

Big Idea Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 3, Unit 6

- Not all countries are the same in terms of well-being. Social scientists use several different ways to measure if a country is “rich” or “poor”.
- One way social scientists measure the well-being of a country is by looking at economic outcomes. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is an economic indicator which measures the total value of all goods and services produced in a country. By looking at changes in a country’s GDP, social scientists can tell whether a country is producing more goods than it did in the prior year.
- Another way in which social scientists measure the wealth of a country is by the level of development. Level of development is measured by indicators that relate to the quality of life such as years of schooling, life expectancy, and income. When social scientists measure the well-being of a country based on its level of development, they are considering both economic and social factors.
- In most cases, economic growth leads to development, or improved quality of life in a country.
- Factors like technology, political stability and improvements in infrastructure (roads, water supply and electricity) can lead to economic growth. However, factors like conflict, lack of resources, and natural hazards can negatively affect economic growth.