

Differences in development around the world

The world map showing the HDI for the countries and regions of the world (Figure 2.5) illustrates the differences in development around the world. Here is a summary of the development indicators, classified according to a country's level of development.

Table 2.3

Development indicators	Highly developed countries and regions	Less developed and developing countries and regions
GDP/capita	high	lower
Life expectancy (years)	high	lower
Literacy level (%)	high	lower
Average years of schooling	high	lower
% population urbanised	high	lower
Carbon emissions (tons/person/pa)	usually high	usually lower
	high	lower

Note: The summary above is a generalisation and there are always exceptions. There are poor people in developed countries and rich people in less developed countries.

Regional differences in development around the world

When the countries of the world are grouped according to regions, there are clear differences in development, as seen in Figure 2.6.

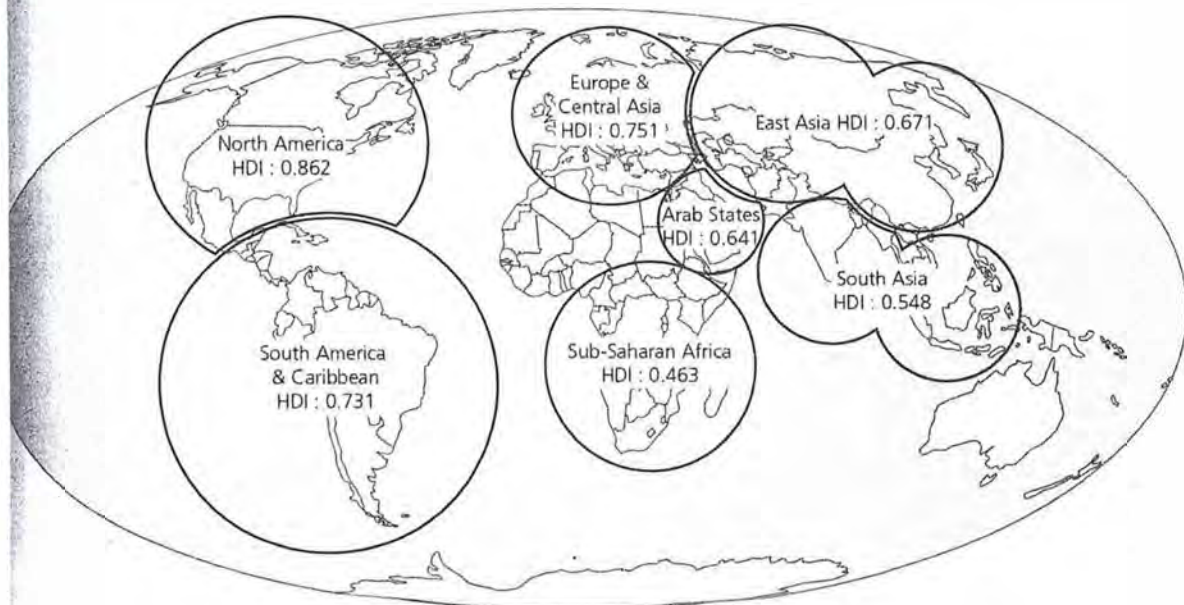


Figure 2.6 Regional differences in development indicators – note the HDI of the different regions

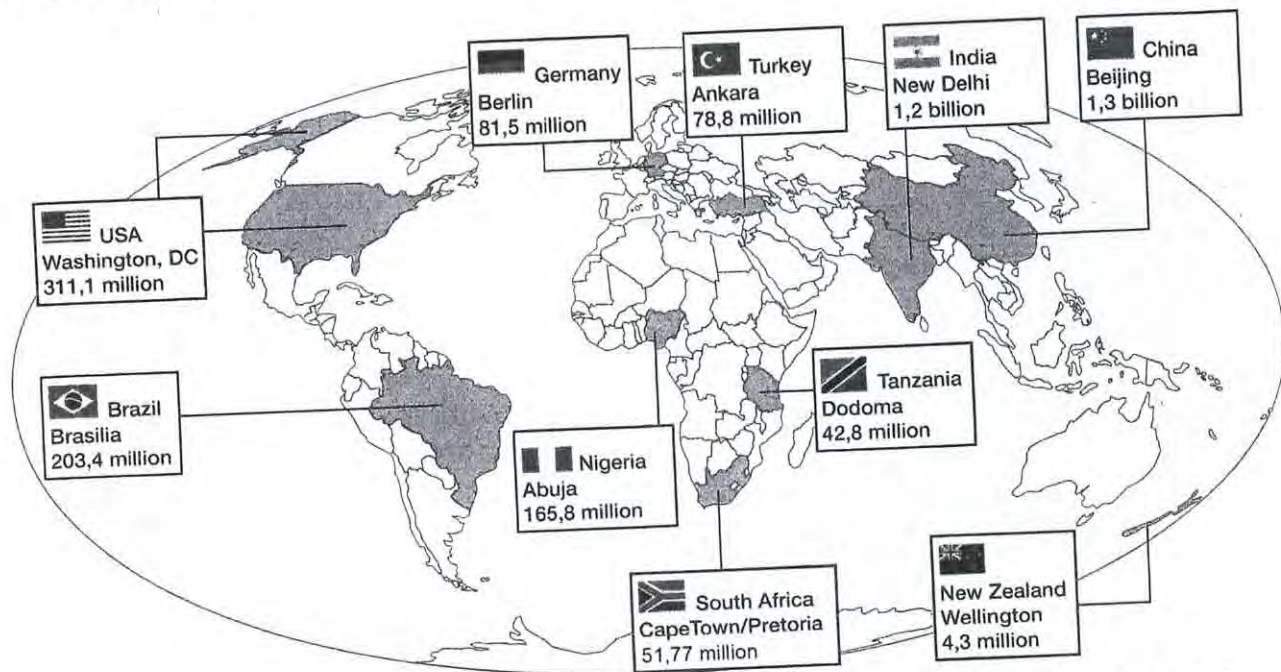


Figure 2.7 Differences in development indicators for selected countries (capital city and population is given for each country). See table of data on page 39.

Activity 6 Review differences in development around the world for selected countries

Refer to pages 38 and 39.

- List the six development indicators in table 2.4 on page 39 under the following headings: economic, social and environmental.
- Explain what these development indicators mean:
 - GDP/ capita
 - Life expectancy
 - HDI
- Refer to the data in table 2.4 and state whether these statements are true or false. If false, give a reason for your answer.
 - Countries with a high GDP/ capita generally have low per capita carbon emissions.
 - Countries with lower life expectancy (59 years or less) have lower HDIs.
 - People living in countries with a higher GDP/capita tend to have had 12 years of schooling.
 - Lower literacy levels are associated with highly urbanised countries.
 - A lower GDP/ capita results in a higher HDI.
- 'As a country becomes more developed, it contributes more to environmental damage'. Use evidence from table 2.4 to write a paragraph proving this statement.
 - Highly developed countries
 - Developing and less developed countries

Geofact

Nigeria, despite its low HDI, has Africa's richest person, the continent's second largest economy and is Africa's top oil producer.

Table 2.4

Country	GDP/capita (US \$)	Life expectancy (years)	Literacy level (% of population)	average years of schooling	% population urbanised	Carbon emissions (tons/person/pa)	HDI	HDI world ranking
USA	47 200	78,5	99	12,4	82,3	19,1	0,910	4 th
Brazil	10 800	73,5	90	7,2	86,5	1,81	0,718	84 th
Germany	35 700	80,4	99	12,2	73,8	9,71	0,905	9 th
Turkey	12 300	74	90,8	6,5	69,6	3,59	0,699	92 nd
China	7 600	73,5	94	7,5	47	4,57	0,687	101 st
India	3 500	65,4	62,8	4,4	30	1,18	0,547	134 th
New Zealand	27 700	80,7	99	12,5	86,2	8,48	0,908	5 th
Nigeria	2 500	51,9	60,8	5,0	49,8	0,35	0,459	156 th
United Republic of Tanzania	1 400	58,2	72,9	5,1	26,4	0,13	0,466	152 nd
South Africa	10 141	52,8	88,7	8,5	62	7,27	0,619	123 rd

(Source: *United Nations Human Development Report, World Almanac*)

Note: Data changes annually. If you have access to the Internet or a library, check the data for the current year.



Figure 2.8 Development-related issues (education, housing, medicine and sanitation) in countries in the above data table

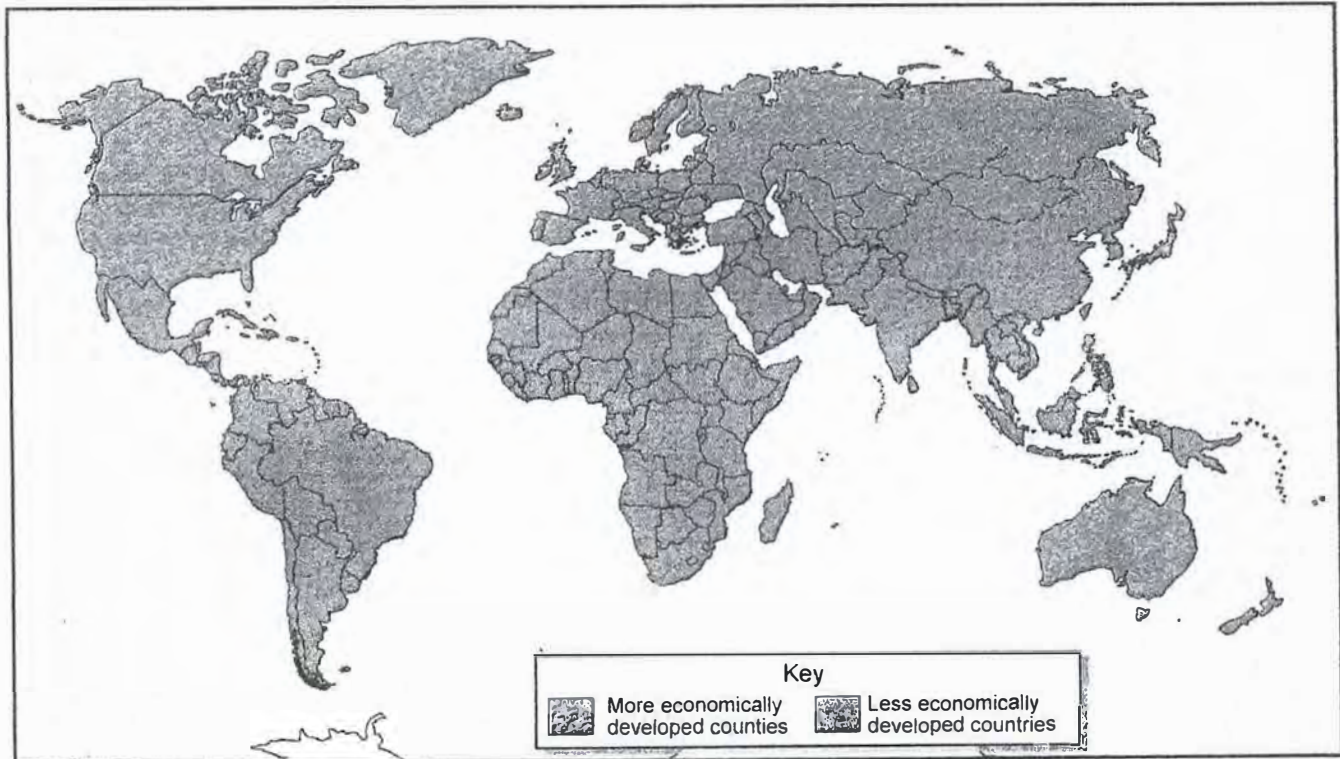
4. Differences in development around the world – comparison between selected countries and regions

The Human Development Index shows the different levels of development in the world. The world can be divided into two groups of countries:

- There are wealthier countries where development is high and people generally live comfortable lives and use many resources.
- There are poorer countries where development is low, quality of life is poor and people use fewer resources.

The terms used to describe these two groups of countries are: More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) and Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). The following table shows the main differences between MEDCs and LEDCs

MEDCs	LEDCs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDP per capita is more than US\$10 000 a year.• Good health care is available to most of the population.• There are many industries that produce high value products for export.• Extensive trading takes place. Trade has a high value.• There are high levels of education and literacy.• There are relatively few really poor or unemployed people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GDP per capita is less than US\$5 000 a year.• Little or poor health care is available to most of the population.• There is a poorly developed industrial sector and low value exports.• Limited trading or low value trading takes place.• Education may be poorly developed or not available to a lot of people,• There are many unemployed and very poor people.



The map shows the general pattern of economic development in the world.

Comparing countries and regions

As we have seen, development indicators help us to compare the levels of development in different parts of the world. There are other development indicators that help us to compare levels of development around the world:

The number of doctors compared to the population. For example, in the United Kingdom there is one doctor for every 300 people. In Mozambique there is one doctor for every 35 000 people.

Literacy measures the percentage of the population over 15 years old who can read and write. The adult literacy rate is 89% for South Africa, 99% for Japan and 38% for Somalia.

The amount of money spent on education. In South Africa, 18% of government spending goes to education, compared to 10% in the United States, and 16% in Brazil.

Differences in development within countries

Development indicators often only give the average level of development in a country. There may be big differences in the levels of development in different parts of the same country. Examine the schools in the photographs that follow.



Photos A and B: Two schools in the Eastern Cape

Classroom activity 2.4

Work on your own and answer these questions.

1. Write one sentence to explain the difference between MEDCs and LEDCs.
2. Explain why South Africa is classified as a LEDC. Use the words 'average', 'economic' and 'social indicators' in your answer.
3. Look at the photographs of the two South African schools above.
 - a) Describe the resources, teachers and learning opportunities that you think each school has.
 - b) Write a paragraph to explain what you think needs to happen to make the school in Photo A more like the school in Photo B.