

SS6G11: The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

a. Explain the diversity of European culture as seen in a comparison of German, English, Russian, French, and Italian.

b. Describe the major religions in Europe; include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. c. Explain how the literacy rate affects the standard of living in Europe.

- Europe is slightly larger than the US in land area
- Europe's population is more than double the US
- In the US, English is the dominant language
- Europe is different. It is home to more than 200 languages
- Three main categories: **Germanic**, **Romance**, and **Slavic**

Germanic

- Largest of the three language categories
- Derived from the Germanic tribes 750 BC- AD1
- Found in Northwest and Central Europe
- Has the most native speakers
- 20% of Europeans speak one or two languages: English and German as their native language.
- Europeans learn English as second language in schools even if not at home
 - **German**
 - 100 million people speak German
 - German is the official language of Germany and Austria
 - It is also spoken in Switzerland, eastern part of France, Luxembourg, Italy, parts of Eastern Europe & the European Union
 - Many dialects are spoken in Germany and other nations of Europe
 - **English**
 - Spoken in the United Kingdom, Ireland, European Union
 - 62 million speak English
 - English is the official language of Britain
 - It is spoken differently from region to region.
 - English lends itself to having different accents
 - People in the United States speak English but it sounds different than that spoken in Britain.

Slavic (a branch of Indo-European language)

- Russian is the most widely spoken Slavic language
- Russian is the largest native language in Europe & also spoken outside of Russia
- Found in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Many Slavic languages (such as Russian) use the **Cyrillic alphabet** instead of the Roman alphabet.
 - **Russian**
 - Spoken in Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, United Nations, Commonwealth of Independent States
 - 140 million people speak Russian

Romance Languages

- Derived from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire
- Latin is no longer spoken as a native language in any country
- Found in the South and West of Europe
- Includes French, Italian, and Spanish
- The Roman alphabet is used to write Romance and Germanic languages
 - **Spanish**
 - Spoken in Spain, Andorra & Gibraltar
 - **French**
 - Spoken in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland, United Nations, the European Union
 - 65-80 million people speak French.
 - **Italian**
 - Spoken in Italy, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican, the European Union 63 million people speak Italian.

Having so many languages in Europe can be a problem. It is hard to live, work and trade with people who do not speak your language. To help solve this problem, European children learn more than one language in school. The European Union has 23 official languages to make sure people can understand laws and decisions made by the government. Although they want a unified Europe, there are laws in place to protect the languages and **cultures** of the people.

Europe's Religion

There are three main **religions** in Europe: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. They have some similarities and some differences. Some even have a common history. Throughout history in Europe, **religion** has caused wars and toppled governments. Most countries in Europe have "official" **religions**. Today, Europeans have the right to choose their own **religion**.

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Founder	Abraham- about 2000 BC	Jesus Christ- about 30 AD	Muhammed- about 610 AD
Holy Book	Torah	Bible	Koran
Followers called	Jews	Christians	Muslims
# of followers	About 15 million	About 2.1 billion	ABOUT 1.3 billion
Additional facts	<p>1) Torah is the first 5 books of the writings of Moses, believed to be given to Moses by God at Mt. Sinai</p> <p>2) Talmud is the written version of the Oral law</p> <p>3) belief is in the laws of one God and the words of his prophets</p> <p>4) actions and following the laws are important.</p> <p>5) Three main types of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform</p> <p>6) Jews in Europe were nearly wiped out by Hitler and Nazi Germany</p>	<p>1) the 5 books of Moses make up the first 5 books of the bible</p> <p>2) beliefs are based on the teachings of Jesus: love of God and neighbor, a regard for justice, a belief that Jesus is the son of God.</p> <p>3) Christianity is divided into three major groups: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant.</p> <p>4) Protestants include: Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and other non-Catholic and non-Orthodox Christians</p> <p>5) Christianity is in most parts of the world today.</p>	<p>1) Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last of the prophets which included Moses and Jesus.</p> <p>2) the main duties of Muslims (the 5 Pillars) are prayers, giving to charity, belief in and submission to one God (Allah), fasting during the month of Ramadan, and a trip to Mecca once in a lifetime.</p> <p>3) Two largest groups: Sunnis (90%) and Shiites</p> <p>4) it is the main religion of the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia</p> <p>5) number of followers is rapidly growing</p>

Literacy Rate and Standard of Living in Europe

- Literacy is the ability to read and write
- Low **literacy rates** are usually found as a high percentage of the population in **developed** or **industrialized countries**
- Most of Europe has a high **literacy rate**
- More **industrialized countries** are wealthier and can provide education, health care, and technology to its citizen's; shows more investment in human capital
- Countries with a high literacy rate usually have a high **gross domestic product per capita**. (**Gross domestic product** or **GDP** is the value of the goods and service produced in a country by a single individual)
- Standard of living is high: access to goods and services

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Don't have much industry; depends on farming for most of wealth
- Fewer people can read and write, are poor & uneducated
- Education, health care and jobs are not easily available; jobs don't pay much
- Government may allow only boys to learn to read and write
- Difficult to pay for education when there is little money for food
- Russia is different: high **literacy rate**; low **GDP** (total value of goods and services produced in a country in one year)
- Requires education: poverty is declining and Russia's economy is growing

Country	Literacy Rate	Per person Gross Domestic Product
United Kingdom	99%	\$35,100
France	99%	\$33,000
Russia	99%	\$14,700
Germany	99%	\$33,200
Italy	98%	\$30,400