

Europe



Climate

There are 44 countries in Europe and 4 main climate types.

- Polar regions near the Arctic Circle such as Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia where tundra and icy glaciers are common
- Temperate climates, much like the U.K. where there is rainfall and deciduous forests (trees which lose their leaves in the winter)
- Mediterranean climates which are dry and hot and attract many tourists.
- Alpine climates which are mountainous and cold.

Largest Populations



Russia
(148 million people)



Germany
(83 million people)



United Kingdom
(67 million people)



Fact Box
Europe has 24 active languages being spoken with Russian and German being the most common first language but English being the most common second

Key Vocabulary

amphitheatre	brick built oval stadium - Roman architecture
Arctic Circle	one of the two polar regions on earth
borders	political factors and physical (e.g. rivers, mountains and seas) affect where borders between countries are set
commerce	activity of buying and selling on a large scale
English Channel	a 560km stretch of sea which separates England from France - important for trade
euro	the unit of money used across most of Europe
evergreen	coniferous trees which keep their leaves all year
fleeing	moving from one place to another away from something
fjords	long, narrow inlet from the sea with steep cliffs, often found in Norway
Iberian Peninsula	Portugal, Spain and Andorra where the region is hotter and drier than the rest of Western Europe
Mediterranean	southern areas of Europe which have mild winters and hot summers (e.g. Spain, Turkey)
polar regions	northern Europe which is cold and dry all year
temperate	this middle section of Europe has cold winters and mild summers (e.g. U.K., Germany, Poland)
Russia	only Western Russia is considered inside Europe
Scandinavia	Norway, Sweden and Denmark - cool climates

Longest Rivers

- Volga (Russia) – 3530km
- Danube (10 countries) – 2850km
- Ural (Russia/Kazakhstan) – 2428km

Tallest Mountains

- Mount Elbrusi (Russia) 5642m
- Dykh-Tau (Russia) 5205m
- Shkhara (Georgia) 5193m

Physical Features

Giant's Causeway 	Located in County Antrim in Northern Island, it consists of 40,000 interlocking columns created from a volcanic eruption formed over 50 million years ago.
The Alps 	These are the longest mountain range in Europe and the highest in western Europe (excluding Russia). They are 1200km across and pass through 8 alpine countries (Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Monaco, Italy and Liechtenstein).
Aurora Borealis 	Known as the 'Northern Lights', this seemingly magical light show is created by charged particles from the sun which are attracted to the poles due to the magnetic fields there.
Black Forest 	This mountainous region in southwest Germany, bordering France, is known for its dense, evergreen forests and pretty villages, often associated with the Brothers Grimm fairy tales, spas and cuckoo clock production.

Human Features

European Union 	The E.U. is a political and economic group of 28 countries who allow free trade and commerce between member states. It was created in 1948 after World War II to help Europe become more stable.
Berlin Wall 	After WWII, Germany was split into different zones. Living conditions were soon better in West Germany compared to East Germany. A 100 mile guarded wall was built overnight in 1961 to stop people fleeing into West Germany. It came down in 1989.
Eiffel Tower 	The Eiffel Tower is a iron tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower in 1887. It was the world's tallest tower standing 300m tall.
Colosseum 	The Colosseum in Rome, built in 70 A.D., as one of many built throughout Italy during the time of the Romans. This huge amphitheatre could hold 50,000 spectators and was often the scene of chariot races, gladiator and animal battles along with executions.

