



Literacy Rate

How It Impacts the Standard of Living

Standards

SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

c. Explain how the literacy rate affects the standard of living in Europe.



Literacy Rate

How It Impacts the Standard of Living

Literacy Rate

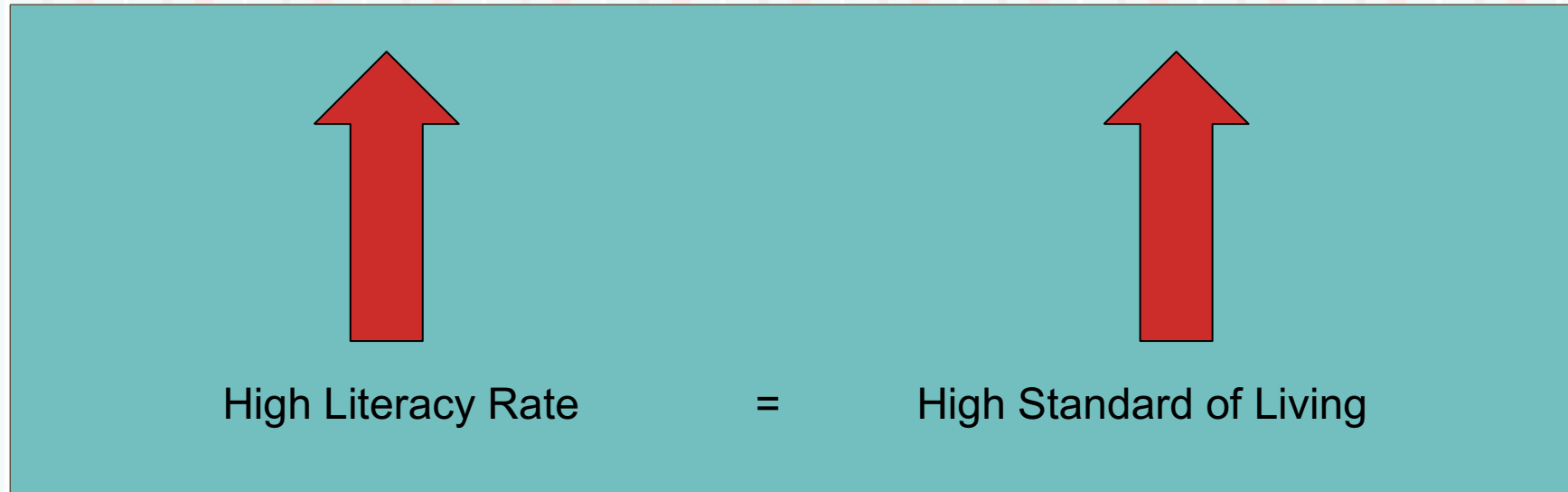
- A **literate** person is one who can read and write.
 - Being literate is a major factor in whether a person can get a job and be successful in the workplace.
- **Literacy rate** is the percentage of a country's population over the age of 15 that can read and write.
- The United States has a very high literacy rate.
 - About 99% of Americans are literate.

Economic Impact

- Countries with high literacy rates are generally wealthier.
 - They can compete in the world economy.
- Having a high literacy rate is important to the success of the people in a country.
- People who can read get better jobs, earn more money, and can afford to buy better things.
 - They can afford housing, food, healthcare, & clothing for their families.

Standard of Living

- The **standard of living** (economic level of the people in the country) is often higher in countries where the literacy rate is high.



Standard of Living

- This measures how well-off the people are in a country.
- Housing, food, health care, educational opportunities, and income can be part of the standard of living.
 - Basically: what it costs a family to live

Cycle of Poverty

- Having basic reading & writing skills is very important.
 - Without skills, workers are stuck in the lowest-paying jobs.
- A cycle of poverty can develop when people cannot get an education.
- Illiterate people are forced to get low-paying jobs, so they cannot get enough money to pay for their children's education...This cycle can continue for generations.
- The standard of living remains low for these families because their education level is low.

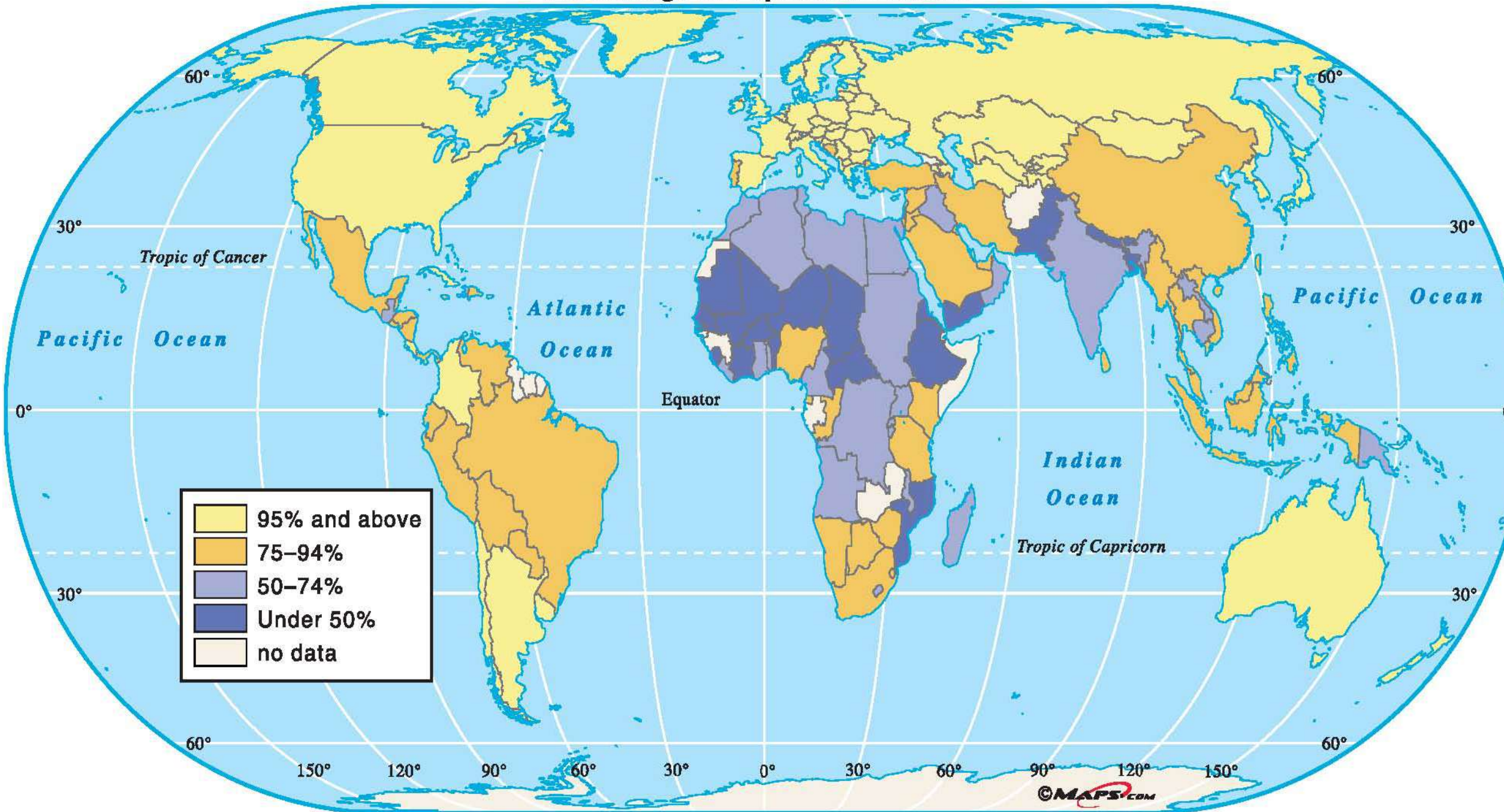
Cycle of Poverty

- Without the skills of reading and writing, workers cannot get better jobs.
- Developing countries are poor, and their people are generally uneducated.
 - It is difficult to pay for education, when there is little money for food...

Improving Literacy Rate

- The goal of every country is to have a 100% literacy rate among its people.
- One reason that many people cannot read/write is that their communities cannot afford to pay for teachers or schools.
- Many governments, missionaries, & aid groups come to the poorest countries to assist the people in educating their children

Percentage of Population Literate



Eckert Equal-Area Projection

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