

## Libyans Look to Economy For Their Future

Difficulty:

**A**VERAGE

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### *Discussion activities to be done after completing this EA lesson*

Today's report is about the economic future of Libya. What do Libyan people think about the current situation? How does Libya earn money at the moment? What are Libya's economic choices? What economic opportunities does it have for its future?

### *Extension discussion topics*

#### **A. Talking about and going over the specific topic / idea / issue in listening text**

*Introduction = What is the current situation in Libya? What do Libyan people think about their current situation?*

1. What is the current situation in Libya? What do Libyan people think about the current situation?
  - People are repairing the damage to their cities.
  - Fighting finished only a few weeks earlier.
  - Gadhafi had ruled Libya for forty-two years.
  - The people heard in the report are very happy.
  - They thank the rebels and are enjoying their freedom.

Do you know anyone from Libya? If so, do you know what their opinions are about the current situation?

2. What is Libya's current economic situation?
  - There was little business done during the revolution.
  - Under Gadhafi there were few tourists.
  - Libya's income came, and will come, from its oil exports.
  - It needs to decide what economic system it will have, open market or closed market.
3. What opportunities does Libya have for tourism?
  - It has heritage sites like Leptis Magna.
  - Leptis Magna is a Roman ruin a 100 kilometers east of Tripoli on the shore of the Mediterranean.
  - Leptis Magna has only been thirty percent uncovered, the rest is under sand.
  - Tourists used to be followed and monitored by security forces under Gadhafi's rule.
  - Some think there will be many, many more tourists now.

Would you visit Libya as a tourist? Why, or why not? What other attractions do you think Libya might have for tourists?

4. What are Libya's key decisions which it now has to make?
  - It has to decide what its state, or political system will be like.
  - Then what kind of economy it will have.
  - Whether this will be a directed economy or an open market economy.
  - Its future prosperity will depend on these two decisions.

## B. Expanding on (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

*Topic = North African Countries.*

1. Libya has been in the news a lot recently. How does it differ from your country? Think about these areas as examples: politics, geography, climate, wealth, language, or exports. Is there one feature or characteristic of Libya which you think is better than your country?
2. What do you think will happen in Libya now? What do you think will happen to its political system? How do you think Gadhafi supporters will be treated? Will it become a democratic country? Do you think many tourists will want to visit Libya? Libya has a lot of oil, how should the money this generates be spent?
3. Libya is a North African country, what other African countries do you know of which have a coastline on the Mediterranean? (See: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Africa#Geography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa#Geography)) What do you know about any of these countries? (Think about and famous places, famous people, climate, geographical features.) How are these countries different from those on the northern coastline of the Mediterranean? Make a list of five differences and compare these with a friend's.
4. Many tourists go to Egypt. What attractions has Egypt got for these tourists? (Possible answers are: Pyramids, Pharaohs' tombs, the river Nile, Sahara Desert, Cairo, Red Sea for diving, warm climate, etc.) Have you ever been, or know anyone who has visited Egypt? Why did they go, and what did they do? If you haven't been what are the two things you do in Egypt, and why? Tell a friend about your choices. What recent political changes have there been in Egypt? (for a detailed account of all the events see: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_Egyptian\\_revolution#Timeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Egyptian_revolution#Timeline))

## C. Extending discussion of (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

*Topic = Heritage sites.*

1. The report described one of Libya's heritage sites, Leptis Magna. What heritage sites are there in your country - these may include forests, mountains, lakes, deserts, monuments, buildings, complexes, or cities?  
(If you are not sure which they are see here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table\\_of\\_World\\_Heritage\\_Sites\\_by\\_country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Table_of_World_Heritage_Sites_by_country)).  
Have you been to any of them? What connection with the past do they have? What state are they in? Are they well-preserved, or are they ruins? Do many people visit them each year? Do you have to pay to get in? Are there any places in your country which you think should be heritage sites, but which are not?

2. Make a list of the reasons why you think one of the heritage sites in your country is important. For ideas think about history, religious reasons, nature, culture. Which is the most popular heritage site in your country? Why do you think it is most popular? Should these sites be free to visit?
3. What heritage sites do you know about in other countries? Which ones have you visited, if any, and what were they like? Which ones in other countries would you like to visit and why? Which type of heritage site do you prefer, e.g., forests, mountains, lakes, deserts, monuments, buildings, complexes, or cities? Why this type?
4. As well as heritage sites, there are the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, super-heritage sites, see here:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_Wonders\\_of\\_the\\_Ancient\\_World#The\\_Seven\\_Ancient\\_Wonders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World#The_Seven_Ancient_Wonders).  
Have you ever been to any of these? If not which would you most like to visit and why?

### *Audioscript*

At one of Tripoli's modern shopping centers, repair work was underway to fix the damage caused when the city became a battleground just a few weeks earlier.

Inside, it was a normal shopping day, but people could hardly contain their feelings.

"I smell the freedom all the time, and all the minutes and all the seconds because I... my freedom and my... all the people's freedom was captured for forty two years."

"Thanks to God and thanks to the rebels now we are free. We're feeling indescribable happiness about that."

Not far away, in the old city bazaar, fabric salesman Siarraj Bashir Ayad says there was almost no business during the revolution. Now he says, things are a little better, and he hopes for even more business in the coming months.

"One hundred percent for sure tourism will be much, much better than it used to be. In the past, tourists were monitored by security forces. Now they will have more freedom."

Gold shop owner Abdul Hamid Sadiq Abeyah also has hopes for the tourist trade.

"We have tourist sites that were neglected during Gadhafi's time. We hope the new government will take better care of these areas."

He's talking about sites like this Roman ruin just 100 kilometers east of Tripoli on the shore of the Mediterranean.

"My name is Osama Mohammed Krema. I'm a guide on the site of Leptis Magna. Leptis Magna one of the best heritage sites still preserved right now. The work in the city is only thirty percent done, and seventy percent is still under the sand."

Much of Libya's income will continue to come from its oil exports.

But journalist Fathi Bin Isa says Libya's future prosperity will depend on what kind of country Libyans decide to have.

"When we determine the nature of the state, then we will determine what kind of economy we will have, whether it will be a directed economy or an open market economy."

That will be among the many questions facing Libyans as they work on their political and economic future.

Al Pessin, VOA News, Tripoli.