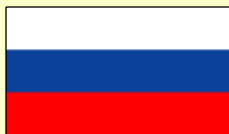


# Physical Geography of Europe



# Where does Europe STOP?

- Europe and Asia are both continents, although they are both located on the same globe.

- These two continents are separated by the Ural Mountains (which separate Europe from Asia) and the Mediterranean Sea.



by the  
rait  
e

# Why is Europe “Europe?” And Not Asia???

- When the Roman Empire split, the westerners wanted a separate name, so they named their land “Europe” after Europa – a Greek woman ‘born of the Gods.’

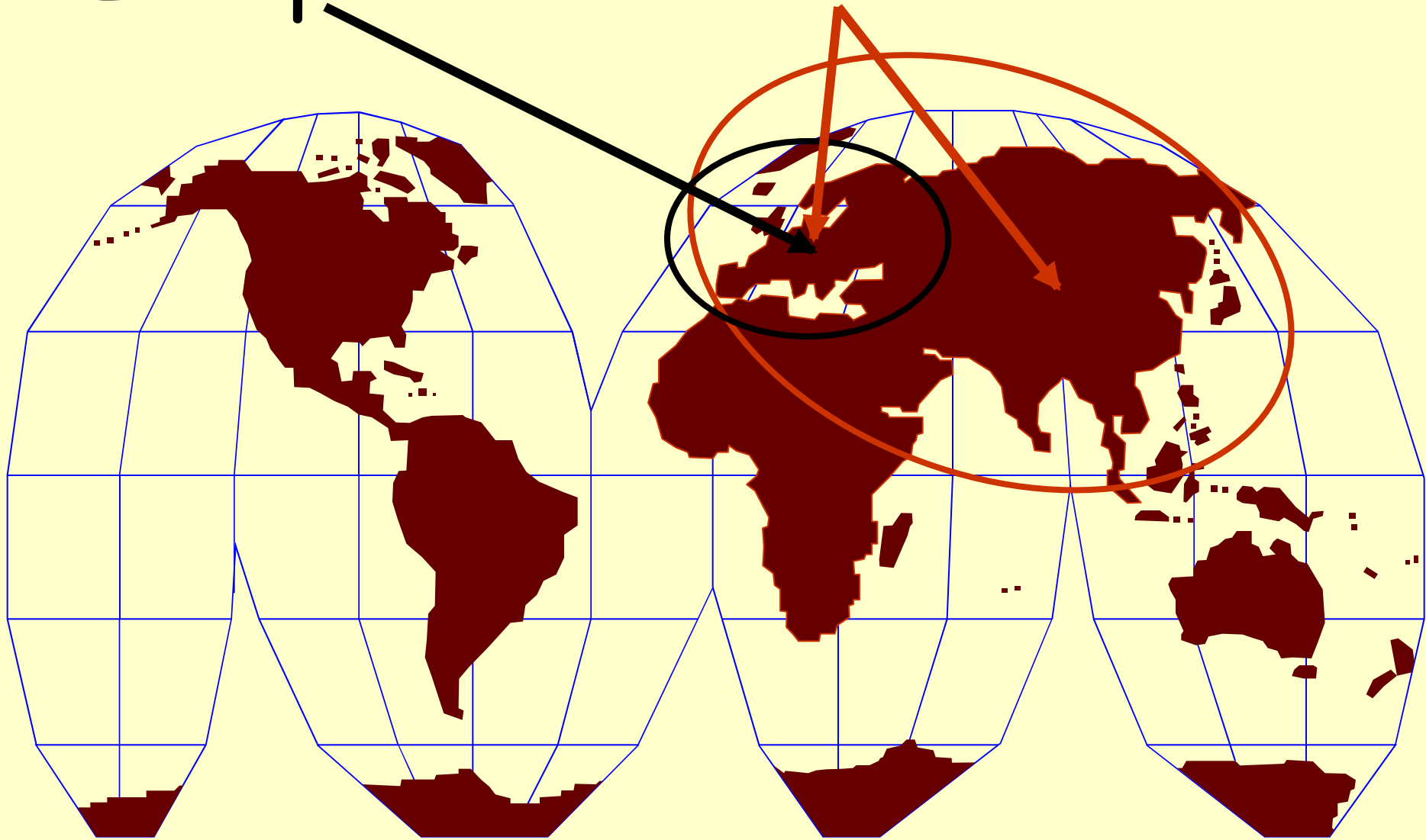


# Western Europe vs. Eastern Europe

- Term Western Europe grew out of history rather than geography. After World War II, the continent was divided. The countries of Western Europe remained free of Soviet control.

Europe: A Peninsula  
of Peninsulas?

# Europe: *An Asian Peninsula?*



# Northern Peninsulas





## The Northern Peninsulas

The Scandinavian Peninsula (occupied by Norway and Sweden) in northern Europe is mountainous.

Ice Age glaciers melted here, leaving thousands of lakes.

Other glaciers carved out fjords along the coastline.

Fjords- are U-shaped valleys that connect to the sea and that fill with sea water.

Jutland, the peninsula on which mainland Denmark lies, is mostly flat.





# Southern Peninsulas





## The Southern Peninsulas

The Iberian Peninsula home to Spain and Portugal. It separates the Mediterranean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean, except for the small passage known as the Strait of Gibraltar.

Most of the peninsula is a plateau, but the Pyrenees Mountains form a barrier between it and the rest of Europe.



Views of the Earth, Copyright © 2006 by Christoph Hormann <http://earth.imagico.de/>



© The Hebrew University of Jerusalem & The Jewish National & University Library

The Strait of Gibraltar is approximately 5 miles wide at its narrowest point. It separates the Iberian Peninsula from Africa, and connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. This makes it a very important body of water for shipping and travel. The United Kingdom's colony Gibraltar was established because of its important location. The Spanish city of Ceuta lies on the African side of the strait. Ferries shuttle back and forth across the strait.



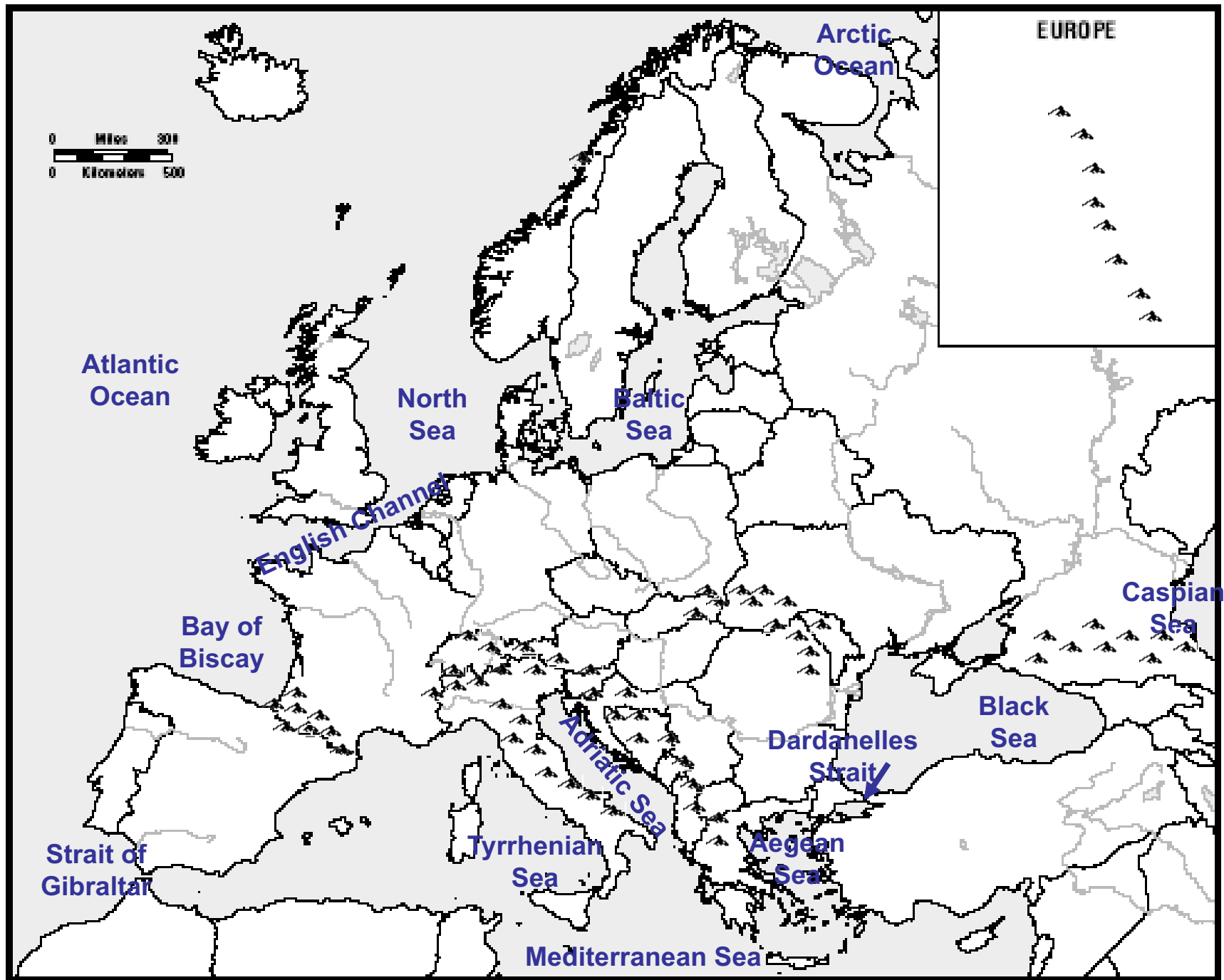


**The Apennine or Italian Peninsula is a long, thin, boot-shaped piece of land on which the country of Italy lies. The Apennines mountain range, which includes the active volcano Mount Vesuvius, extends down the center of the peninsula. Only about 30 percent of the Apennine Peninsula is plains.**

The Balkan Peninsula is bordered by the Adriatic, Mediterranean, & Aegean Seas. Greece is found on the southern tip. It is a tangle of mountain ranges and valleys. Overland travel in this region is difficult.



**B  
o  
d  
i  
e  
s  
  
o  
f**



- Because of the continent's shape, no place is more than 300 miles from the sea.
- How do you think this affects the cultural geography and movement of the region?



## HOLLAND

VIA HULL-ROTTERDAM  
TWICE WEEKLY

FOR DETAILS OF CHEAP FARES AND ILLUSTRATED LITERATURE APPLY ASSOCIATED NUMBER LINES,  
181, GEORGE STREET, HULL, AND PRINCIPAL L.N.E.R. AND L.M.S. STATIONS AND AGENCIES

About 25 percent of the Netherlands lies below sea level. The Dutch reclaimed land from the sea, to create more room for their growing population. The Dutch have built dikes to hold back the waters. They have gained new land by draining lakes and flooded areas.



# How things WORK

## LAND RECLAMATION

The Urban Redevelopment Authority projects a land shortage of 40 sq km when Singapore's population swells to 5.5 million, if development continues at today's pace. This is despite large-scale land reclamation over the last three decades. The island is now 25-percent bigger than it was in the 1960s.



The texture of soft marine clay is kept unchanged with sand consolidation piles or vertical drains.



2 A sand wall is built around the area to be reclaimed. Barges bring imported marine sand to the site just outside the wall and off-load it into the sea to start a stockpile.



3 A dredger sucks sand from the seabed and pumps it through pipes to sand disposal barges which deposit the sand in the fill area. Another area becomes less suitable for the pipes to follow, sand is pushed in through the fill area.



4 Sand compaction is carried out after the filling. The reclaimed sand above sea level is compacted by a roller, and a concrete wall is built to reinforce the reclaimed area against erosion.



5 Trees and vegetation are planted. The land will be ready for building development one to five years after reclamation.

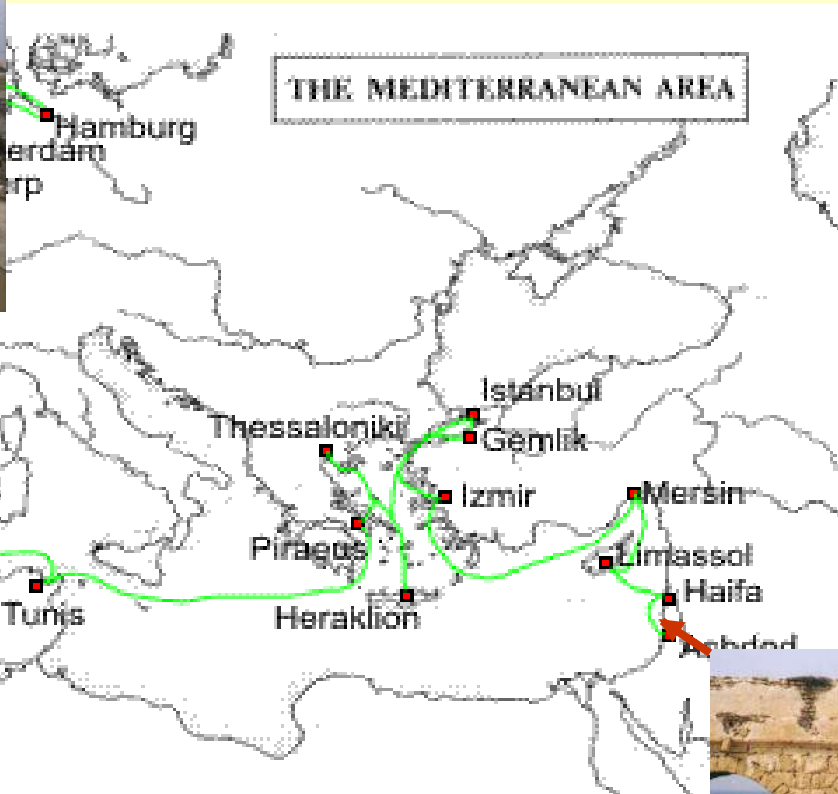


A suction dredger pumps out sand near Jurong Island.

Land that has been reclaimed from the sea is called a Polder. Since most of the land is low lying the Dutch built dikes to hold back the destructive impact of the sea. These dikes provide safety during floods and high tides. They also built windmills to power pumps that drain the land.



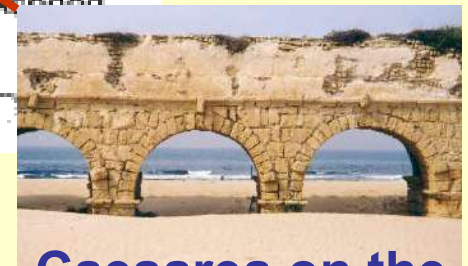
# The Mediterranean Sea: *Mare Nostrum*



Strait of Gibraltar  
& the *"Pillars of Hercules"*

e 2,400 miles long & 1,000 miles wide

e "Crossroads of 3 Continents"



Caesarea on the  
Israeli coast

## Islands

Europe's larger islands are found in the North. These include: Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland & Greenland.

Iceland, an island south of the Arctic Circle in the North Atlantic Ocean, features volcanoes, hot springs, and geysers.

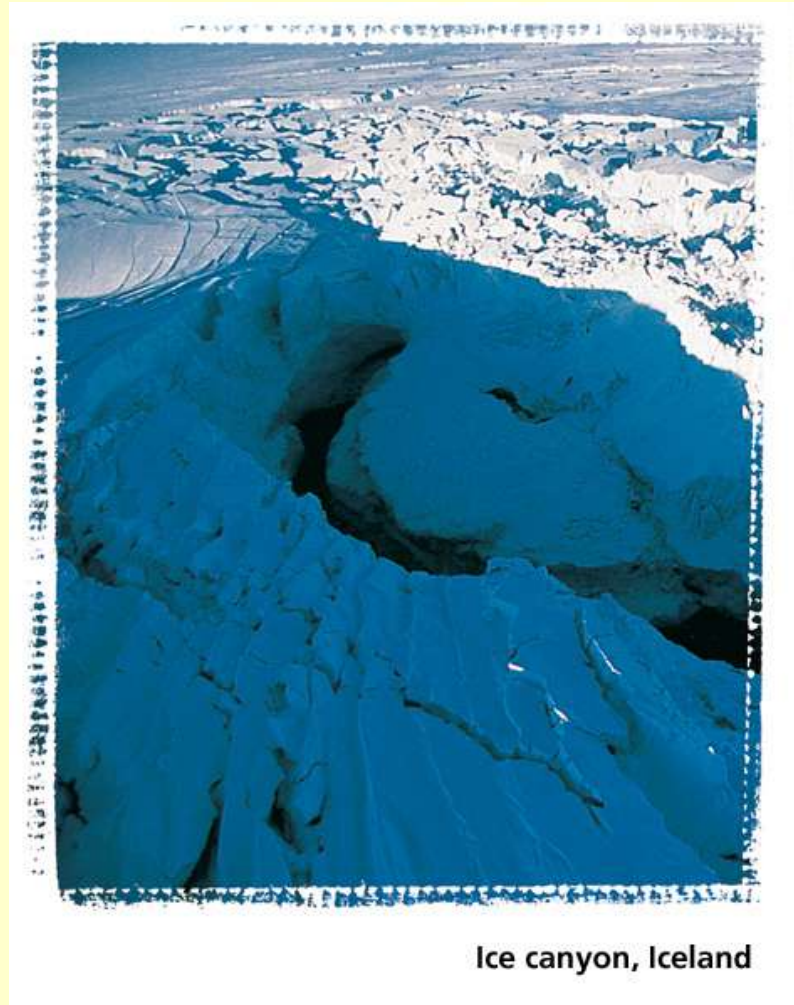
The British Isles— primarily Ireland and Great Britain—are cool, hilly, and rainy.



# A Geographic View



Iceland is known as the island of ice and volcanoes.



Ice canyon, Iceland



Europe's smaller islands are found in the Mediterranean Sea. The five large islands— Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Cyprus, and Crete —all have rugged terrain and volcanic mountains. Greece's nearly 2,000 islands in the Aegean Sea have rugged landscapes and a sunny climate that attracts tourists.

Mediterranean Sea so polluted (will take 1000 years to clean up).



# Mediterranean Islands

- e Generally rugged & mountainous.
- e Mediterranean Sea so polluted (will take 1000 years to clean up).



**Sardinia**

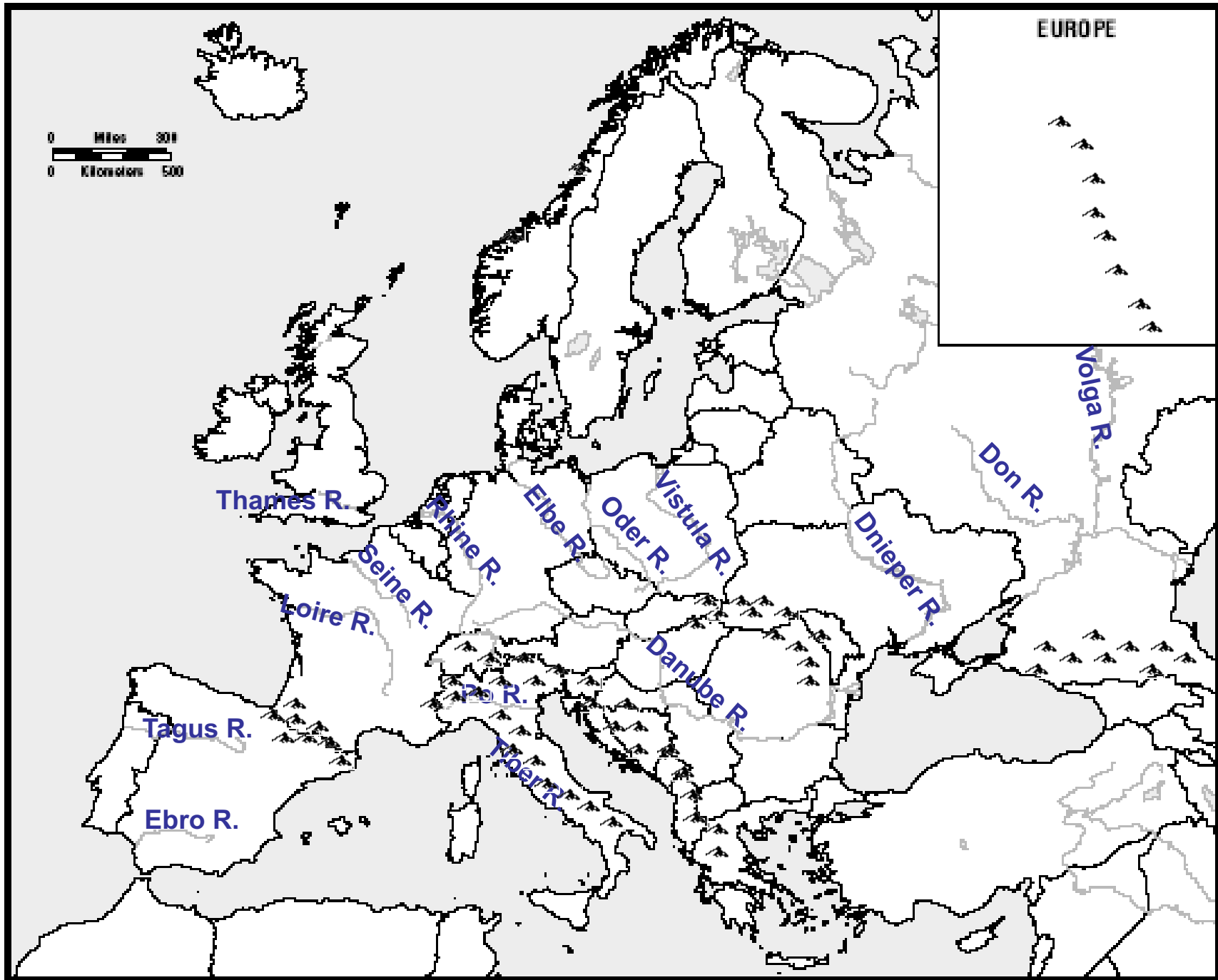


**Cyprus**



**Malta**

# Rivers



# The Danube River





# The Danube River



Biking  
Along the  
Danube



Where Buda  
& Pest Meet

- e Flows through the **12 countries** of Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, and the Ukraine.

Why are most  
of the capitals  
of Europe on  
major rivers??

# Capitals on the Rivers (1)



London on the Thames



Paris, right bank of the Seine



Rome on the Tiber

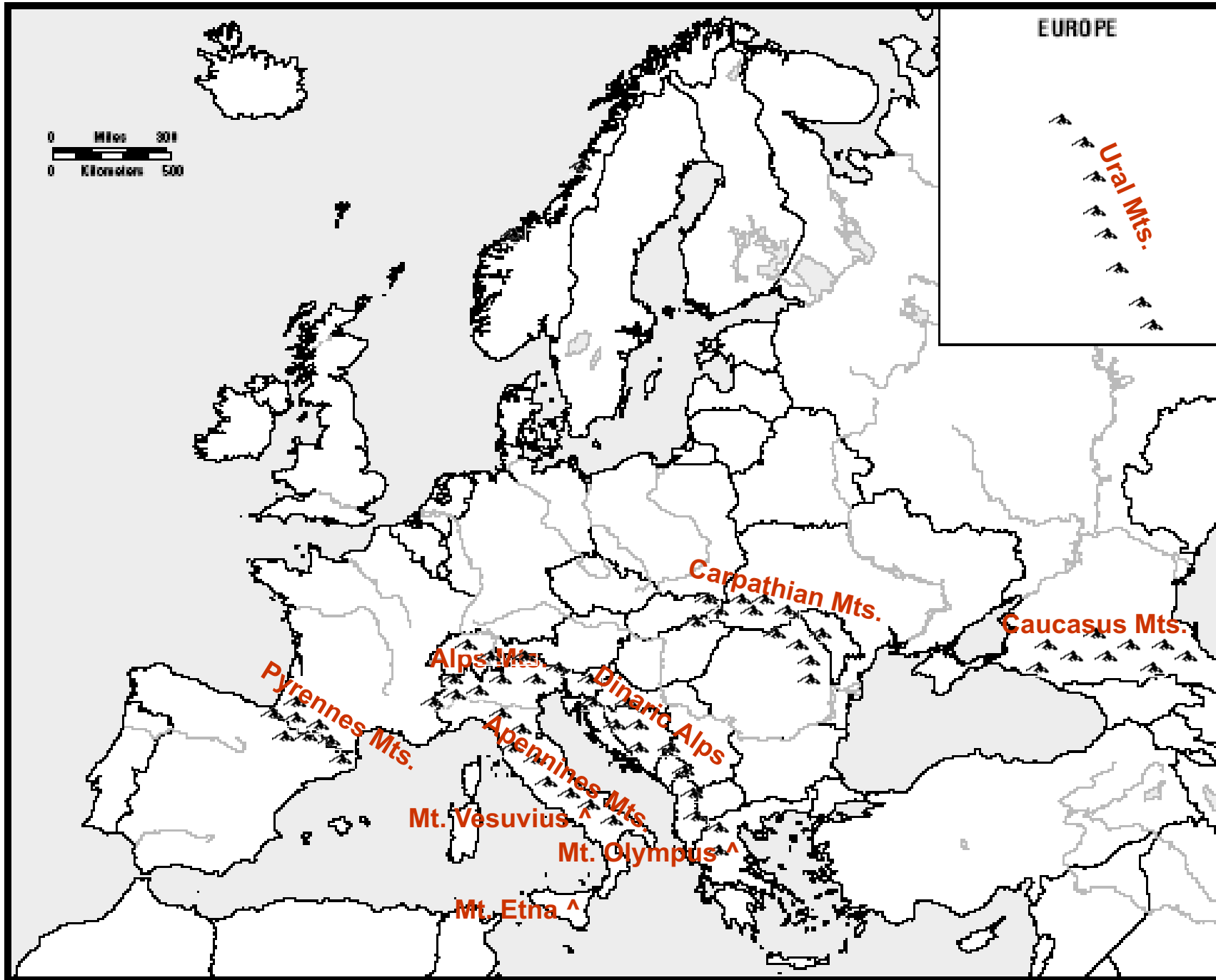


Vienna on the Danube

Answer:

They are  
Europe's lifeline!

**M  
o  
u  
n  
t  
a  
i  
n  
s  
&  
P  
e  
a  
k  
s**



# The Alps



- e Cover most of Switzerland, Austria, and parts of Italy and France.

# Mt. Blanc in the Alps



e Highest mountain in the Alps: 15,771 feet

# Mt. Etna, Sicily



e An active volcano





# Mt. Vesuvius, Italy

e Pompeii, 79 CE



e Herculaneum, 79 CE



e 1944 eruption

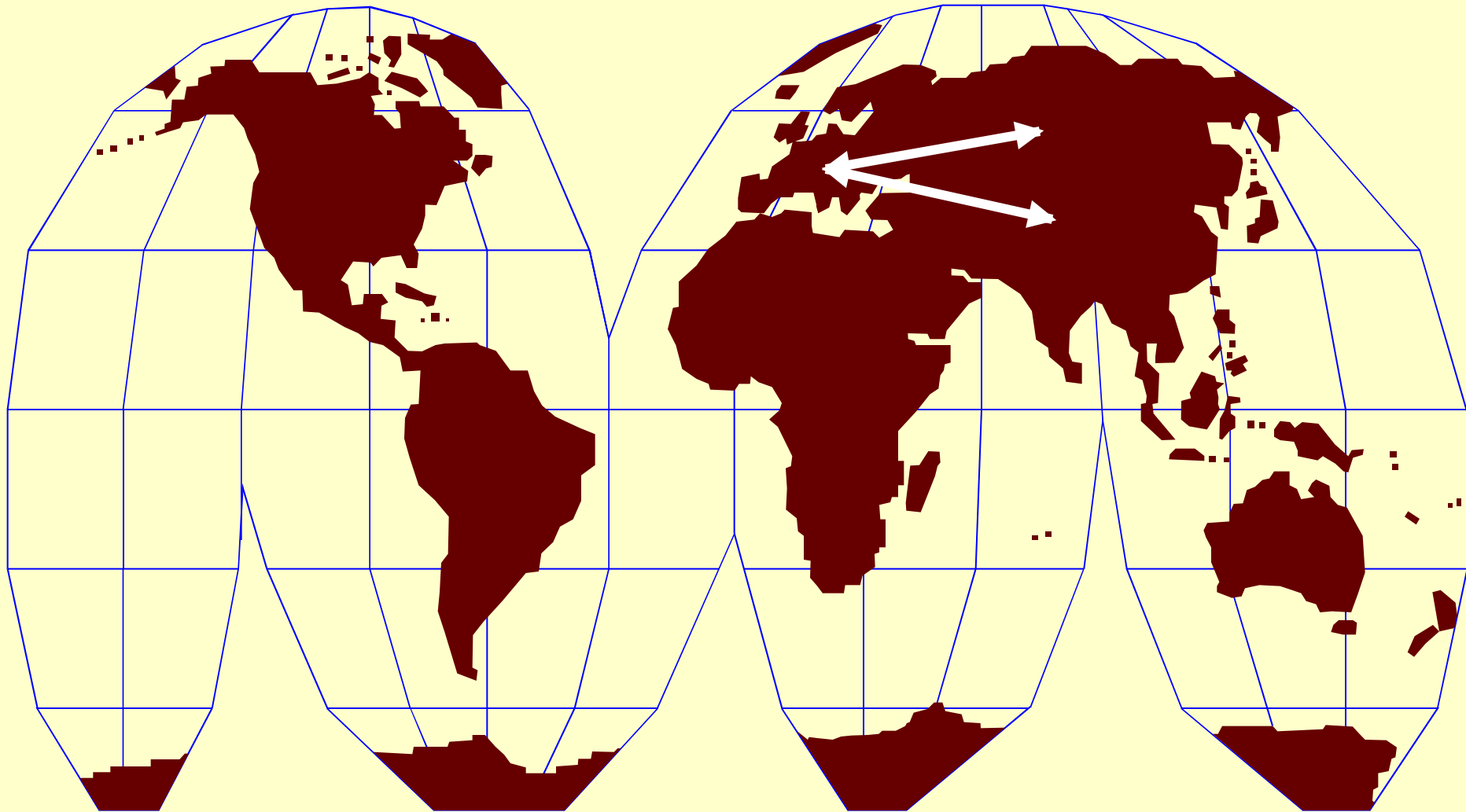


# Western Europe

- Pyrenees-forms a mountain wall between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe. They are not as tall as the Alps, but are very rugged.



# The Northern European Plain --> An Invasion Route into Asia (& Vice Versa?)





## Plains

One of the most fertile agricultural regions in the world is the Northern European Plain. 33% of Europe's land is suitable for agricultural use, this is high compare to the world average of 11%. Loess, a fine, rich, wind-borne soil, is found here. Olives, fruits, and vegetables grow in southern areas; grains and livestock are raised in northern areas.

# N Europe

1. LITHUANIA
2. LUXEMBOURG
3. LIECHTENSTEIN
4. CZECH REPUBLIC
5. BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
6. YUGOSLAVIA

**Putni**





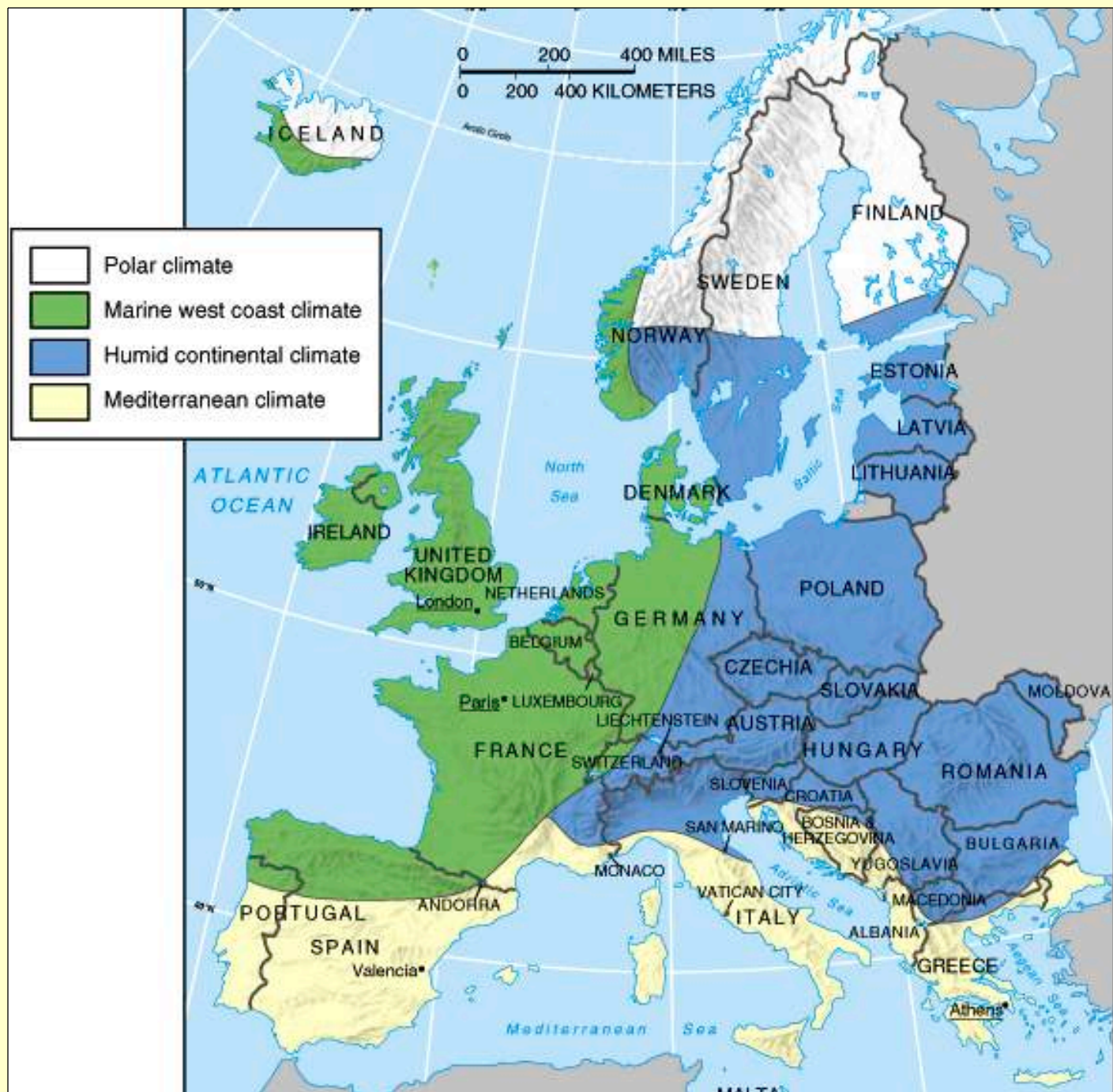
Ruhr River in Germany – industrial center



# Europe's Latitude v. US



# Climate





# Climate

- Four major climate types in Europe:
  - Marine West Coast (Northern & Western Europe)
  - Highlands – High Latitudes
  - Humid Continental (Interior Scandinavia south to the Black Sea)
  - Mediterranean (Southern Europe... by the Mediterranean Sea!)

A Marine West Coast Climate exists in much of Western Europe. A current of warm water from the tropics, known as the North Atlantic Drift, flows near Europe's west coast. The Prevailing Winds pick up the current and carry it over Europe. The regions that live far from the Atlantic Ocean do not get the benefits of its warming effects.





**A Highland climate exist in areas of high elevation. The Alps have a highlands climate with colder temperatures and more precipitation than nearby lowland areas. Occasional dry winds can trigger avalanches.**

**Conifers thrive in the cooler high elevation areas while Deciduous trees are more common in the parts of Western Europe that experiences a Marine West Coast climate. One well known forest is Germany's Black Forest**



The mild Mediterranean Climate, found around the sea for which it was named, is warm and dry. The Alps block moist Atlantic winds, so less precipitation falls in southern Europe than in northwestern Europe. The most common form of vegetation here is Chaparral, forests of shrubs and short trees.

The Mistral, an Alpine wind, occasionally blows bitter cold air into southern France. Siroccos—high, dry winds from North Africa—sometimes bring hot weather to Europe.



**Warm Atlantic currents have less influences on climates in these areas farther from the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, summer and winter temperatures vary more widely in eastern and northern Europe than in the rest of Europe.**

**Much of Eastern Europe experiences a humid continental climate with 4 seasons and a variety of vegetation, including grasslands and mixed forests.**

# Vegetation

# Europe's Natural Regions



# Germany's Black Forest

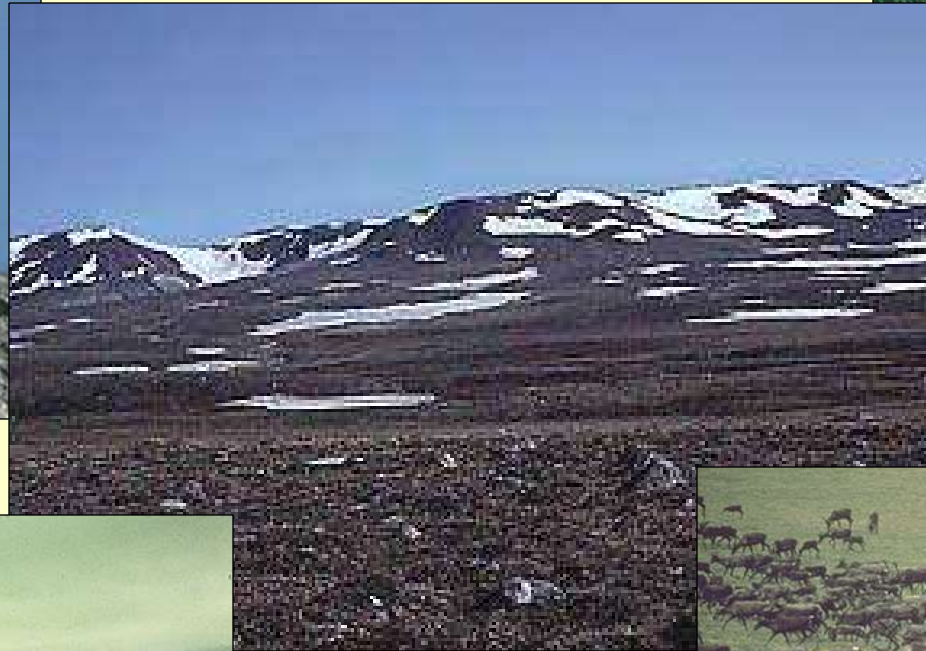




# Germany's Black Forest



# Tundra: The Not-So-Barren Land Below the Arctic Circle



# Natural Resources

- Most forests were cleared to make room for towns.
- Good use is made of soil – makes for good commercial agriculture.
- Major farming centers: Po River Valley in Italy & Guadalquivir River Valley in Spain.
- Oranges, grapes, vegetables, goats, hogs, olives, potatoes, and sheep.
- Fishing along coasts

# Resources cont.

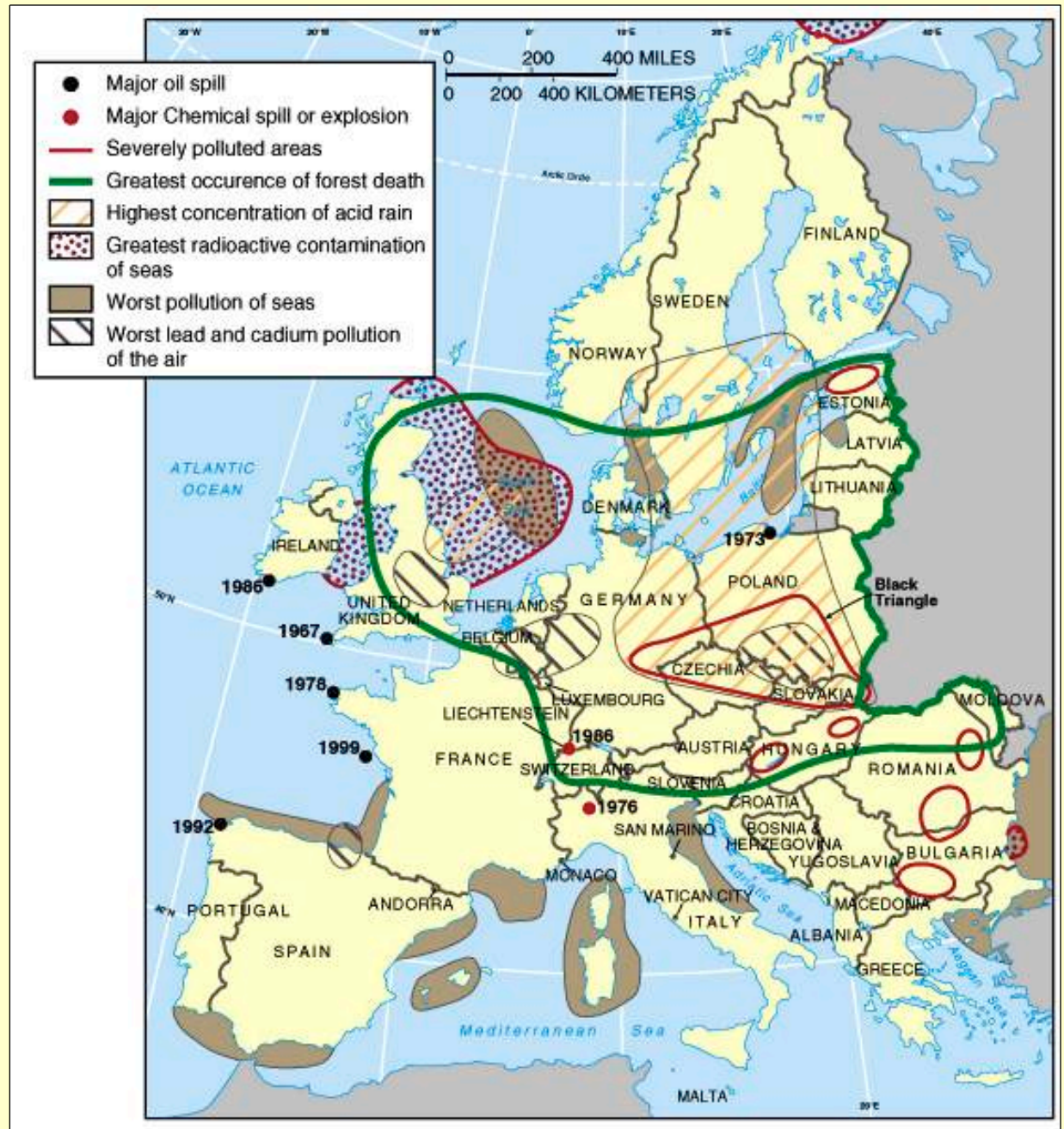
- Rely heavily on mineral imports.
- DO have a lot of coal.
- Oil & natural gas from the North Sea
- Ireland lacks energy resources so the Irish cut peat and burn it as fuel.
- Peat-is partially decayed plant matter found in bogs.

**North Sea  
oil rig →**

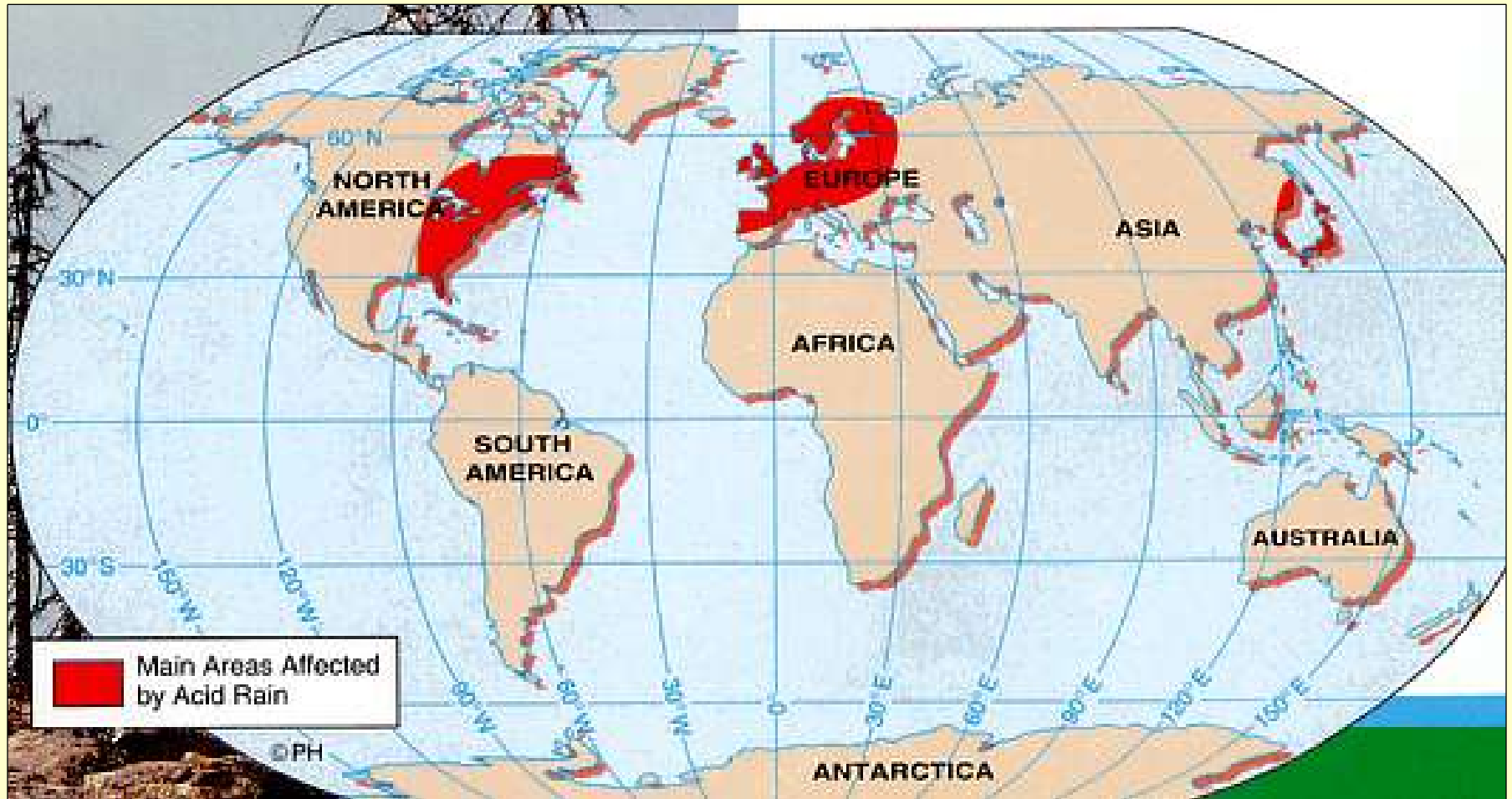


# Geographic Problems

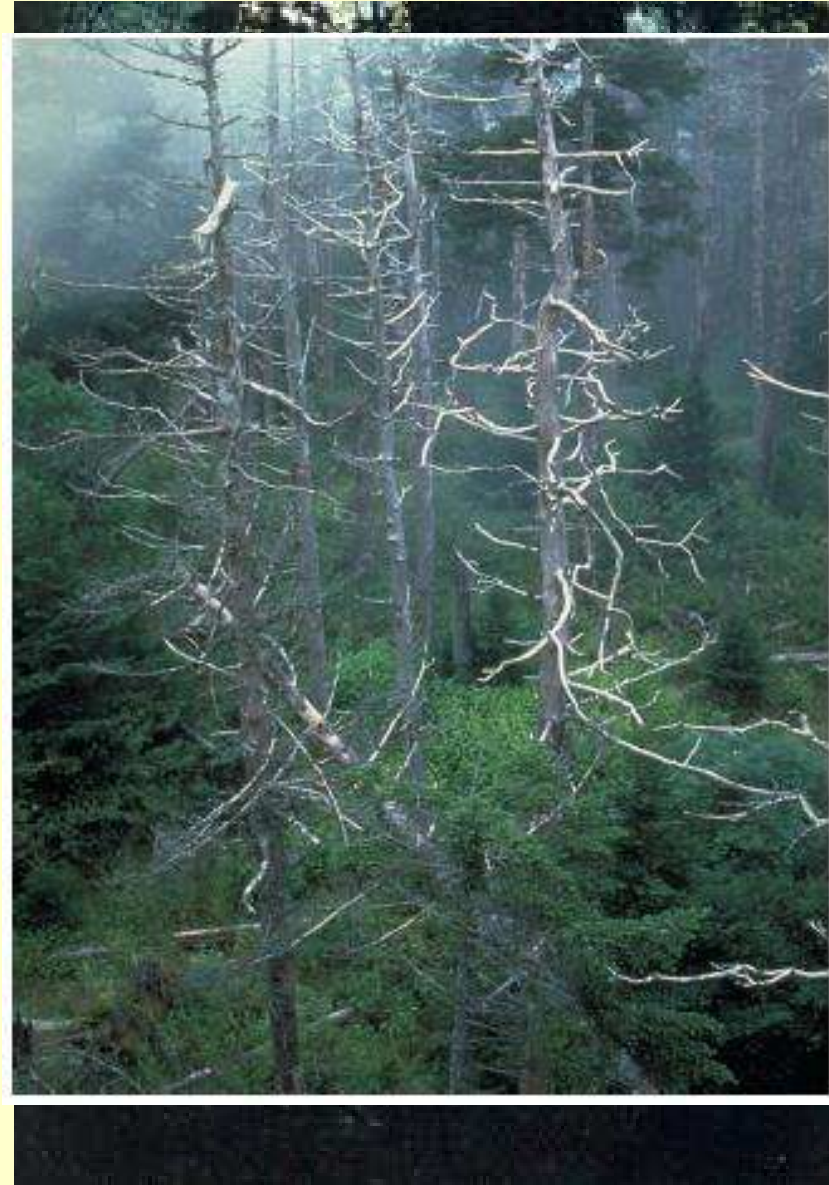
# Major Environmental Disasters & Pollution Problems



# Acid Rain



**In the 1960s, people saw that trees in Germany's Black Forest were discolored, losing needles and leaves, and dying. Scientists found that one cause of tree death was acid rain. Europe's factories emit sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. These combine with water vapor and oxygen to form acid rain or snow. Winds carry the emissions to other parts of Europe. It is estimated that one-fourth of European forests have been affected. The effects of acid precipitation are especially severe in eastern Europe, where lignite coal is still burned for fuel**







Venice, Italy, is made up of about 120 islands and part of the Italian mainland. The people of Venice depend on the more than 150 canals that snake around and through the islands to move people or goods. Venice began when people escaping invaders took shelter on a cluster of islands in a lagoon. Though the land was swampy and inhospitable, the location on the Adriatic Sea made it a good site for a port. Trade helped Venice grow.

To build Venice, wooden pilings were sunk into the ground to support buildings. The weight of the buildings has compressed the underlying ground. This is one reason why Venice is slowly sinking. Other reasons include rising sea levels and pumping of too much ground water.



Industrial waste and sewage have created severe water pollution in Venice. Pollution plus saltwater are eating away the foundations of buildings. Floods also threaten the city.