

Geographical Understandings

Chapter 20

SS6G8 *The student will 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 Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.*

Welcome to Europe!

Europe is a continent of varying landscapes, abundant natural resources and fascinating history! It is bordered by two oceans and contains more than a dozen seas. Physical features of Europe determine how its residents live. Learn about European geography below:

- The **Danube River** is the second longest river in Europe and an important shipping route across the continent. The Danube flows from west to east from Germany to the Black Sea. It either flows through or forms the border of ten countries.
- The **Rhine River** originates in the Swiss Alps mountain range and flows northwest to the North Sea. Throughout history, Europeans have depended on the Rhine to ship goods throughout the continent. The river has had a major influence on the history and economy of Europe.
- The **English Channel** is a narrow sea between Great Britain and France. In 1994, an underground rail tunnel called the “chunnel” was opened for transportation under the channel.



The Danube River
Photo by sogotow.com



Photo by irecchaholidaypro.com

• The Mediterranean Sea is the world's largest inland sea, located between Europe, Africa, and Asia. The region around it has a dry, warm climate.



• The European Plain is a vast, flat area stretching from France's Atlantic coast to the Ural Mountains in Russia. This region has rich farmland and some of the largest cities in Europe, like Paris, Berlin, and Moscow.



• The Alps are a magnificent mountain range in south-central Europe stretching from eastern France and northern Italy through Switzerland and Austria. Snowmelt from the Alps pours into many of Europe's rivers.

• The Pyrenees mountain range extends along the border between France and Spain. Most of the Pyrenees are in Spain.



Ural Mountains
Photo by upland

• The Ural Mountains in western Russia form the boundary between Europe and Asia.

• The Iberian Peninsula in southwest Europe contains Spain and Portugal. It is separated from the rest of Europe by the Pyrenees Mountains.

• The Scandinavian Peninsula in northern Europe is occupied by Norway and Sweden. This mountainous region is bordered on the north by the Barents Sea, a section of the Arctic Ocean.



Quick Quiz

Answer the questions below to see how much you have learned about European geography.

Answers only (will have to copy any you miss.)

1. What mountain range separates Europe from Asia? _____
2. What peninsula is occupied by Spain and Portugal? _____
3. What body of water is between Europe, Africa, and Asia? _____
4. What river originating in the Alps has had a major influence on European history and economics?

5. What mountain range separates Spain and France? _____
6. What peninsula contains Norway and Sweden? _____
7. What body of water separates England from France? _____
8. What region of rich farmland stretches across the northern part of Europe? _____

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