

Europe's Physical Geography SS6G8

“The student will locate selected features of Europe-locate on a world and regional map: the Danube River, Rhine River, English Channel, Mediterranean Sea, European Plain, the Alps, Pyrenees, Ural Mountains, Iberian Peninsula and Scandinavian Peninsula.”

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
 - ***Russia is considered part of Europe for our study.
- Draw a compass rose on the corner of your map!
- On your map, LIGHTLY color in all of the following countries with a RED colored pencil: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

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.
→ On your map, draw diagonal parallel lines over these 2 peninsulas.

Waterways-

- **Danube River**—2nd 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!

→ *On your map, Draw in these rivers using a BLUE marker or colored pencil & Label them.
Then, Label these other water ways.*

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.

→ *On your map, Draw in these mountain ranges with triangle peaks in BROWN pencil or marker. Then, label them.*

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.

★ → *On your map, take a GREEN colored pencil or marker and outline or shade in this area.
Then, label it.*

Black Forest--

- European folk or fairy tales often take place in a deep, dark forest. They were a major part of the European landscape centuries ago.
- Most famous collection of folk tales in our life was that of Brothers Grimm.