beans, which are used to make chocolate.



▲ When you buy chocolate, the cocoa farmer will have received only a small fraction of what you pay.

Your turn

- 1 Explain what these terms mean. (Glossary?)
 - a corruption
 - b cash crop
 - c commodities
 - d add value
- 2 See if you can explain why.
 - a corruption holds back development, in poor countries
 - b it's risky to depend heavily on tobacco as an export
- 3 Setting up chocolate factories could help a cocoa-growing country to develop. Explain why. You could draw a flow chart.
- 4 Poor infrastructure helps to keep a country in poverty.
 - a What is *infrastructure*? (Glossary.)
 - b See if you can explain how poor roads can hold back development. In 40 words!