

Geography of Europe



Correlates with SS6G7a, b

POLITICAL & PHYSICAL FEATURES

Welcome to Europe!

Europe is located in the northern hemisphere. It lies on the western half of Eurasia, the large landmass that includes both Europe and Asia.

Europe is surrounded by Asia to the east, Africa to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

Northern Hemisphere Arctic Ocean EUROPE NORTH AMERIĆ. Atlantic AFRICA SOUTH Pacific Indian Qcean Ocean

Southern Hemisphere

Countries of Europe



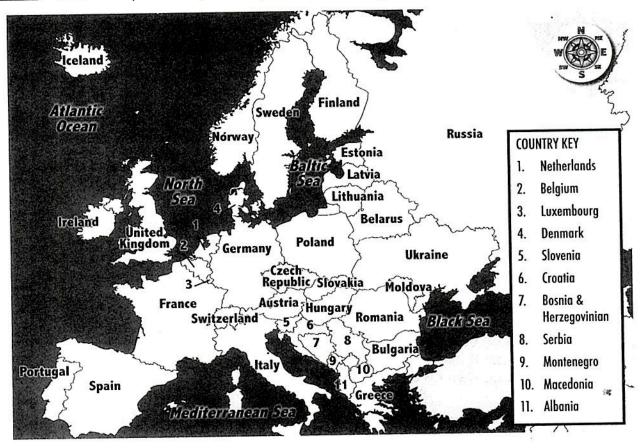
Europe is home to more than 40 different countries, ranging in size from tiny to massive! These nations have rich histories and are full of amazing people and places.

Did You Know?

Europe (excluding eastern Russia) is less than half the size of the United States. That is a lot of countries squeezed into a fairly small area!



Look at the political map of Europe and answer the questions.



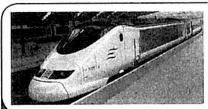
Find and highlight these countries on the map:

Germany	France	Russia	Italy
Spain	Ukraine	United Kin	gdom

- 1. What is the largest country in Europe? _____
- 2. Which country, shaped like a boot, juts out into the Mediterranean Sea?
- 3. Which large island nation lies just north of France?
- 4. Germany, Spain, and Italy share borders with which nation?
- 5. Through which country would you travel to go from France to Portugal?
- 6. Which country touches both the Black Sea and Poland?
- 7. Which country's closest neighbors include Poland, France, and Denmark?

Key Water Features of Europe

Water is one of Europe's most influential physical features. The continent is bordered by two oceans and contains more than a dozen seas. Major rivers sprawl across Europe's inland regions. The people of Europe use these water sources for everything from drinking and bathing to manufacturing, shipping, and trade.



ENGLISH CHANNEL

The English Channel is a narrow sea between Great Britain and France. In 1994, an underground rail tunnel called the "chunnel" was opened for transportation under the channel.

RHINE RIVER



The Rhine originates in the Swiss Alps mountain range and flows northwest to the North Sea.

Today, the Rhine is an especially important source of water for farms, factories, and shipping industries in Germany.



DANUBE RIVER



The Danube is the second longest river in Europe and an important shipping route across the continent. The Danube flows from west to east from Germany to the Black Sea. It either flows through or forms the border of 10 countries.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The Mediterranean Sea is the world's largest inland sea. The surrounding Mediterranean region has a dry, warm climate. Its location between Europe, Africa, and Asia has made it a bustling center of shipping and trade for thousands of years.

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Quick Review

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Use the map of Europe's water features to answer the questions.

- 1. What body of water lies between Europe, Africa, and Asia?
- 2. What body of water separates the United Kingdom from France?
- 3. Which major river flows through Germany before emptying into the North Sea?
- 4. Which major river touches 10 European nations before emptying into the Black Sea?

Major Land Features of Europe

From the snowy Alps to the flat European Plains, Europe is a continent of varying landscapes. Landforms in Europe include vast plains, looming mountain ranges, and large peninsular regions.

THE ALPS



The Alps are a magnificent mountain range in south-central Europe stretching from eastern France and northern Italy through Switzerland and Austria. Snowmelt from the Alps pours into many of Europe's rivers.

IBERIAN PENINSULA

The Iberian Peninsula in southwest Europe contains Spain and Portugal. It is separated from the rest of Europe by the Pyrenees Mountains.

THE PYRENEES

lberian ...

Peninsula

The Pyrenees mountain range extends along the border between France and Spain. Most of the Pyrenees are in Spain.

EUROPEAN PLAIN

The European Plain is a vast, flat area stretching from France's Atlantic coast to the Ural Mountains. This region has rich farmland and some of the largest cities in Europe, like Paris, Berlin, and Moscow.



Western

Russia

(part of

Europe)

European Pla

~ The

Carpathians

Russia

(part of

Asia)

URAL MOUNTAINS



The Ural Mountains in Russia form the boundary between Europe and Asia. Much of Russia lies on the continent of Asia.

Quick Review

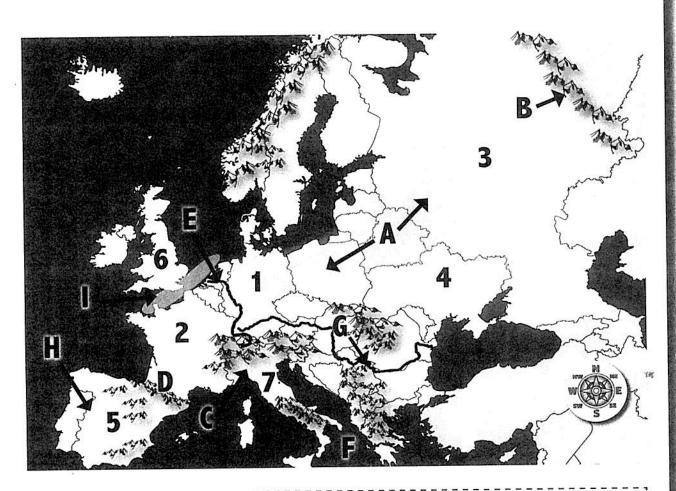
Use the map of Europe's land features to answer the questions.

- 1. Which mountain range separates Europe from Asia?
- 2. Spain and Portugal are located on which major landform?
- 3. Which mountain range separates Spain from France? _____
- 4. What region of rich farmland stretches across the northern part of Europe?
- 5. Which mountain range stretches across the top of northern Italy?

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How much have you learned about Europe's political and physical features? Identify the select countries, landforms, and bodies of water numbered or lettered on the map.



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