



Europe

Essential Knowledge (End Points):

By the end of the unit of work the children will:

- locate and label the continent of Europe on a world map.
- locate and label the countries in Europe and know the diversity of languages.
- locate and label Europe's major mountain ranges on a map of Europe.
- know the major physical features of mountains.
- know Europe's population density and why some areas are more densely populated.
- locate and label Europe's major rivers on a map of Europe.

Summary

Europe is a continent, the western part of a larger landmass called Eurasia. It is not part of Asia, even though it is joined to it, because of a boundary that includes the Ural Mountains in Russia and the Bosphorus river in Turkey. There are over 50 countries in Europe and 23 recognised official languages spoken. Europe has many mountain ranges. Mount Elbrus in Russia (5,642 metres/ 18,510 feet) is the highest mountain in Europe. The mountain is part of the Caucasus mountain range. The highest peak in the European Alps is Mont Blanc. It is 4,810 metres (15,781 feet) high and sits on the border of Italy and France. The first winter Olympics was held near Mont Blanc in 1924.

Europe is the second smallest continent in size but the third largest in population. About 10 per cent of the world's population lives in Europe. Europe is also the continent with the highest population density, which means the largest number of people per square kilometre or mile. The continent of Europe is made up of 50 countries with a total population of 742 million people. The three largest countries are: Russia, Ukraine and France. Greenland is the largest island in Europe – and in the world. The satellite image opposite shows Europe and North Africa at night. This shows how much more populated Europe is.

There are five primary rivers in Europe: the Volga, the Danube, the Rhine, the Elbe and the Loire. The Volga and the Danube are the longest rivers in Europe but there are longer rivers than the Rhine, Elbe and Loire. However, many see these three as very important rivers.

Europe has numerous other rivers. For example, the Thames, which runs through London; the Seine, which runs through Paris and the Rhône, which flows through Germany and France.

The Po is Italy's longest river, traversing the northern part of the country to the Adriatic Sea, and the Oder River stretches across the Czech Republic and Poland, ending in the Baltic Sea.

Location:

Some of Europe's major mountain ranges are:

- Urals – form the boundary between Europe and Asia and run approximately from north to south through Russia, from the coast of the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River
- Caucasus Mountains – separate Europe and Asia between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- Carpathian Mountains – a semi-circular mountain range in eastern Europe

Vocabulary:

landmass: a large continuous area of land, as opposed to seas or islands

mountain ranges: a series of mountains joined together

peak: the pointed top of a mountain

boundary: a line that separates two countries

extends: reaches, stretches

summit: the top of a mountain

population: all the people that live in a country or area

city-state: a country that is made up entirely of one city

- Alps – in central western Europe (Switzerland, Italy and France)
- Apennines – run for about 870 miles (1,400 km) through Italy (often referred to as the backbone of Italy due to its shape)
- Pyrenees – the border between France and Spain that extends for about 270 miles (435 km)
- Cantabrian Mountains – run across northern Spain
- Scandinavian Mountains – run through Scandinavia
- Dinaric Alps – a mountain range in the Balkans
- Balkan Mountains – a mountain range in the central Balkans
- Scottish Highlands – in the United Kingdom.

The continent of Europe is located completely in the northern hemisphere and mainly in the eastern hemisphere. Europe borders the Arctic Ocean in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the Mediterranean Sea in the south. Reykjavík in Iceland is Europe's and the world's most northern capital city.

The Volga is the longest river in Europe, stretching 2,294 miles (3,691 km) across Russia. It flows from its source in the remote Valdai Hills to the Caspian Sea, and half of Russia's river cargo is transported along the river.

The Danube, at 1,780 miles (2,865 km) long, is the second longest river in Europe. The river stretches through ten countries: Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria. It flows through several cities, such as Vienna and Budapest, and drains into its delta in the Black Sea. It is the most important commercial waterway in Europe.

enclave: a country entirely surrounded by another country

inhabitants: people who live in a place

primary: important

numerous: many

traversing: crossing

source: where something comes from

remote: far away from towns and cities

delta: where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea or a lake

commercial: the buying and selling of goods

	<p>The Rhine flows 766 miles (1,233 km) from its source in the Swiss Alps. It flows northwest from the mountains into the lowlands, crossing Germany, France, the Netherlands and Liechtenstein before coming to an end in the North Sea.</p> <p>The Elbe has its source in the Czech Republic and flows through towns such as Prague. It then flows northwest through Germany to the North Sea. It is 724 miles (1,165 km) in length.</p> <p>The Loire runs north from its source in the Massif Central (a highland region in the middle of southern France) to Orleans and then west to the Atlantic Ocean. It is 629 miles (1,012 km) long. The Loire Valley is famous for its wines and historic towns.</p>		
Human Features:	<p>The Vatican City is the smallest country in Europe and in the world. It is called a city-state, and is an enclave within Italy. It is the smallest country both in terms of size and population. Hum in Croatia is the smallest town both in Europe and the world. The town has only 21 inhabitants. The most populated city in Europe is Istanbul, the biggest city in Turkey. It is located on two continents: the western part is in the continent of Europe and the eastern part is in the continent of Asia. Istanbul has a population of about 15 million people.</p>	Physical Features:	<p>The top of a mountain is called the summit. To say how high and how tall a mountain is are two different things – measure from sea level to summit to find out how high a mountain is, and measure base to summit to find out how tall it is. Some very tall mountains aren't very high because a lot of the base is under the ocean.</p> <p>The Black Sea, into which the Danube flows, and the Caspian Sea, into which the Volga flows, are both landlocked seas. This means that they are surrounded by land. Another landlocked sea is the Dead Sea between Jordan, Israel and the West Bank.</p>
Human Processes:	N/A	Physical Processes:	N/A
Techniques:	N/A	Human Processes:	N/A
Diversity:	<p>European languages can be split into a number of groups: Romance languages (such as French, Italian and Spanish); Germanic languages (such as German and English) and the Slavic languages (such as Russian, Bulgarian and Polish). English is the language spoken by most Europeans as their first or second language (about 270 million people).</p>	Key Skills Covered:	Map Skills

Key Local Links:

N/A

**Common
Misconceptions:**



	Component statements	Extending Knowledge	
To locate and label the continent of Europe on a world map.	Children will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The location of Europe in the world and be able to locate and label Europe on a map.• Europe is in the Northern Hemisphere.• The two main boundaries between Europe and Asia are the Ural Mountains in Russia and the Bosphorus river in Turkey.• Europe borders the Arctic Ocean in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the Mediterranean Sea in the south.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare and contrast the location of Europe and of North America.	Which best describes the location of Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a landmass containing over 50 countries• entirely in the northern hemisphere, to the west of Asia• a diverse continent with 23 recognised official languages spoken
To locate and label the countries in Europe and know the diversity of languages.	Children will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are 50 countries in Europe and be able to locate and label them on a map of Europe.• There are 23 spoken languages in Europe.• European languages can be split into a number of groups: Romance languages (such as French, Italian and Spanish); Germanic languages (such as German and English) and the Slavic languages (such as Russian, Bulgarian and Polish).• The English language is spoken by most Europeans as either their first or second language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organise information about common words and phrases used in three different European languages.	Investigate some of the cultural differences in one eastern and one western European country by looking at the types of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• languages spoken• food eaten.
To locate and label Europe's major mountain ranges on a map of Europe.	Children will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the following mountain ranges are in Europe.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ural Mountains.Caucasus MountainsCarpathian MountainsAlpsApenninesPyrenees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare and contrast the locations of the Ural Mountains and the Scottish Highlands.	Thinking about regions within Europe, which is the odd one out: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Ural Mountains• the Caucasus Mountains• the Pyrenees Which best describes the location of the Alps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a mountain range that has Mont Blanc as its highest peak

	<p>Cantabrian Mountains Scandinavian Mountains Dinaric Alps Balkan Mountains Scottish Highlands</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> home of the first Winter Olympics in 1924 <p>in western Europe, sitting on the border of Switzerland, Italy and France?</p>
<p>To know the major physical features of mountains.</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The top of a mountain is called a summit. The height of a mountain is measured from sea level to the summit. To measure how tall a mountain is, you measure from the base of the mountain to the summit. Mount Elbrus in Russia (5,642 metres/ 18,510 feet) is the highest mountain in Europe. The highest peak in the European Alps is Mont Blanc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise information about the 11 mountain ranges on the knowledge web. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> True or false? The highest mountain in Europe is also the tallest. True or false? The longest mountain range in Europe also has the highest peak. True or false? Only one mountain range in Europe forms a border with Asia.
<p>To know Europe's population density and why some areas are more densely populated.</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% of the world's population live in Europe. Approximately 742 million people. Europe is the second smallest continent in size but the third largest in population. The three largest countries are: Russia, Ukraine and France. The Vatican City is the smallest country in Europe and in the world. It is called a city-state, and is an enclave within Italy. It is the smallest country both in terms of size and population. Greenland is the largest island in Europe – and in the world. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graph the populations of the countries of Europe. Compare the populations of the United Kingdom and of France. Demonstrate how densely populated Europe is compared to Africa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the Vatican City.
<p>To locate and label Europe's major rivers on a map of Europe.</p>	<p>Children will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are five primary rivers in Europe: the Volga, the Danube, the Rhine, the Elbe and the Loire and to label them on a map of Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise information about the location of Europe's primary rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the route of one of the primary rivers of Europe, including the places through which it flows and any other significant information about the river.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sources and the bodies of water into which the major rivers flow. | | |
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