

**SS6G7: The student will be able to 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.**

**b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Ukraine & United Kingdom**

**Eurasia – the landmass which includes the continents of Europe and Asia  
sovereign – self-governing**

### Location in the world

- Northern and Eastern Hemispheres
- Atlantic Ocean on the eastern side, & Pacific Ocean on the far western side (Russia). The Mediterranean Sea is to the south, and the Arctic Ocean is to the north.
- Physically attached to Asia
- Above Africa, but not attached

### The Continent of Peninsulas (Europe is a peninsula with lots of peninsulas)

- Several large peninsulas are located in Europe. A peninsula is a piece of land surrounded by water on 3 sides
- Even the continent of Europe is surrounded by water on 3 sides. It is a giant peninsula.

### Peninsulas of Europe you need to know about

- **Scandinavian Peninsula:** The western coast is deeply indented by fjords, while long parallel rivers and numerous lakes are found in the east. (*Fjords are long, narrow, deep inlets of the sea between high cliffs. Usually these are created by glaciers. They form U-shaped valleys.*)
- **Iberian Peninsula:** Coastal lowlands. The site of the major industrial cities. Hot summers, cold winters, and limited precipitation. Five major rivers drain the peninsula. At the nearest point, it is only 5 miles (8km) from the continent of Africa.

### Waterways

- **Danube River:** 2<sup>nd</sup> longest in Europe. Starts in Germany & flows East through many countries. 300 tributaries of which only 30 are usable for trade and travel. Most important river running into the Black Sea. (*\*Longest River in Europe is the Volga in Russia.*)
- **Rhine River:** Begins at a glacier in Germany & flows North West into the English Channel. Has 4 different names. More castles on its shores than anywhere else in the world.
- **English Channel:** Width gradually narrows from 112 miles to a minimum of 21 miles, while its average depth decreases from 400 to 150 feet. Smallest of the shallow seas covering the continental shelf of Europe. Has a high military importance.
- **Mediterranean Sea:** almost completely enclosed by land: on the north by Europe, on the south by Africa, and on the east by Asia. Tourist Attraction. Has had many shipwrecks!

### Mountains

- **Alps:** stretch across much of the continent of Europe. The largest mountains in Europe. Located just above the country of Italy. Tourism is a big industry here.
- **Pyrenees:** Pyrenees border the Iberian Peninsula. They are in France and Spain. They completely engulf the tiny nation of Andorra. They create an important geographical barrier.
- **Ural Mountains:** system of mountains which extends from the Arctic Ocean southwards nearly to the Caspian Sea. Important as security throughout history. They separate Europe from Asia.

**European Plain:** primarily a rolling plain with an average elevation of about 180 m (about 590 ft). Agriculture! The west has a maritime climate very favorable to agriculture. It has enough rain in all seasons to keep fields green. Summers are warm but not hot, and winters are cold but not freezing.

**SS6G9 – Explain the impact of location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution on Europe**  
*a. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of Germany, the United Kingdom, and Russia impact trade and affect where people live.*

**arable – suitable for farming**

**climate – the average annual weather conditions in a given location**

**permafrost – permanently frozen soil**

**urban – an industrialized area of a city or town**

- Germany, located in Central Europe, is the continent's 7th largest country in terms of total land area, its 2nd largest in terms of population, and its #1 largest economy. It is bordered to the north by Denmark, to the west by the Netherlands, Belgium, and France, to the south by Switzerland and Austria, and to the east by the Czech Republic and Poland. The climate of western Germany is warmer in the summer months with mild winters, while eastern Germany tends to have much colder winters and longer, hotter summers. Germany has ample arable land and many lush forests supporting an abundant timber industry. The nation also has large deposits of coal and iron ore, which support both its automotive and energy industries. Most of Germany's population centers are found in its urban areas, many of which are located in western Germany near the Rhine River; the Rhine plays a major role in transporting goods and people across the country. Germany's largest population center is Berlin, its capital, located in eastern Germany.
- The United Kingdom is located off the coast of Western Europe, directly across the English Channel from France. It boasts Europe's 3rd largest population and economy, but ranks 11th in terms of total land area. The climate of the U.K., which is heavily influenced by ocean currents, is relatively mild. The nation receives frequent rainfall throughout the year, which, along with its abundant arable land, makes much of the U.K. suitable for farming and livestock grazing. The U.K. also has large deposits of coal, iron ore, natural gas, and petroleum. Like Germany, its population centers are found in its urban areas where mining and service jobs are prevalent. London, the capital of the U.K., is the nation's largest population center.
- Russia, meanwhile, is located across two continents. The majority of its land area is found in northern Asia; however, nearly a quarter of the country is located west of the Ural Mountains in Europe. This western portion of Russia accounts for 77% of the nation's total population, and Russia itself has Europe's largest total land area and population. Its economy ranks 4th. The European side of Russia is bordered to the west by Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, and Ukraine. Russia's western climate varies between cool summers and harsh winters. In fact much of northern Russia's soil is permanently frozen throughout the year, a phenomenon known as permafrost. Russia has vast timber resources, and a bustling mining industry in the Ural Mountains where gold, iron ore, coal, and aluminum are present. Russia also has oil and natural gas in abundance in its northern regions, particularly on the Asian side of the country, although the cold climate in this area makes their extraction difficult. Most Russians live on the European side of Russia where the climate is comparatively more hospitable. Russia's capital, Moscow, boasts its largest population center.