

Analyzing GDP Data

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Use the data in the Closing the Gap Data File to answer the following questions.

1. Column B shows GDP per capita in US Dollars for 2018. The countries in column A that are in GREEN are the 15 highest GDP per capita and the countries highlighted in YELLOW are the 15 lowest GDP per capita. Rows 2-11 show the top 10 of whatever ranking you are using.
 - a. Rank column B in descending order (highest to lowest) and write down the top five countries.
 - b. Rank column B in ascending order (lowest to highest) and write down the five lowest countries.

2. Columns C and D are measures of the level of investment in infrastructure and capital goods by the countries. Rank them one at a time ascending and descending and record the following:
 - a. When column C (% with internet) is ranked highest to lowest, how many of the top 10 countries are green?
 - b. When column C is ranked lowest to highest, how many of the bottom 10 countries are yellow?
 - c. When column D (% with electricity) is ranked lowest to highest, how many of the bottom 10 countries are yellow?

3. Columns E, F, and G represent various measures of investment in human capital by the countries (private or public). Rank them one at a time ascending and descending and record the following:
 - a. When column E (literacy rate) is ranked highest to lowest, how many of the top 10 countries are green?
 - b. When column E (literacy rate) is ranked lowest to highest, how many of the bottom 10 countries are yellow?
 - c. When column F (% of GDP by gov't education) ranked either way, both green and yellow countries show up in the top 10. What might be an explanation for this?
 - d. When column G (% of GDP by gov't healthcare) is ranked highest to lowest, how many of the top 10 countries are green?
 - e. When column G (% of GDP by gov't healthcare) is ranked lowest to highest, how many of the bottom 10 countries are green?

4. Column H is the country's "freedom score" put together by the Heritage Foundation. It is a measure of the amount of "economic freedom" a country has. The higher the number, the more economically free the country is.
 - a. When column H is ranked highest to lowest, how many of the top 10 countries are green?
 - b. When column H is ranked lowest to highest, how many of the top 10 countries are yellow?

5. Columns I and J are other measures sometimes associated with economic growth and/or economic health. Rank them and note how both green and yellow countries show up in both the highest and lowest top 10. How useful would you say these metrics are in measuring economic growth and/or health of a country?

6. Looking back over your data and answers to questions 1-5, what factors seem to have the most impact on GDP per capita?

7. What might be preventing the countries with the lower GDP per capita from doing the things you identified in question 6?

8. Identify two things that surprised you in the data and explain why you found them surprising.