Consumption Patterns in the United States: The Impact of Living Well

*How do American consumption patterns affect people and the planet?*

Look carefully at this photograph. Talk about the questions below with your partner, and record your answers.

What interesting details do you see in this photograph?

What country do you think this shopping mall is in? Why?

What are some of the reasons that all of these people might be in a shopping mall?

Do you think that people in every country go to malls like this to shop? Why or why not?
Read the Introduction and Section 1. Then, create an illustrated dictionary of the Geoterm by completing these tasks:

- Create a symbol or an illustration to represent each term.
- Write a definition of each term in your own words.
- Write a sentence that includes the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geoterm and Symbol</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>consumption</td>
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<td>developed country</td>
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<td>developing country</td>
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<td>gross domestic product (GDP)</td>
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<td>per capita</td>
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Section 2 - Food Consumption Patterns

Analyze the food consumption cartogram with your class. Then, with your group, read Section 2 and answer the questions below.

**Per Capita Food Consumption Around the World**

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

How many calories per day does the average person need to live a healthy life?

List three countries that consume a high number of calories per capita, per day. What type of country tends to consume more calories per capita? Why do you think that is?

List three countries that consume a low number of calories per capita, per day. What type of country tends to consume fewer calories per capita? Why do you think that is?
Section 3 - Oil Consumption Patterns

Analyze the oil consumption cartogram with your class. Then, with your group, read Section 3 and answer the questions below.

What is oil used for?

Which developed countries consume the most oil per capita? Why do you think that is?

Which developing countries consume the most oil per capita? Why do you think that is?
Section 4 - Computer and Internet Use Patterns

Analyze the computer consumption cartogram with your class. Then, with your group, read Section 4 and answer the questions below.

**Personal Computer Consumption Around the World**

What are computers and the Internet used for?

Which countries have the most access to technology? Why do you think that is?

Which countries have the least access to technology? Why do you think that is?
Section 5 - The World’s Greatest Producers

Analyze the gross domestic product (GDP) cartogram with your class. Then, with your group, read Section 5 and answer the questions below.

What three important factors contribute to the United States’ high GDP?

How does education affect GDP in the United States?

How does the American work ethic affect GDP?

How do you think a country’s GDP affects its citizens’ ability to consume?
Suppose the consumer class around the world continues to grow and consume like the United States and other developed countries. What might happen to the world? Create a simple political cartoon to show your ideas.

In your cartoon, show at least two changes that might happen. These could be environmental, health, quality-of-life, or economic changes. Your cartoon should also have these things:

- exaggerated details
- symbols that represent, or stand for, something else
- labels that identify parts of the cartoon
- a caption