



Year 4 Mediterranean Europe Reading Booklet

Lesson Series:

1. Key Places in Europe
2. Climate of Mediterranean Europe
3. Food and Farming
4. Landscape
5. Settlements
6. Assessment

Name: _____

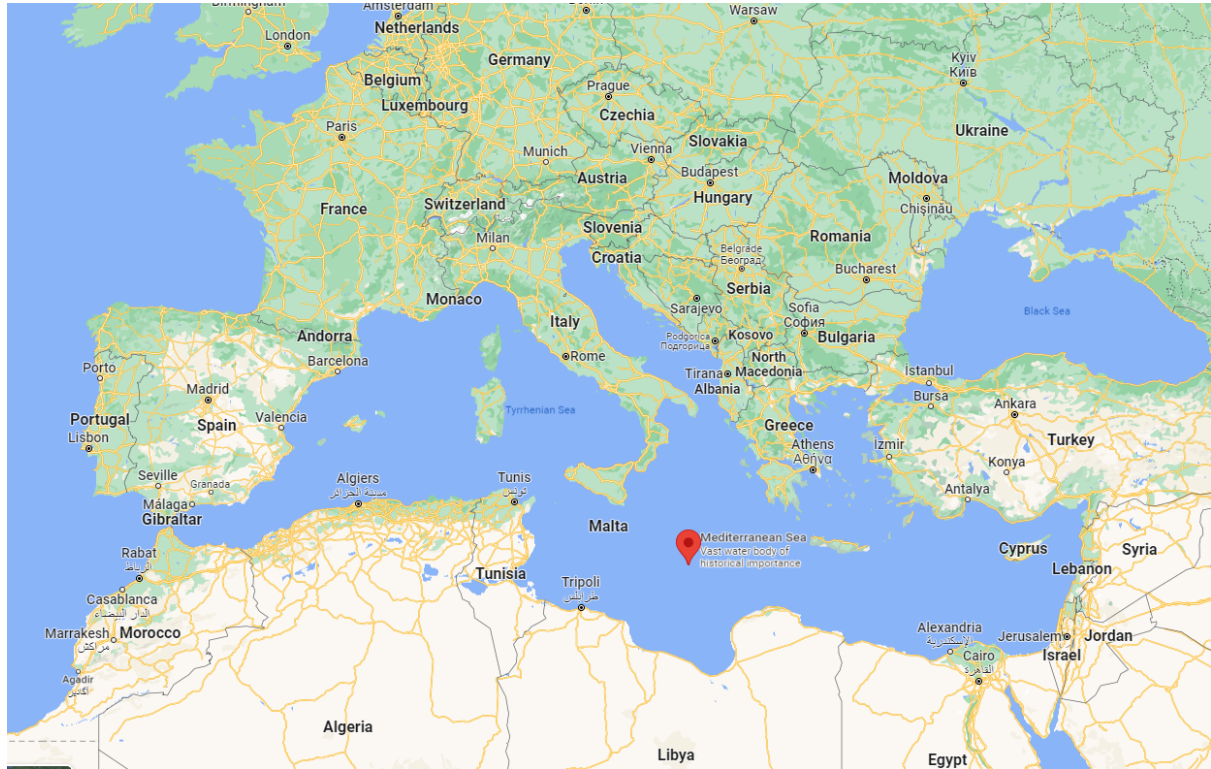
Class: _____

Read this

Lesson 1

Key places:

Southern Europe is sometimes called Mediterranean Europe because it is near the Mediterranean Sea. 'Mediterranean' comes from the Latin words meaning the middle of the land. The Mediterranean Sea is almost completely surrounded by three continents; Asia, Africa and Europe.



The Mediterranean Sea separates Europe and Africa. Geologists think it only took 2 years to fill the sea after a mass flooding event over 5 million years ago, before this the sea had disappeared for thousands of years! Geologists predict that one day the sea will dry up again.

Most of the countries in Southern Europe have a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. Portugal does not because it is on the Atlantic Coast, but is considered to be in Mediterranean Europe. Some of the key places in Mediterranean Europe are: Southern France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Malta, Cyprus.

Lesson 2

Climate

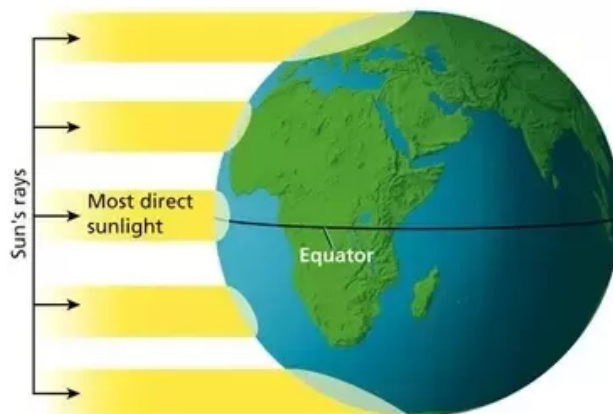


Countries in Mediterranean Europe are usually warmer than other areas of Europe. In fact, it has its own climate that is called 'The Mediterranean Climate'. Countries there have warm and dry summers with cool and mild winters. Most of Spain, Italy and Greece are hot and dry because they are south and closer to the equator. The heat from the sun hits the earth more directly around the equator because of the way the earth is tilted. This makes these areas warmer than those near the North and South Poles.

Angle of the Sun's Rays

Earth's Orbit
rotation on its axis

- Energy from the sun strikes Earth most directly near the equator. Near the poles, the same amount of energy is spread out over a larger area.



Lesson 3

Food and farming

Mediterranean countries are known for their fresh and simple, but very flavourful dishes. As it is much warmer and dryer than the rest of Europe, it is not a great place to grow crops like grains or potatoes because the ground is dry. This also means that grasses don't grow well, so this area is not great for keeping grazing animals like cows and sheep either. Plants like olive, lemon, orange, grape and lime trees grow well in these countries because their roots grow deep down to find water. Tomatoes, beans, figs and apricots also grow well due to the heat and consistent sunlight. Being on the Mediterranean Sea also means that seafood is very popular.



This is why these are some of the most popular dishes from the mediterranean countries:



Lesson 4

Landscape

When a geographer studies the landscape, they often look at the shape of the land and how that impacts the country. Mediterranean Europe has many mountain ranges, valleys, and a huge coastline.



Mountain ranges provide many activities for tourists which can bring a lot of money into a country. The Alps is the biggest mountain range in Europe and it stretches across many countries, including Northern Italy. They are popular mountains for skiing and snowboarding. Below the Italian Alps is the Po Valley where the Po River flows

down and the land is fertile and perfect for growing crops. The River Po then goes east to the Adriatic sea - not far from the waterlogged city of Venice.



Italy also has many lakes and is the only country in mainland Europe that has active volcanoes.



Lesson 5

Settlements:

As you learned in Year Three, a settlement is a hamlet, village, town or city - anywhere that people live together in a community. Mediterranean Europe has many key cities such as Lisbon, Madrid, Rome, Milan, Venice and Athens.

Rome is the capital city of Italy. There are buildings there that have survived from the time of the Roman Empire. People come to Rome to see the Colosseum where Ancient Romans watched gladiators fight.



Athens: The modern city of Athens is the capital of Greece and the Parthenon is located there. The Parthenon was an important temple during the time of Ancient Greece and is built on a hill called the Acropolis.

Venice is unusual because it is an island in a calm area of sea called a lagoon. This means that it floods regularly so people do not get around by car. In fact there are no cars in Venice because they would not cope when the water rises. The city is small and when it floods they put out raised pathways and if you do need transport, you travel by boat.

