

Welcome to Europe!



SS6G8: The student will locate selected features of Europe.

(a) Locate on a world and regional political- physical map: the Danube River, Rhine River, English Channel, Mediterranean Sea, European Plain, the Alps, Pyrenees, Ural Mountains, Iberian Peninsula, and Scandinavian Peninsula.

WIDA Standard 4

Europe is the sixth largest continent and contains 47 countries. It is a continent of varying landscapes, abundant natural resources and fascinating history. It is bordered by two oceans and contains more than a dozen seas. The physical features of Europe determine how its residents live.

The Danube River

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



The Rhine River

The Rhine River begins in the Swiss Alps mountain range and flows northwest to the North sea.

Throughout history, Europeans have depended on the Rhine to ship goods throughout the continent. The river has had a major influence on the history and economy of Europe.



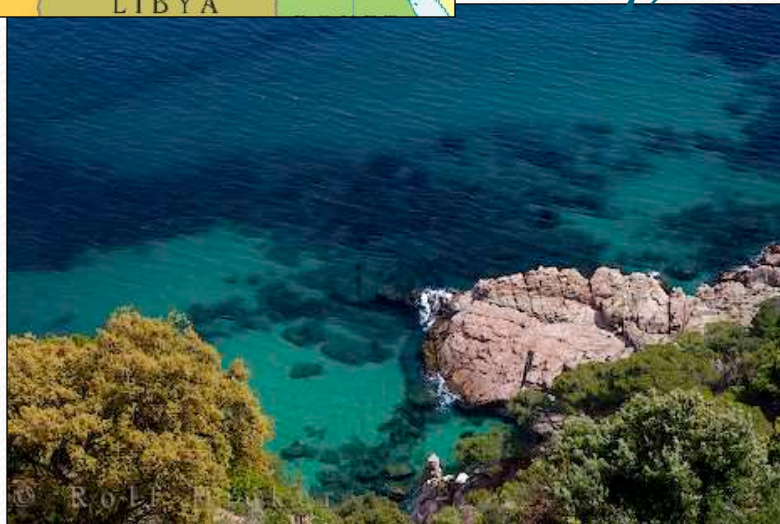
The English Channel

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.



The Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean Sea is the world's largest inland sea, located between Europe, Africa, and Asia. The region around it has a dry, warm climate.



The European Plain

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



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.

The Pyrenees

The Pyrenees mountain range forms a natural border between France and Spain, with most of the mountain range being in Spain. The mountain range extends about 270 miles from the Bay of Biscay to the Mediterranean Sea.



The Ural Mountains

The Ural Mountains in western Russia form the boundary between Europe and Asia.



The Iberian Peninsula



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

The Scandinavian Peninsula



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

This mountainous region is bordered on the north by the Barents Sea, a section of the Arctic Ocean.

Homework

Copy the following questions onto a piece of paper. Using your notes, answer the questions with a complete sentence.

1. What mountain range separates Europe from Asia?
2. What peninsula is occupied by Spain and Portugal?
3. What body of water is between Europe, Africa, and Asia?
4. What river originates in the Alps and has had a major influence on European history and economics?
5. What mountain range separates Spain and France?
6. What peninsula contains Norway and Sweden?
7. What body of water separates England from France?
8. What region of rich farmland stretches across the northern part of Europe?