

Summary: Making Goods

Using Resources

People use many resources to make products. Producers who make blue jeans need three kinds of resources: natural resources, human resources, and capital resources.

Soil, sun, and water are natural resources. Farmers use them to grow cotton. Cotton is used to make blue jeans.

Human resources are the skills, knowledge, and hard work that people use on their jobs. Producers need human resources, such as people who drive the cotton-picking machines.

Capital resources are things that people make to help workers make goods. Machines, roads, tools, and buildings are all capital resources.

From Cotton to Blue Jeans

After they pick the cotton, workers send it to a factory. Factory workers follow steps to make products like blue jeans. First, workers use machines to clean the cotton and spin it into yarn. Next, workers color the yarn with dye. They use machines called looms to weave it into cloth.

Producers buy the dyed cloth. They send it to another factory to be made into blue jeans. Machines cut the cloth into pieces.

Workers on an assembly line sew the pieces together. Each worker on an assembly line does one step and then passes the product to the next person. Producers use assembly lines to produce goods quickly and at low cost. Finally, workers pack the jeans and ship them to stores around the world.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

human resources *noun*, the skills, knowledge, and hard work that people bring to their jobs

capital resources *noun*, things made by people that help workers make goods or provide services

factory *noun*, a building where workers make goods

assembly line *noun*, a team of specialized workers



After You Read

REVIEW What three resources are needed to make blue jeans? Highlight the three kinds of resources needed to make blue jeans.

REVIEW Why do some producers use assembly lines to make goods? Underline the sentence that tells you the answer.