

*Michael Porter introduced this model in the 1980s as a tool to help business formulate competitive strategies

*A value chain encompasses all the activities and processes in a firm which contribute to the creation of value

- *A firm can either increase value for customers or lower its costs
- *Generic Strategies Low Cost,
 Differentiation or Focus
- *The Value Chain analysis helps firms to focus on strategies which address these two issues

- *The Primary functions of the firm are:
- *Inbound Logistics
- *Operations
- *Outbound Logistics
- *Marketing and Sales
- *Service



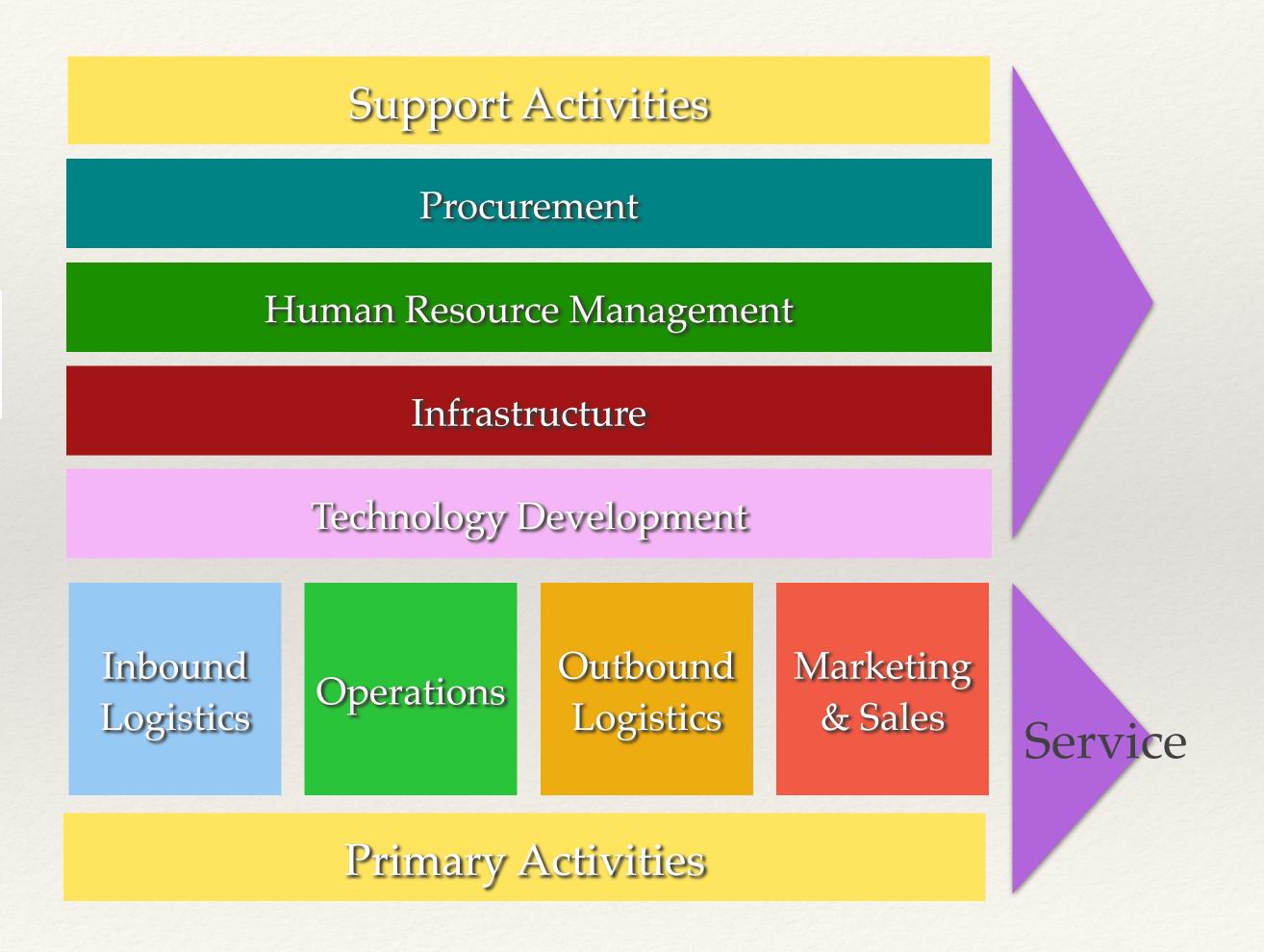
- *Inbound Logistics: receiving, storage and distribution of raw materials - supplier relationships are key (5 Forces)
- *Operations transform raw materials into products and create services which are sold to customers process improvements and product innovation can create value

- *Outbound Logistics delivery and distribution of product and services to customers
- *Marketing and Sales promotes the products and service to customers making them aware of the competitive advantages of the firms products and services
- *Service activities which maintain or add to the value of the product after it is sold - after sales service

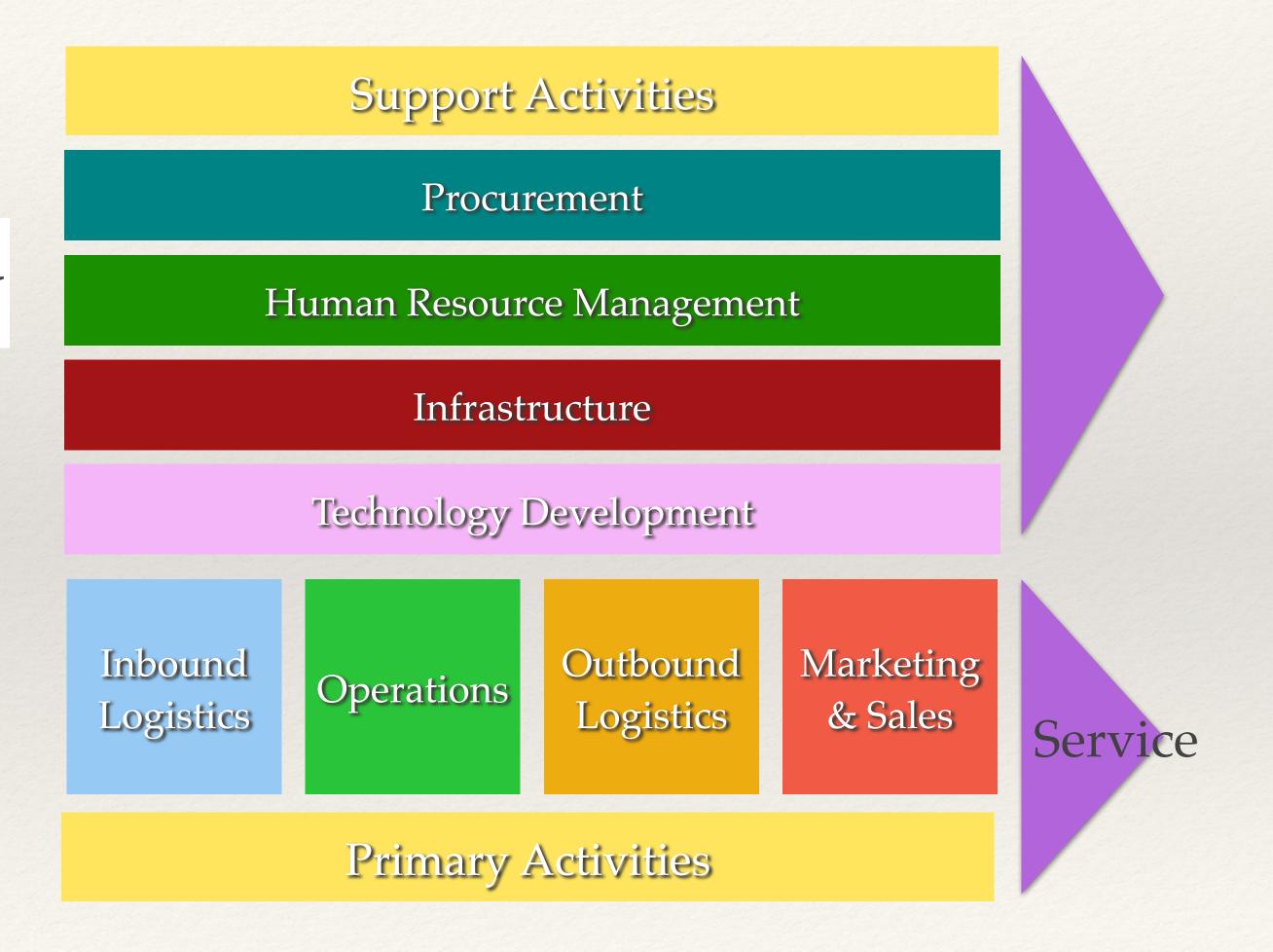
- *There are also secondary activities which support the primary activities
 - *Firm infrastructure
 - *Human resource management
 - *Technological development
 - *Procurement



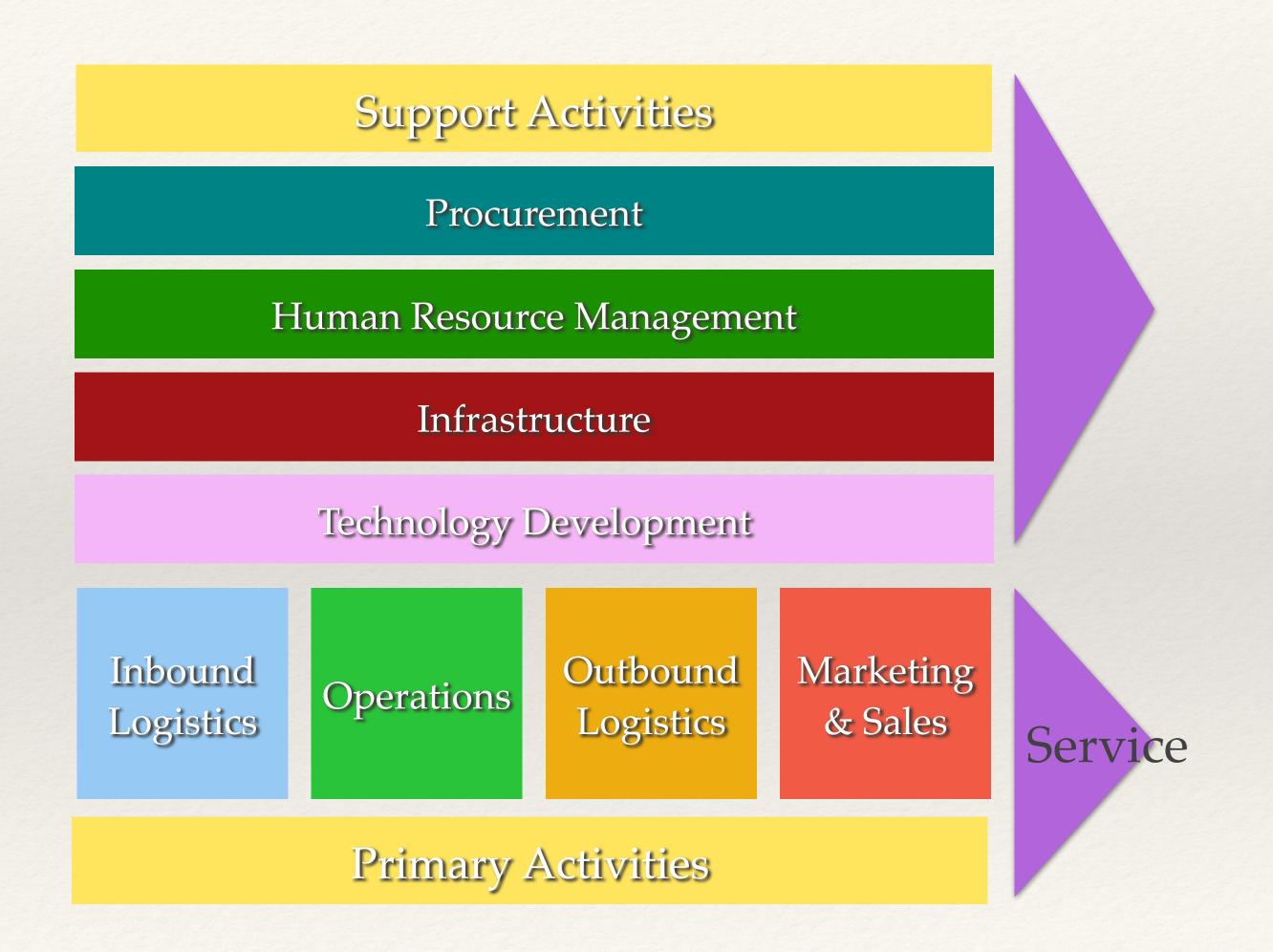
*In combination these create our Value Chain



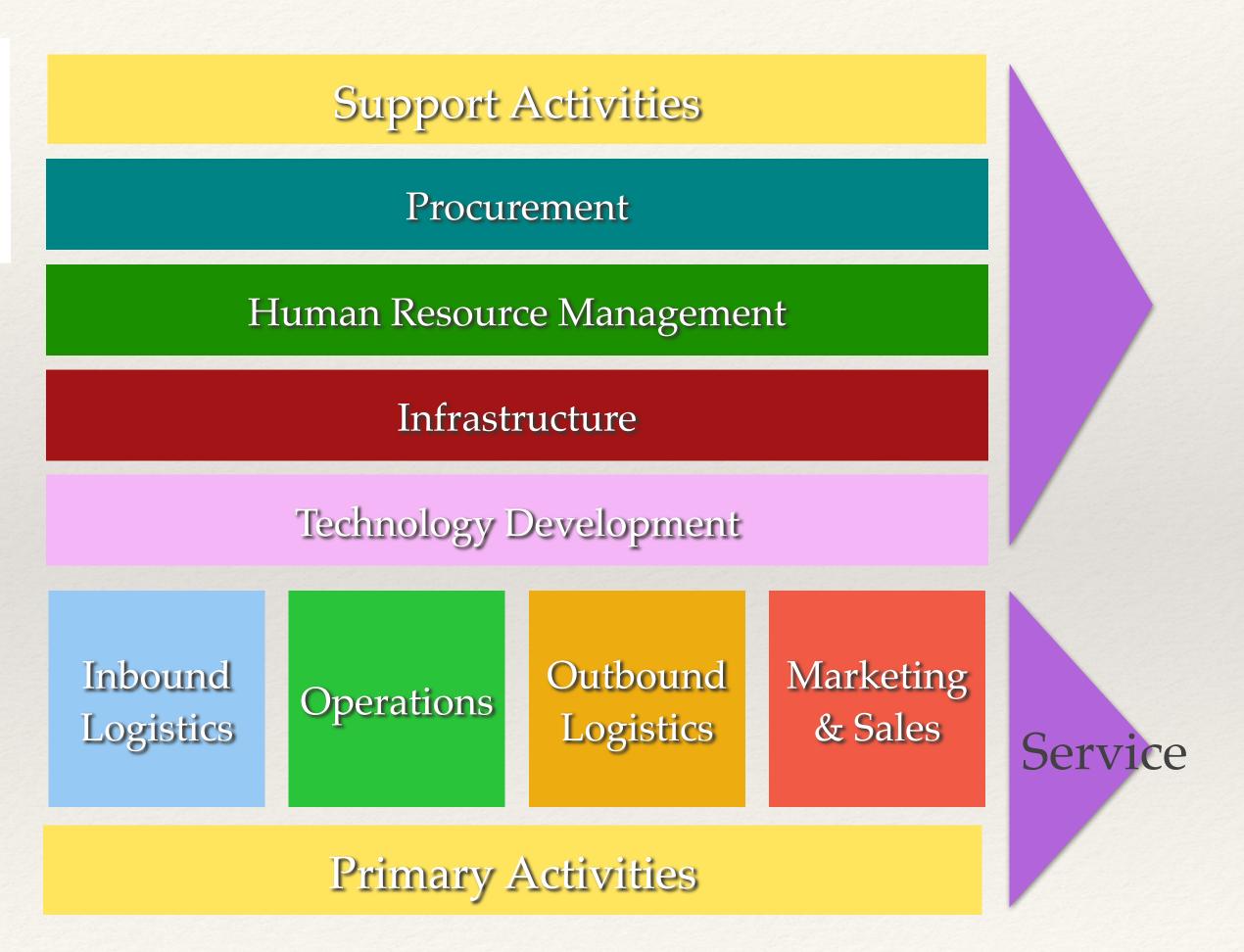
*Each primary activity has secondary activities associated with it



*There is a three step
process for
conducting the
analysis

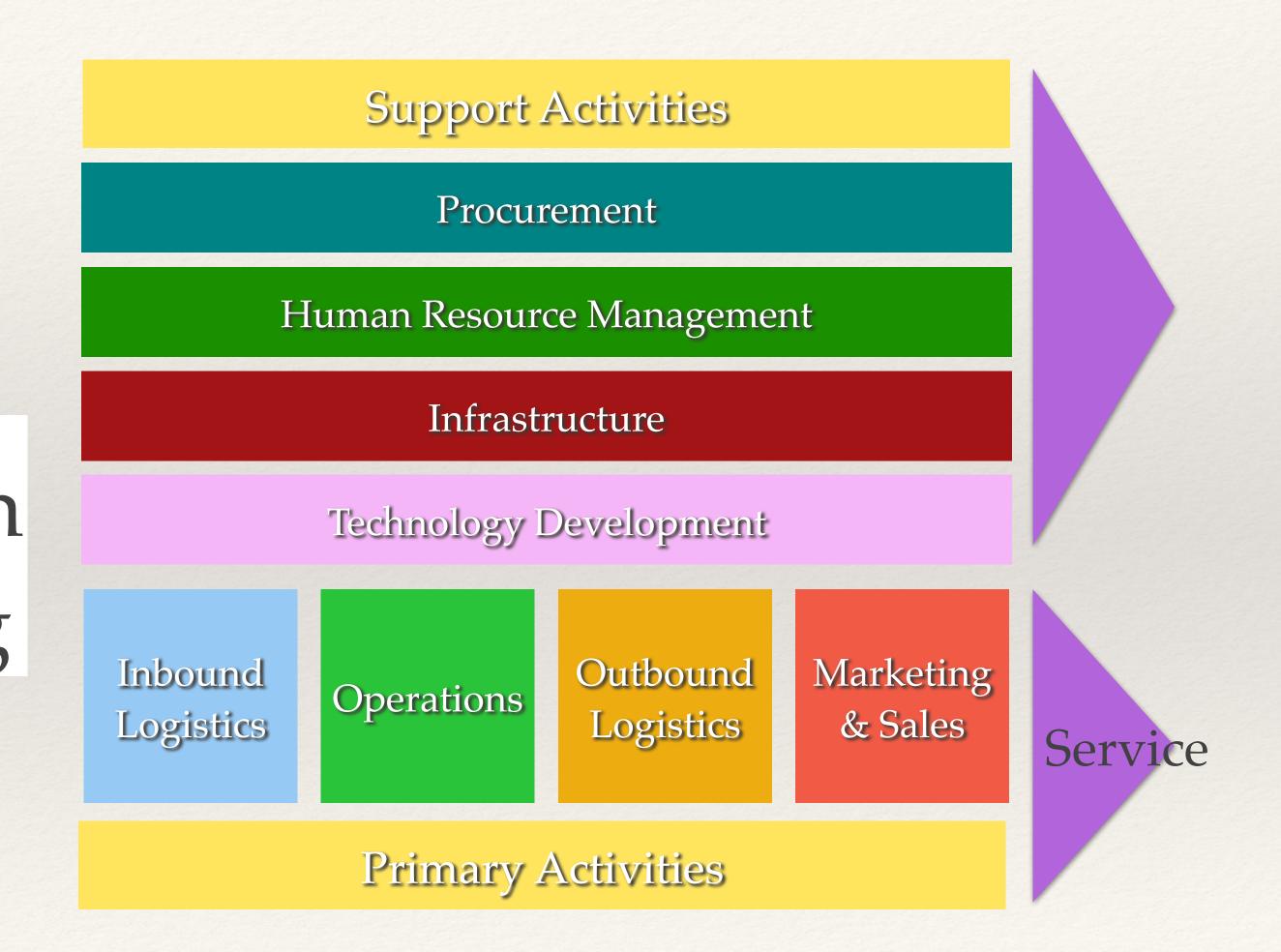


- *1. Identify the secondary activities associated with each primary activity
- *These are
 - *Direct Activities
 - *Indirect Activities
 - *Quality Assurance

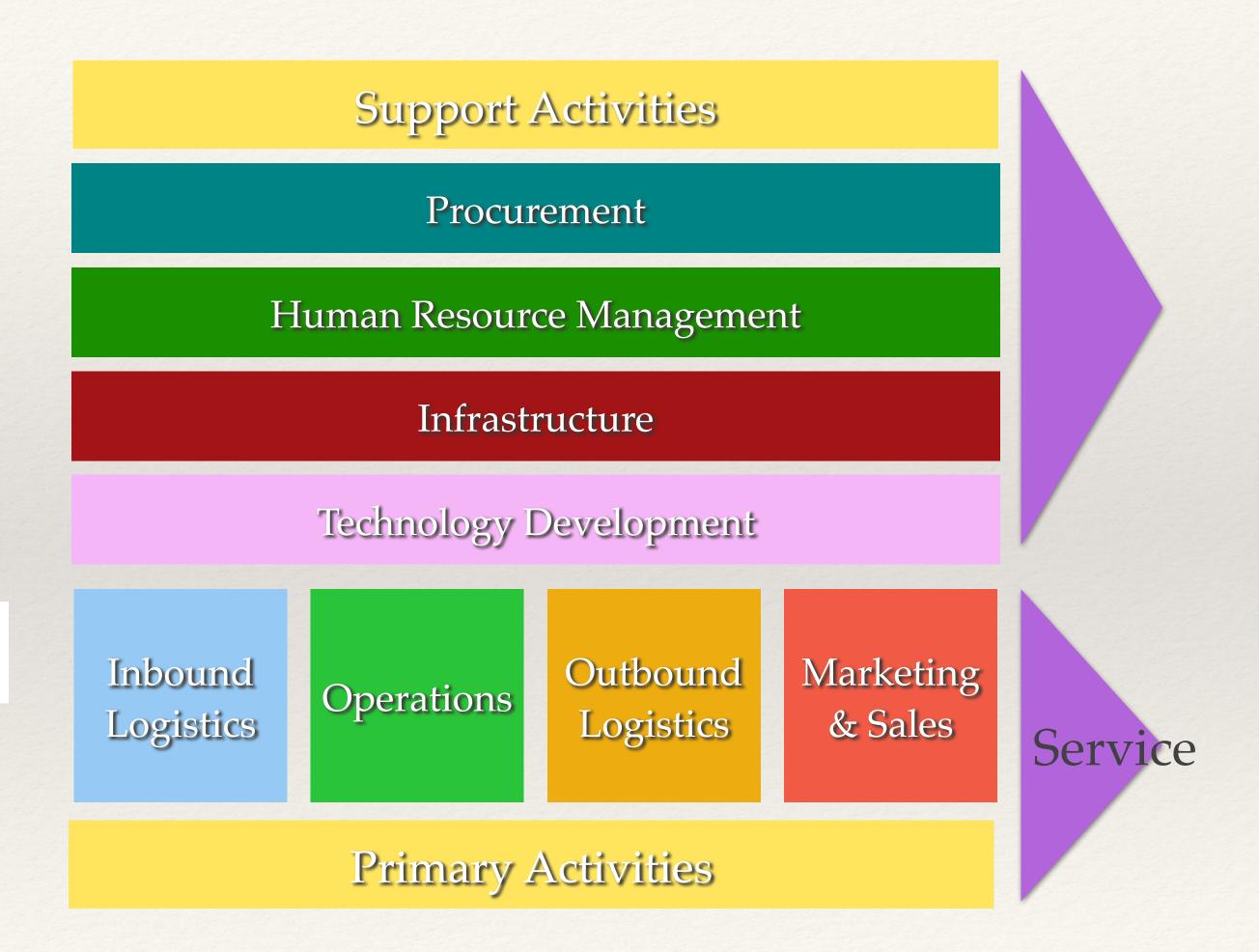


- *Direct Activities are those which specifically help to create value; sales and market
- *Indirect Activities help the direct activities function more smoothly
 HR and accounting
- *Quality Assurance ensure that direct and indirect activities meet the expected standard.

- *2. Identify the secondary activity for each support activity
 - *Support activities such as HR and Accounting provide value to primary activities



- *3. Identify a connection between the activities
 - *Identify all the links
 between the all the
 activities these
 connections are the secret
 to finding ways to create
 competitive advantage



- *Which activities across the value chain would benefit from additional investment of time or money to improve the product or save cost
- *Identify activities which put the firm at a Disadvantage when compared to its customers

- *Scope Priority Activities
- *Develop strategies for these key activities which can be implemented to build sustainable competitive advantage
- *Is this a Cost or Differentiation approach? (Generic Strategies)

- *What do we mean by Competitive Advantage?
- *Creating products or services whose price and value are similar to those found in other products in the market
- *Cost Advantage producing the same quality product with the same customer value at a lower cost
- *Differentiation create a product or service at the same price but which is unique (more value, more functionality, more sustainable and durable) than competing products - must align with customer wants and needs

- *Value Chain Analysis breaks down the steps and links in the firm and enables the identification of opportunities to reduce cost or increase value
 - *Optimise processes
 - *Eliminate waste
 - *Improve profitability
 - *Identify areas to differentiate and create competitive advantage
- *Ultimately the aim is to minimise cost while maximising the value created for the customer

