

# 5A – What Are Resources?

MCCC SS060502

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Network – 2015-6  
Part A of Unit 5 – Economic Geography

**GLCEs:** 6G211 Physical characteristics, 6G322 resource opportunities, 6G441 control of resources as a reason for conflict/cooperation among cultures; GLCE 6G212 plate tectonics (supplementary global geology activity)

Identification of resources is an essential foundation for analysis of jobs in a place and trade between places. This lesson is also a continuation of Part 4C’s regional focus on SW Asia.

## 1. Review Activity: Where would you put your city?

This simulation uses the same decision-making “engine” as Part A of Unit 1. Students try to choose a location for the capital of an area. The twist is that they do this for several different times in history. Over time, human communities had different economies, which had different resource requirements: hunting, farming, trading, and empire-building. Students learn that each new resource “era” favored different locations. Places that were important in one era often lost importance in the next.

BI7 Choosing Locations activity set

BI7 Choosing Locations presentation

## 2. Review Activity: The Moveable Desert. The Tropical deserts are caused when air moves up near the equator and has to come down somewhere. Where it is forced down, it makes a desert. When average temperatures are high, the “desert-maker” is pushed farther from the equator.

6<sup>th</sup> 5Ax Climate Change and Moveable Deserts activity

CC Climate Change in History

## 3. Activity: Resources in SW Asia – This is a review/extension/application of Lessons A and B in Unit 4, which introduced the idea of cultural definition of resources:

- 1) Flooding rivers in Southwest Asia provided a key resource (soft, workable soil) during the early stages of the development of agriculture.
- 2) Control of irrigation water on the floodplains of Southwest Asia led to a tremendous increase in food production. This, in turn, could support people doing many other jobs – in construction, trade, government, science, arts, religion, and so forth.
- 3) Control of key waterways during the Middle Ages gave Islamic rulers in Southwest Asia a great deal of power and wealth. (Development of better technologies for sailing on the open oceans is an important part of this story – see 6<sup>th</sup> 5As Arabian Sea Sailing presentation).
- 4) Control of petroleum resources in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is linked to colonial activity in Southwest Asia, world wars, the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, and the rise of despotic rulers (and terrorism?)

6<sup>th</sup> 4D Southwest Asia Religion activity set

BI7 Southwest Asia Big Idea presentation

6<sup>th</sup> 5Ay World Domestication Hearth Areas

BI7 Southwest Asia clickable miniAtlas

6<sup>th</sup> 5As Arabian Sea Sailing activity pair

BI7 Chapter on Resources in Southwest Asia

## 4. Supplementary Activity: Can the earth make me rich here?

Drill a hole anywhere in 95% of the earth’s land, and you are not likely to find any oil. Your chances of finding gold are even slimmer. This lesson is a quick overview of plate tectonics (GLCE 6G212), and how this geological theory helps explain the global patterns of key mineral and energy resources.

6<sup>th</sup> 5A World Economic Geology set

BI1 World Economic Geology clickable map

BI6 Metal Mining activity and TG

## Pages from MCCC

- **SuppMaterials.SS060601** has a good overarching question diagram, a good big-idea page, and several useful word cards. The word-definition matching activity, however, is very abstract and would perhaps work better as a summary after looking at some concrete examples.
- **SuppMaterials.SS060502** has a good organizer, big idea page, and several useful word cards about resources. (Note that this file is in MCCC Unit 5 where the previous -601 is in Unit 6.)
- **SS060601.Powerpoint** has a useful step-by-step look at the economics diagram. It also has images about disasters, migration, the Aral Sea, mining, and globalization, which all look like reviews or bridges to other units. Feel free to break this ppt apart and use pieces in other presentations.

**Takehome:** Different places have different natural resources. Human inventions are needed to enable people to use these resources. People sometimes invent different ways of using different resources, even in places with similar conditions. Resource use, in turn, has a *multiplier effect* – it can bring money into a region, which in turn can support many other people doing many other kinds of jobs.