

# Europe: Location, Area, Political & Physical Features

## THINK AND ANSWER

Why doesn't Europe have a cold climate more similar to that of Alaska and northern Canada though it lies on the same latitudes ?

### Answer:

It is because most of Europe has advantage of warm ocean currents coming north from tropics. There is little interaction with colder air masses and colder ocean currents so overall. Europe remains warmer than Alaska and Northern Canada.

## VALUES AND LIFE SKILLS

Switzerland is one of the major tourist attractions. The Swiss government has taken many steps to make the country attractive for tourists from all over the world. The people also help to keep the country clean and secure.

What does it tell us about the Swiss people ?

What can you learn from them ?

### Answer:

1. Switzerland is one of the major tourist attractions. People residing in the Switzerland are brilliant as they are taking advantage of the god gifts which are in the form of scenic beauty. They are smart enough to make money out of these scenic places. They keep their places neat and clean.
2. We can learn many moral values from the people of Switzerland. They keep their place cities neat and clean. They are smart enough to make money by attracting tourists.

However, one should keep their place neat and clean and always take out the full opportunity whenever we can.

## EXERCISES

### A. Give geographical reasons

#### Question 1.

Europe is rightly called the 'peninsula of peninsulas'.

#### Answer:

Europe is called 'Peninsula of Peninsulas' as whole Europe containing 50 countries juts out westward from Eurasia and surrounded by Arctic Ocean in North Atlantic in West and Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea in South.

#### Question 2.

Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are called the Low countries.

**Answer:**

Netherlands, and Luxembourg are called the Low countries because they lie in the low-lying plains in the west.

**Question 3.**

The Central European Plains are densely populated.

**Answer:**

As the lands are very fertile and good for agriculture, so it is most densely populated.

**Question 4.**

The Caspian Sea is a lake.

**Answer:**

The Caspian Sea is a lake as it is surrounded by land on all sides.

**B. Give two examples from Europe for each of the following**

1. High peaks
2. Long rivers
3. Large freshwater lakes
4. Young fold mountains
5. Mediterranean countries

**Answer:**

1. Mont Blanc (4,807 m), Mt. Elbrus (5,642 m)
2. Volga, Danube, Rhine
3. Lake Ladoga in Russia, Vanem, Vattern and Malaren in Sweden.
4. The Alps, Sierra-Nevada.
5. Spain and Portugal.

**C. Answer the following questions in brief**

**Question 1.**

What are the chief physical divisions of Europe?

**Answer:**

**There are four main physical divisions of Europe. They are :**

- (a) The Northern Mountains.
- (b) The Central European Plains.
- (c) The Southern Plateaux and Highlands.
- (d) The Alpine Mountain System.

### Question 2.

Why are the Ural and Caucasus mountains important?

#### Answer:

The Ural Mountains in the east and the Caucasus Mountains in the south-east separate it from Asia.

### Question 3.

Name four countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Also name the capitals of these countries.

#### Answer:

The countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea are Spain, Portugal, France and Italy.

**The capital's of these countries are :**

Spain – Madrid

Portugal – Lisbon

France – Paris

Italy – Rome

### Question 4.

Identify two countries that belong to each of the following groups and state why they are so called:

1. Low countries
2. Balkan states
3. Scandinavian countries

#### Answer:

1. **Low countries** — The countries that lie in the low-lying plains in the west – Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.
2. **Balkan States** — The countries in the Balkan Peninsula — Greece, Albania, Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia- Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro.
3. **Scandavian countries** — the north European countries – Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland.

### Question 5.

Name any four major important cities of Europe.

#### Answer:

**Some important cities of Europe:**

1. **London** – is the capital of the United Kingdom, a major centre of international trade and a flourishing port.
2. **Paris** – is the capital of France and an important centre of science, technology, culture, and art.

3. **Berlin** – Berlin is the capital city of Germany and also its largest city. It is an important river port.
4. **Moscow** – Moscow is the capital of Russia and is situated on a tributary of the Oka River which joins the river Volga.

### Question 6.

What are fiords? How are they formed ?

#### Answer:

Fiords are narrow but deep inlets of water with steep sides that break and indent the coastline Scandinavian making it irregular. In the coastal regions, fiords have been formed because of the drowning of glacier valleys.

## D. Answer the following questions in one or two paragraphs

### Question 1.

Briefly describe the location of Europe in relation to the other continents. What special advantage has Europe enjoyed due to its location?

#### Answer:

Europe lies almost in the middle of the northern hemisphere with North America to its west beyond the Atlantic Ocean, Asia to its east and Africa to its south. It stretches from 35°N to 73°N and most of it lies within the temperate zone. Longitudinally, it stretches from 25° W to 65° E.

### Question 2.

Write a short note on the capital city of Russia.

#### Answer:

Moscow – Moscow is the capital of Russia and is situated on a tributary of the Oka River which joins the river Volga. The city has a dozen rail routes and the terminus of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Moscow is a great administrative centre as well as the centre of a large industrial region. Red Square is the heart of Moscow.

On one side of the Red Square are the colourful onion-domes of Saint Basil's Cathedral erected by a Russian master architect in the 16th century. On the other side is the tomb of Lenin.

Also located in Moscow is the Kremlin, an incredible complex which encloses the offices of the Russian Government, palaces, churches, and towers. There are over 100 museums in Moscow.

### Question 3.

Describe the Northern Mountains of Europe.

#### Answer:

These old fold mountains in the north and north-west extend from Norway and Sweden to Scotland. They are made up of very hard crystalline rocks and were once very lofty and rugged. However, after facing the erosive action of glaciers for millions of years, they have been reduced to low hills with gentle slopes.

In the coastal regions, fiords have been formed because of the drowning of glacier

valleys. Fjords are narrow but deep inlets of water with steep sides that break and indent the coastline, making it irregular.

#### **Question 4.**

Write a note on the Central European Plains.

#### **Answer:**

These plains are partly covered with glacial deposits and partly by alluvium deposited by the many big rivers such as the Don, the Dneiper, the Volga and the Ural. These plains are not absolutely flat but are rolling lands with hills. However, they are very fertile and good for agriculture. Some of the most densely populated parts of Europe lie in this region.

#### **Question 5.**

Describe briefly the major young fold mountains of Europe.

#### **Answer:**

The Alpine Mountain System consists of chains of young fold mountains that lie south of the above mentioned plateaux, from the Atlantic Coast in the west to the Caspian Sea in the east. They have high peaks, deep valleys and rugged slopes. They are made up of several parallel ranges. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are common here. The Alps is the most important mountain system which extends like an arc separating Italy from France and Switzerland. Mont Blanc (4,807 m) is the highest peak in the Alps. In the west are the Sierra Nevada in southern Spain and the Pyrenees, which form a natural boundary between Spain and France.

#### **Question 6.**

What is the significance of the many big and small rivers of Europe?

#### **Answer:**

There are many rivers that radiate out in different directions from the Alpine Mountain System in southern Europe. The rivers are navigable and are inter-connected by canals to form an efficient system of waterways. Thus, several big towns and cities have sprung up along the banks of these rivers. The rivers are important for industries too. Large rivers such as Volga, Danube and the Rhine flow through many countries and are considered 'international rivers'.

There are many small rivers in Europe too. They are important for navigation in the countries through which they flow

**E.** In your atlas, locate the major and minor rivers flowing through Europe. Note the names of important cities/towns that have developed on the banks of these rivers. Then tabulate your observations in your notebook using the headings given here :

1. Name of the river
2. Countries through which it flows
3. Important town/cities situated on its banks.

**Answer:**

The Volga, the Danube, the Rhine flow, the Don

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Name of the River	Countries through which it flows	Important town/cities situated on its bank
The Danube	Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria	Sofia, Timisoara, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, Belgrade, Zagreb, Bratislava
The Elbe	Germany & Czech Republic	Dresden, Prague & Berlin
The Loire	France	Nantes, Lyon, Geneva
The Rhine	Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France & the Netherlands.	Cologne, Koblenz, Strasbourg, Bonn, Mainz, Basel, Mannheim, Rhein, Duisburg.
The Volga	Russia	Volgograd, Kazan, Saratov, Nizhny Novgorod, Astrakhan
The Don	Russia	Novomoskovo, Tula, Rostov on Don.
River Po	Italy	Monviso.

F. The Scandinavian countries are generally considered to have a separate cultural identity. Form groups in your class and search the Internet to gather information on these countries and then hold a discussion under the following points.

1. employment
2. education
3. law and order
4. care for the aged

**Answer:**

Do it yourself.

**G Map work:**

On the outline map of Europe, use different colours to mark and label the following:

1. Oceans—Arctic, Atlantic
2. Seas—Mediterranean, Baltic, North Sea
3. Straits—Dover, Gibraltar
4. Plateau—Central Massif, Meseta
5. Mountains—Alps, Pyrenees, Carpathians
6. Rivers—Danube, Rhine, Volga
7. Lakes—Ladoga, Onega, Vanern
8. Capitals—Paris, Moscow, Berlin

**Answer:**



**H. Picture Study:**

The photograph shows the highest peak in Europe.



1. Name the peak.
2. Name the mountain range in which it lies.

**Answer:**

1. Mt Elbrus
2. Caucasus Mountains.

### LET'S DO SOMETHING

Refer to the physical map of Europe in your atlas. Moving in an anti-clockwise direction starting from the Arctic Ocean and the White Sea, observe and note down the names of all the surrounding water bodies such as seas, bays, gulfs, straits, etc. Then mark each of them on an outline map of Europe.

**Answer:**

