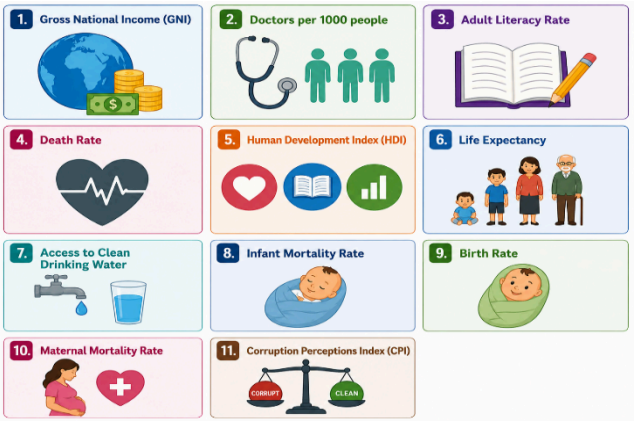
TOPIC QUESTION: What are the consequences of the development gap?

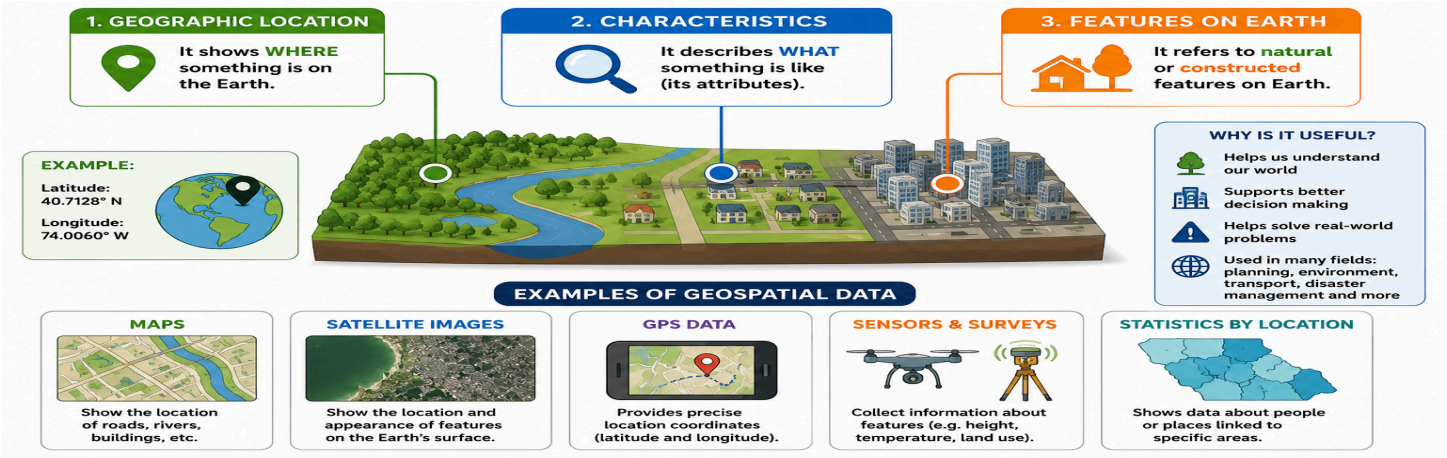
Lesson 1 – How can we measure development?



- **Development** means ow much a place has improved people's lives through **healthcare**, **education**, **jobs**, and **infrastructure**
- **Singular indicators of development** look at one aspect of development and have different units.
- **Composite indicators of development** measure many different factors and make a score or ranking and have no units.

SINGULAR	COMPOSITE
GNI ($)	**Human Development Index**
Doctors / 1000 people	0 = Not developed
Adult literacy rate (%)	1 = Very developed
Death rate / 1000 people	
Life expectancy (age)	**Corruption Perception Index**
Access to clean drinking water (%)	0 = Very corrupt
Infant mortality / 1000 babies	1 = Not corrupt
Birth rate / 1000 people	
Maternal mortality rate / 1000 people	

Lesson 2 - What are the geospatial variations of the development gap?



- **Geospatial means:** the geography of different locations.
- The geography can be the **characteristics** or the **features** there.
- **Europe** and **North America** remain the **most developed** regions of the world
- **South America**, **Africa** and **Asia** remain the **least developed**.

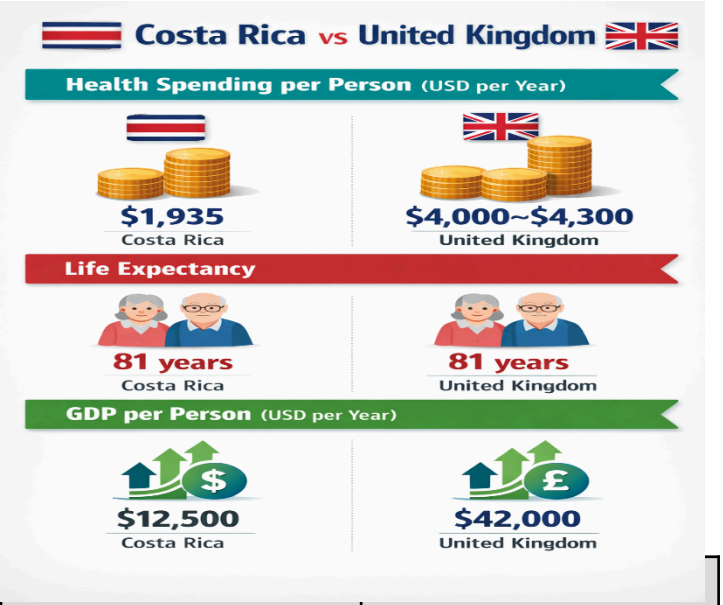
Lesson 3 – Is Los Angles a development success story?

- **A city of wealth:** Los Angeles is one of the world's richest cities. Its economy is worth **over $1 trillion**, the average house costs **over $900,000**, and luxury homes in **Beverly Hills** can cost **over $20 million**.

- **A city of poverty:** Around **1 in 6 people (16%)** live in poverty, and **over 75,000 people** are homeless across Los Angeles County because many cannot afford housing.
- **Why inequality exists:** High housing costs, low wages in some jobs, and **gentrification** mean many families struggle to afford rent, with some spending **over 50% of their income** on housing.
- **Possible solutions:** The city is building affordable homes, opening homeless shelters and funding support services, but experts say **more affordable housing and better-paid jobs** are needed to reduce inequality.

Lesson 4 – Is Costa Rica a development conundrum?

- **Costa Rica** is a comparatively lower income country.
- However, it's **life expectancy** matches that of far wealthier countries.
- The table below suggests reasons for this.



Social & Culture	Lifestyle		
Strong family structures	Natural diet	Natural environment	
Tight community networks	Daily physical activity	Mineral-rich water	Basic healthcare & nutrition
Sense of purpose ("plan de vida")	Low-stress lifestyle	Simple, low-income lifestyle	Cultural togetherness