

The Four Sectors of the Economy

Name: _____ Date: _____

Economies around the world are usually divided into four main sectors: the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors. Each sector plays a different and important role in the production of goods and services.

The primary sector is responsible for extracting or collecting natural resources. This includes activities such as agriculture, fishing, mining and forestry. In this sector, people work directly with nature. For example, farmers grow fruit and vegetables, fishermen catch fish from the sea, and miners extract minerals from the ground. The primary sector is especially important in less developed economies, where a large percentage of the population still works on the land.

The secondary sector takes the raw materials from the primary sector and transforms them into finished products. This is the manufacturing and construction sector. Factories produce cars, clothes, furniture and processed food. Construction companies build houses, roads and bridges. In many countries, the secondary sector grew very quickly during the industrial revolution and is still essential for economic development.

The tertiary sector does not produce physical goods. Instead, it provides services. This sector includes banking, tourism, education, healthcare, retail, transport and insurance.

Finally, the quaternary sector is based on knowledge and information. It includes research and development, information technology, consulting and higher education.

In the Region of Murcia, the primary sector is still very important, especially agriculture and food production. Many companies process fruit and vegetables (secondary sector), while tourism and services continue to grow (tertiary sector). Technology and research centres are also becoming more relevant in the region.

Reading Comprehension

1. What does the primary sector extract or collect? Give two examples.

2. What is the main difference between the secondary sector and the tertiary sector?

3. Why is the quaternary sector becoming more important in modern economies?

4. According to the text, which sectors are important in the Region of Murcia?

Extra Activity - True or False

- True ■ False - The tertiary sector produces physical goods.
- True ■ False - Scientists often work in the quaternary sector.
- True ■ False - Farmers belong to the primary sector.
- True ■ False - Hotels are part of the secondary sector.