

The Geography of Europe



Europe – The physical Features



- The Pyrenees Mountains:
 - A Chain of Mountains located in southwestern Europe. It stretches from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea on the east to the Bay of Biscay on the Atlantic Ocean on the west. The Pyrenees form a high wall between France and Spain that has played a significant role in the history of both countries and of Europe as a whole.



The Pyrenees have been a land barrier between Spain and Portugal on the **Iberian Peninsula** and the rest of Europe; as a consequence, these two countries traditionally have developed stronger associations with Africa than with the rest of Europe, and they have become tied to the sea.

The Alps



- The Alps extend north from the subtropical Mediterranean coast of southeastern tip of France, northward to Vienna and then move south through Bosnia and ending in Albania along the Adriatic
- The Alps form part of France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and Albania.



The Alpine crests isolates one European region from another and are **the** source of many of Europe's major rivers, such as **the** Rhône, Rhine, Po, and numerous tributaries of **the** Danube. Thus, waters from **the Alps** ultimately reach **the** North, Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Black seas. Because of **their** arc like shape, **the Alps** separate **the** marine west-coast climates of Europe from **the** Mediterranean areas of France, Italy, and **the** Balkan region.

The Ural Mountains

- The Urals are a mountain range that run approximately from north to south through western Russia, from the coast of the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River and northwestern Kazakhstan. Their eastern side is usually considered the natural boundary between Europe and Asia





Not only are the Urals the eastern border of Europe...they serve as larger part of in Russia's industrial economy. They are rich in various deposits, including metal ores, coal, precious and semi-precious stones. For hundreds of years, this has been a huge part of Russia's economy.

The Major Rivers of Europe



- The Danube River
 - Second largest river after the Volga.
 - It rises in the Black Forest mountains of western Germany and flows for some 1,770 miles (2,850 km) to its mouth on the Black Sea.

Along its course, it passes through nine countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine.



-The Danube played a vital role in the settlement and political evolution of central and southeastern Europe. Its banks, lined with castles and fortresses, formed the boundary between great empires, and its waters served as a vital commercial highway between nations.

-The national capitals of **Vienna (Austria)**, **Budapest (Hungary)**, and **Belgrade (Serbia)**—have depended upon it for their economic growth.

The Rhine River



- The Rhine is a river and waterway of western Europe, culturally and historically one of the great rivers of the continent. **It flows from two small headways in the Alps of east-central Switzerland, then north and west to the North Sea, into which it drains through the Netherlands.**



Since the time when the Rhine valley became incorporated into the Roman Empire, the river has been one of Europe's leading transport routes.

The Rhine river allows for cheap transport of raw materials. Industrial production has flourished because of this and it is also the reason why it is a point of political tension in Europe. Within the last few years the Rhine river has become an environmental concern because of the rising levels of pollution.

English Channel

- A narrow arm of the Atlantic Ocean separating the southern coast of England from the northern coast of France and tapering eastward to its junction with the North Sea at the Strait of Dover. With an area of some 29,000 square miles it is the smallest of the shallow seas covering the continental shelf of Europe.





The English
Channels location
has given it
immense
significance over the
centuries, as both a
route and a barrier
during the growth
of Britain and the
emergence of the
nation-states of
modern Europe.

Mediterranean Sea

- The Mediterranean Sea is a sea connected to the Atlantic Ocean surrounded by the Mediterranean region and almost completely enclosed by land: on the north by Europe, on the south by North Africa, and on the east by the middle east. The sea is technically a part of the Atlantic Ocean, although it is usually identified as a completely separate body of water.

The Mediterranean Basin





The name Mediterranean is derived from the Latin word *mediterraneus*, meaning "inland" or "in the middle of the earth"

It was an important route for merchants and travelers of ancient times that allowed for trade and cultural exchange between emergent peoples of the region — the Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Iberian, Greek, Macedonian, Levantine, Gallic, Roman, Albanian, Armenian, Arabic, Jewish, Slavic and Turkish cultures. The history of the Mediterranean region is crucial to understanding the origins and development of many modern societies. "For the three quarters of the globe, the Mediterranean Sea is similarly the uniting element and the centre of World History."

The European Plain



- ...is one of the greatest uninterrupted expanses of plain on the Earth's surface. It sweeps from the Pyrenees Mountains on the French-Spanish border across northern Europe to the Ural Mountains in Russia. In western Europe the plain is comparatively narrow, rarely exceeding 200 miles in width.
- Because it covers so much territory, the plain gives Europe the lowest average elevation of any continent. The flatness of this enormous lowland, however, is broken by hills, particularly in the west.

Iberian Peninsula...



sometimes called **Iberia**, is located in the extreme southwest of Europe and includes the modern-day sovereign states of Spain, Portugal and Andorra, as well as the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar. It is the westernmost of the three major southern European peninsulas—the Iberian, Italian, and Balkan peninsulas. It is bordered on the southeast and east by the Mediterranean Sea, and on the north, west and southwest by the Atlantic Ocean. The Pyrenees form the northeast edge of the peninsula, separating it from the rest of Europe. In the south, it approaches the northern coast of Africa. It is the second-largest peninsula in Europe,

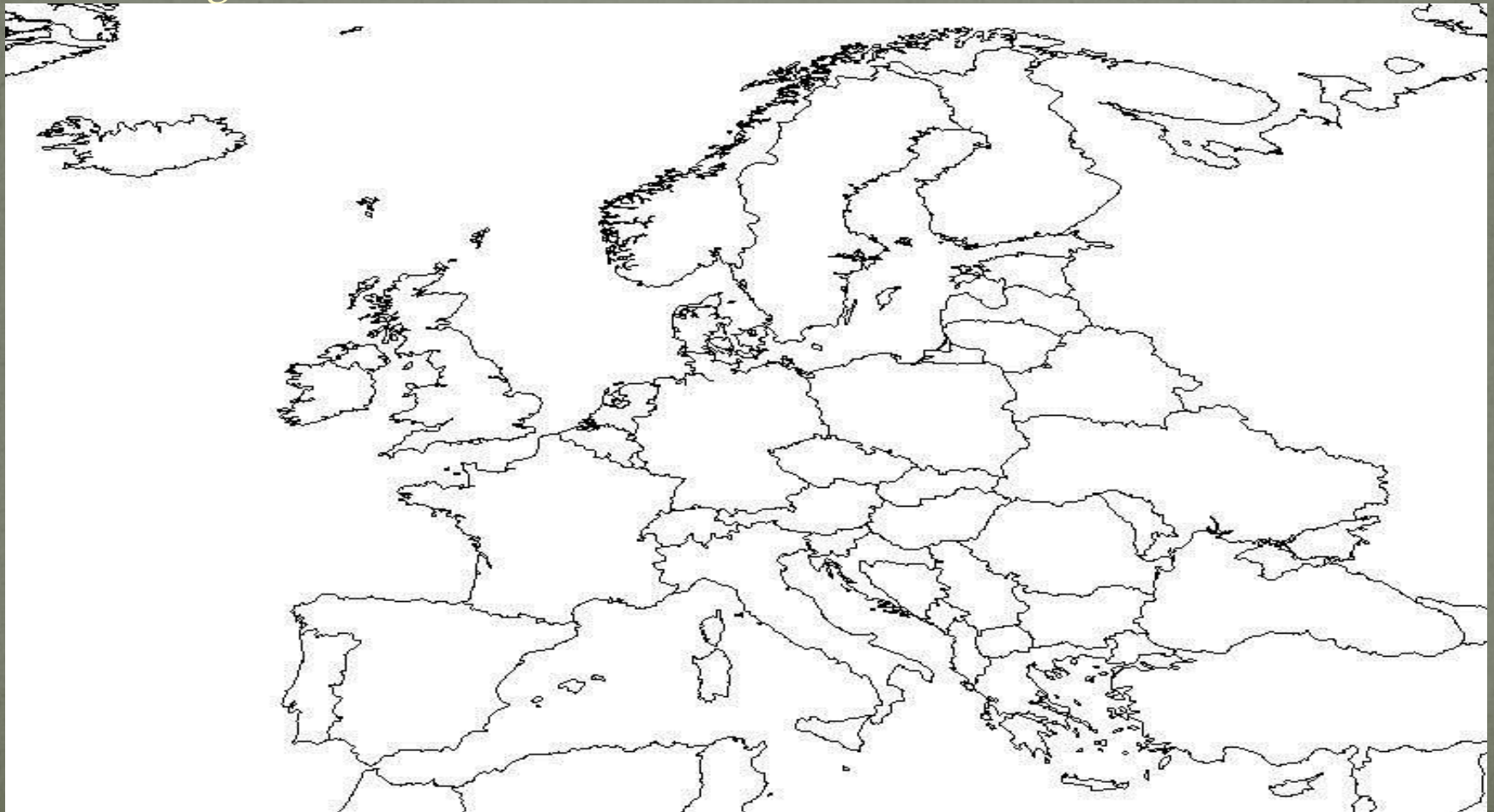
Scandinavian Peninsula



- The **Scandinavian Peninsula** is a peninsula in Northern Europe, which today covers Norway, Sweden, and most of northern Finland. Prior to the 17th and 18th centuries, large parts of the southern peninsula.
- The name of the peninsula is derived from the term **Scandinavia**, the cultural region of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. That cultural name is in turn derived from the name of **Scania**.

Locating European Countries

- Take a look at the map below...see if you can determine where the following countries are located.
 - France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine & The United Kingdom.



Lets see if you were right...

