

Nordic Comparison Answer Key

(Responses will vary, but should include the following general ideas.)

- If students choose **Norway**: They may discuss Norway's steeper mountains and deep fjords compared to Sweden's flatter eastern coast and broad forests. Norway has more coastal settlement and depends heavily on offshore energy, while Sweden has a broader mix of technology, manufacturing, and forestry.
- If students choose **Denmark**: They may note Denmark's low elevation, gentle farmland, and smaller size compared to Sweden's large forests and varied climate zones. Denmark is more densely populated with strong agriculture, while Sweden has more space, lower density, and major industries like technology and forestry.
- If students choose **Finland**: They may compare the heavy forest cover in both countries but describe Finland's thousands of lakes and colder climate. Both rely on renewable energy and strong education systems, but Finland has fewer major coastal cities than Sweden.

Strong responses should clearly connect geography with human systems and explain cause and effect when possible.

Teacher's Guide

- Review the meanings of physical geography, human systems, and population patterns before students begin writing.
- Encourage students to select the Nordic country they know most about or want to research briefly.
- After writing, allow students to share comparisons in small groups.

Engagement Ideas

- Display maps of all four Nordic countries and highlight major geographic features.
- Show short video clips on human systems such as transportation or energy use.
- Hold a class discussion about which Nordic country seems most similar to Sweden and why.