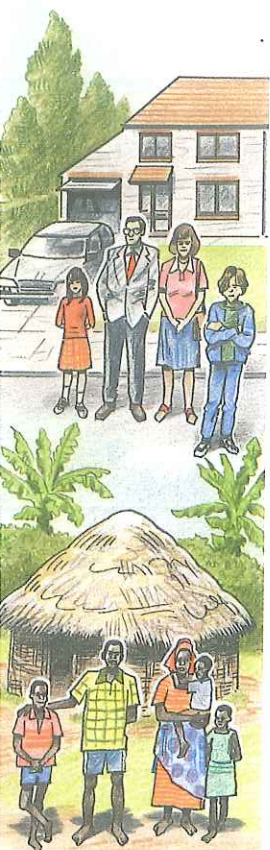


What is a developing country?



By now you should be aware of many differences between living in Kenya and in your home region in the UK. These differences include ethnic groups, dress, housing, jobs, wealth and the quality of life. Kenya is an example of a **developing country**. What is a developing country? How is life in a developing country different from life in a developed country like the UK?

In the UK most, but not all, people earn a lot of money compared with those in a developing country. They live in good houses, have their own cars and videos and can afford good food and holidays. Compared with Kenya most people in Britain have a **high standard of living**. Kenya is considered to be 'poor' and the UK to be 'rich'. Most people see the difference in wealth as the main difference between a developing country and a developed country.

The wealth of a country is given by its **gross national product (GNP)**. This is the total amount of money made by a country from its raw materials, its manufactured goods and its services.

Notice that GNP is always given in American dollars (US\$). The total amount can then be divided by the total number of people living in that country. This gives the average amount of money available for every person living in the country.

By giving the GNP in US\$ it is easy to compare different countries. Table A gives the average income (GNP) per person for five developing countries and three developed countries.

Apart from wealth there are many other ways of trying to measure the level of a country's development (table B).

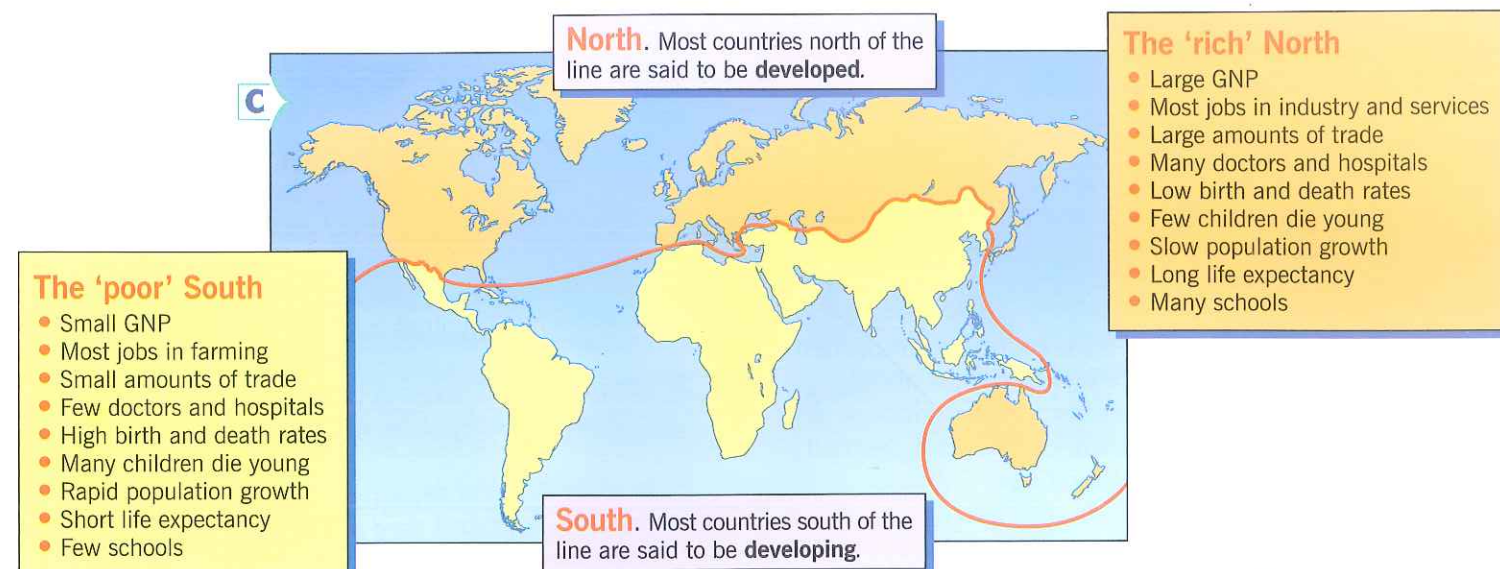
	Country	GNP (US\$ per person)
Developing countries	Bangladesh	2,000
	Brazil	8,100
	Egypt	4,200
	Kenya	1,100
	Peru	5,600
Developed countries	Japan	29,400
	UK	29,600
	USA	40,100

Jobs		Primary activities give most jobs in a developing country. A developed country has fewer primary activities and more secondary and service jobs.
Trade		A developing country usually has to sell raw materials at a low price and has to buy manufactured goods from developed countries at a high price.
Population		A developing country has a higher birth and death rate (page 94), more young children dying (high infant mortality), adults dying at a younger age (short life expectancy) and a faster population increase than a developed country.
Health		A developing country has less money to spend on training doctors and nurses and in providing hospitals and medicines.
Education		The large number of children and lack of money for schools in a developing country mean fewer people can read and write than in a developed country (low literacy rate).

The 'rich' North and the 'poor' South

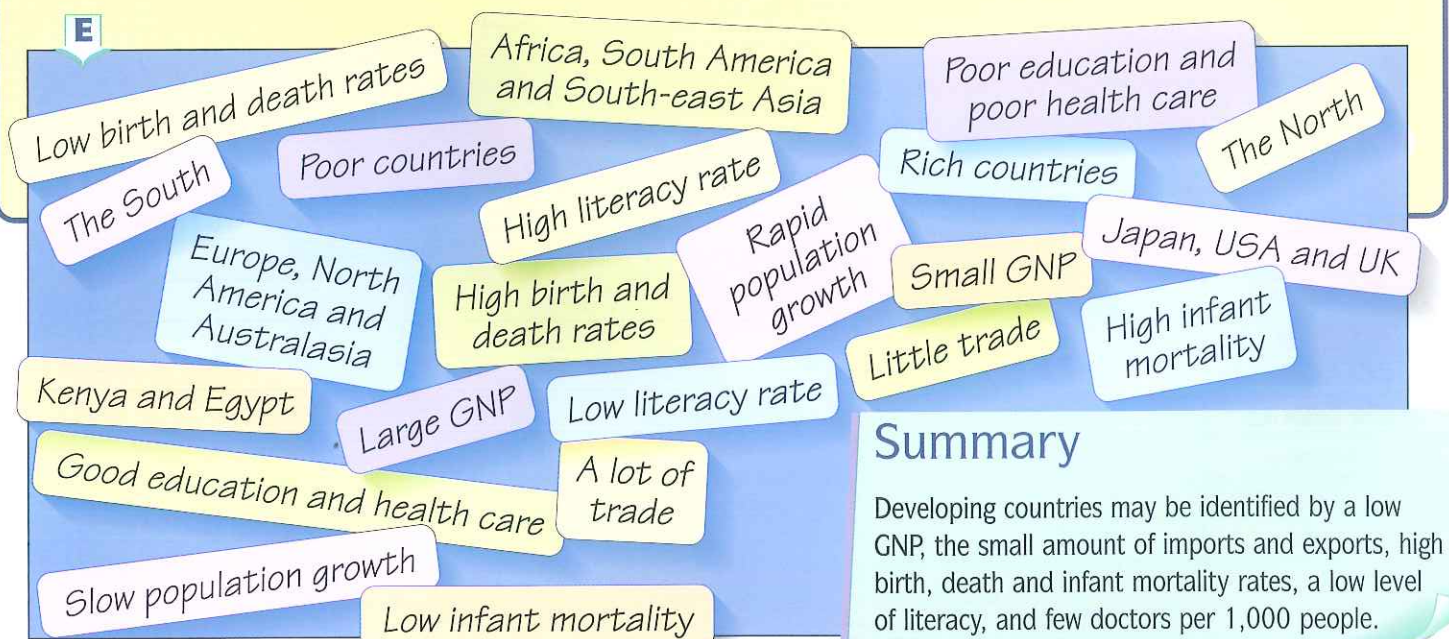
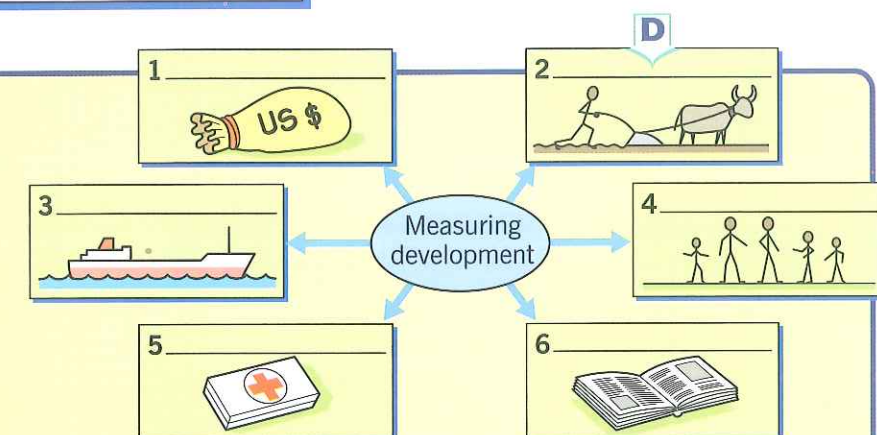
What happens when the different methods used in table B to measure the level of development of a country are put together? The result is a group of

mainly 'rich' countries which are found in the North and a group of mainly 'poor' countries which lie to the South. Map C shows this division.



Activities

- 1 Copy and complete star diagram D to show six possible ways of measuring the level of development of a country.
- 2 Draw a table and sort the information given in diagram E into two columns headed **Developing countries** and **Developed countries**.



Summary

Developing countries may be identified by a low GNP, the small amount of imports and exports, high birth, death and infant mortality rates, a low level of literacy, and few doctors per 1,000 people.