Europe and Russia
Islands and Peninsulas

Islands and peninsulas surround the edges of Europe, drawing people to the sea to work, travel, and trade.

The Alps

The Alps, one of Europe’s major mountain ranges, stretch across the heart of central Europe.
Explore the Satellite Image

Land and sea are always close together in Europe. Islands and peninsulas are key features of this region. What can you learn about Europe’s geography from this satellite image?

The Satellite’s Path

Northern European Plain

Rolling across northern Europe is a vast lowland called the Northern European Plain.
Geographical Extremes: Europe and Russia

**Longest River**
Volga River, Russia: 2,290 miles (3,685 km)

**Highest Point**
Mount Elbrus, Russia: 18,510 feet (5,642 m)

**Lowest Point**
Caspian Sea, Russia/Azerbaijan: 92 feet (28 m) below sea level

**Highest Recorded Temperature**
Seville, Spain: 122°F (50°C)

**Lowest Recorded Temperature**
Ust’Shchugor, Russia: -67°F (-55°C)

**Wettest Place**
Crkvica, Bosnia and Herzegovina: 183 inches (464.8 cm) average precipitation per year

**Driest Place**
Astrakhan, Russia: 6.4 inches (16.3 cm) average precipitation per year
Europe is a small continent. Russia stretches from Eastern Europe across northern Asia.

1. **Name**  What is the large region located in eastern Russia called?
2. **Make Inferences**  Based on its latitude, what do you think the environment of Siberia is like?
Place Europe includes many small countries.

1. **Name** Which European countries are island countries?

2. **Make Generalizations** Based on this map, which countries do you think might have the largest populations? Why?
Place: Russia is the largest country in the world.

1. Use the Map: About how many miles is Russia from west to east?

2. Analyze: Where does Russia have access to the ocean? How do you think that affects trade?
**Europe: Population**

**Place** Although Europe is small, it is densely populated.

1. **Use the Map** How does the population density of Northern Europe compare to the rest of Europe?

2. **Compare** Compare this map to the physical map. What large plain in Europe has a high population density?
Regions  Russia is dominated by cold climates.

1. Name  Which climates cover large parts of Russia?

2. Analyze  Based on this map, where do you think Russia’s population is concentrated? Why? Which areas would you expect to have a low population density?
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<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<th>Populations</th>
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<th>LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH</th>
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<td>LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH</td>
<td>TVS PER 1,000 PEOPLE</td>
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Many European countries are densely populated, especially when compared to the United States.

**ANALYZING INFORMATION**

1. What are the three most densely populated countries in Europe? How do their densities compare to that of the United States?
2. Which countries in Europe seem to have the lowest per capita GDPs? Look at the atlas political map. Where are these countries located in Europe?
Southern Europe

Essential Question How has climate influenced the land and people of Southern Europe?

What You Will Learn... In this chapter you will learn about four large countries located in Southern Europe—Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. You will learn about the countries’ long histories and the many groups that have influenced their societies. Finally, you will see how the countries’ histories still affect their cultures and governments.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography ....................... 286
The Big Idea The peninsulas of southern Europe have rocky terrains and sunny, mild climates.

SECTION 2: Greece ................................. 291
The Big Idea The home of one of the western world’s oldest civilizations, Greece is trying to reclaim its place as a leading country in Europe.

SECTION 3: Italy ..................................... 296
The Big Idea Once the center of a huge empire, Italy is now one of the most prosperous countries in Europe.

SECTION 4: Spain and Portugal ..................... 301
The Big Idea Spain and Portugal have rich cultures, stable governments, and growing economies.

Focus on Reading and Writing

Asking Questions As you read a text, it can be helpful to ask yourself questions about what you are reading to be sure you understand it. One set of questions that you can use to test your understanding of a passage is the five Ws—who, what, when, where, and why. See the lesson, Asking Questions, on page R13.

Writing a News Report You are a newspaper reporter on special assignment in Southern Europe. Your editor has told you that many readers know about Southern Europe’s past but not about the region today. After you read this chapter, you will write a news report about an imaginary event in a Southern European country today.

Mountains cover large areas of Southern Europe. The Dolomites, shown here, are in northern Italy.
Culture Bullfights are popular events in parts of Spain. Bullfighters, called matadors, are honored members of society.

History Greece was the home of Europe’s first great civilization. The ruins in Delphi are more than 2,300 years old.
Section 1

Physical Geography

Main Ideas

1. Southern Europe’s physical features include rugged mountains and narrow coastal plains.
2. The region’s climate and resources support such industries as agriculture, fishing, and tourism.

The Big Idea

The peninsulas of Southern Europe have rocky terrains and sunny, mild climates.

Key Terms and Places

- Mediterranean Sea, p. 286
- Pyrenees, p. 287
- Apennines, p. 287
- Alps, p. 287
- Mediterranean climate, p. 288

If YOU lived there...

You are in a busy fish market in a small town on the coast of Italy, near the Mediterranean Sea. It is early morning. Colorful fishing boats have just pulled into shore with their catch of fresh fish and seafood. They unload their nets of slippery octopus and wriggling shrimp. Others bring silvery sea bass. You are looking forward to lunch—perhaps a tasty fish soup or pasta dish.

How does the Mediterranean affect your life?

Building Background

The Mediterranean Sea has shaped the geography, climate, and culture of Southern Europe. All of these countries have long coastlines, with good harbors and beautiful beaches. Because much of the interior is rugged and mountainous, the sea has also been a highway for trade and travel.

Physical Features

The continent of Europe has often been called a peninsula of peninsulas. Why do you think this is so? Look at the map of Europe in this book’s Atlas to find out. Notice how Europe juts out from Asia like one big peninsula. Also, notice how smaller peninsulas extend into the many bodies of water that surround the continent.

Look at the map of Europe again. Do you see the three large peninsulas that extend south from Europe? From west to east, these are the Iberian Peninsula, the Italian Peninsula, and the Balkan Peninsula. Together with some large islands, they form the region of Southern Europe.

Southern Europe is also known as Mediterranean Europe. All of the countries of Southern Europe have long coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea. In addition to this common location on the Mediterranean, the countries of Southern Europe share many common physical features.
Landforms
The three peninsulas of Southern Europe are largely covered with rugged mountains. In Greece, for example, about three-fourths of the land is mountainous. Because much of the land is so rugged, farming and travel in Southern Europe can be a challenge.

The mountains of Southern Europe form several large ranges. On the Iberian Peninsula, the Pyrenees (piar-uh-nee) form a boundary between Spain and France to the north. Italy has two major ranges. The Apennines (ap-uh-nynz) run along the whole peninsula, and the Alps—Europe’s highest mountains—are in the north. The Pindus Mountains cover much of Greece.

Southern Europe’s mountains extend into the sea as well, where they rise above the water to form islands. The Aegean Sea east of Greece is home to more than 2,000 such islands. Southern Europe also has many larger islands formed by undersea mountains. These include Crete, which is south of Greece; Sicily, at the southern tip of Italy; and many others.

Not all of Southern Europe is rocky and mountainous, though. Some flat plains lie in the region. Most of these plains are along the coast and in the valleys of major rivers. It is here that most farming in Southern Europe takes place. It is also here that most of the region’s people live.

Focus on Reading
As you read, ask yourself this question: Where are the Pyrenees?

Southern Europe is known for mountains and seas. On Greece’s coast, these two features come together to create a dramatic landscape.
Since Southern Europe is mostly peninsulas and islands, water is central to the region’s geography. No place in Southern Europe is very far from a major body of water. The largest of these bodies of water is the Mediterranean, but the Adriatic, Aegean, and Ionian seas are also important to the region. For many centuries, these seas have given the people of Southern Europe food and a relatively easy way to travel around the region.

Only a few large rivers run through Southern Europe. The region’s longest river is the Tagus (TAY-guhs), which flows across the Iberian Peninsula. In northern Italy, the Po runs through one of Southern Europe’s most fertile and densely populated areas. Other rivers run out of the mountains and into the many surrounding seas.

**Water Features**

Southern Europe is known for its Mediterranean climate, which features warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. This climate affects nearly every aspect of life in the region.

**Climate and Resources**

Southern Europe is famous for its pleasant climate. Most of the region enjoys warm, sunny days and mild nights for most of the year. Little rain falls in the summer, falling instead during the mild winter. In fact, the type of climate found across Southern Europe is called a **Mediterranean climate** because it is common in this region.

The region’s climate is also one of its most valuable resources. The mild climate is ideal for growing a variety of crops, from citrus fruits and grapes to olives and wheat. In addition, millions of tourists are drawn to the region each year by its climate, beaches, and breathtaking scenery.
The sea is also an important resource in Southern Europe. Many of the region’s largest cities are ports, which ship goods all over the world. In addition, the nearby seas are full of fish and shellfish, which provide the basis for profitable fishing industries.

**REVIEWING IDEAS, TERMS, AND PLACES**

1. **Recall** Which three peninsulas are in Southern Europe?
2. **Explain** Why is the sea important to Southern Europe?
3. **Elaborate** Why do you think most people in Southern Europe live on coastal plains or in river valleys?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

3. **Describe** What is the Mediterranean climate like?
4. **Generalize** How is climate an important resource for the region?

**DRAWING A DIAGRAM**

Draw a diagram like the one shown here. In the left oval, use your notes to explain how landforms affect life in Southern Europe. In the right oval, explain how climate affects life in the region.

**FOCUS ON WRITING**

4. **Describe the Setting** Write some ideas in your notebook.
Reading a Climate Map

Learn
Geographers use many different types of maps to study a region. One type that can be very useful is a climate map. Because climate affects so many aspects of people’s lives, it is important to know which climates are found in a region.

Practice
Use the climate map of Europe below to answer the following questions.
1. What does orange mean on this map?
2. What city has a highland climate?
3. What is the dominant climate in the countries of Southern Europe?

Apply
Choose one of the cities shown on the map above. Imagine that you are planning a trip to that city and need to know what the climate is like so you can prepare. Use the map to identify the type of climate found in your chosen city. Then use the library or the Internet to find out more about that type of climate. Write a short description of the climate and how you could prepare for it.
Greece

If YOU lived there...
You live in a small town on one of the many Greek islands. White houses perch on steep streets leading down to the sea. Many tourists come here by boat after visiting the busy capital city of Athens. They tell you about the beautiful ancient buildings they saw there. But your island has ancient statues and temple sites too. Still, some of your friends talk about moving to the city. What might make people move to the city?

Building Background
In recent years, many people have moved out of Greece’s small towns and villages into cities, especially Athens. Now the capital of Greece, Athens is an ancient city. It was home to one of Europe’s greatest civilizations, one whose influence is still felt today all around the world.

History
Greece is a country steeped in history. Home to one of the world’s oldest civilizations, it has been called the birthplace of Western culture. Even today, remnants of ancient Greece can be found all over the country, and ideas from ancient thinkers continue to affect people’s lives today.

Ancient Greece
Theater. Philosophy. Democracy. These are just a few of the ideas that the modern world owes to ancient Greece. The Greeks were pioneers in many fields, and their contributions still affect how we live and think.

In art, the Greeks created lifelike paintings and statues that served as examples for later artists to imitate. In architecture, they built stately temples of marble that continue to inspire architects around the world.

What You Will Learn…
Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on Greek history and culture.
They invented new forms of literature, including history and drama, and made advances in geometry and other branches of math that we still study. In philosophy, they created a system of reasoning that is the foundation for modern science. In government, they created democracy, which inspired the government embraced by most people around the world today.

No ancient civilization lasted forever, though. In the 300s BC Greece became a part of Alexander the Great’s empire, which also included Egypt and much of Southwest Asia. Under Alexander, Greek culture spread throughout his empire.

The Romans and the Turks
Alexander’s empire did not last very long. When it broke up, Greece became part of another empire, the Roman Empire. For about 300 years, the Greeks lived under Roman rule.

After about AD 400 the Roman Empire was divided into two parts. Greece became part of the Eastern, or Byzantine, Empire. The rulers of the Byzantine Empire admired Greek culture and encouraged people to adopt the Greek language and customs. They also encouraged people to adopt their religion, Christianity.

Greece was part of the Byzantine Empire for about 1,000 years. In the 1300s and 1400s, however, Greece was taken over by the Ottoman Turks from central Asia. The Turks were Muslim, but they allowed the people of Greece to remain Christian. Some elements of Greek culture, though, began to fade. For example, many people began speaking Turkish instead of Greek.

Independent Greece
Many Greeks were not happy under Turkish rule. They wanted to be free of foreign influences. In the early 1800s, they rose up against the Turks. The rebellion seemed likely to fail, but the Greeks received help from other European countries and drove the Turks out. After the rebellion, Greece became a monarchy.

Greece’s government has changed many times since independence. The country’s first kings took steps toward restoring democracy, but for most of the 1900s the nation experienced instability. A military dictatorship ruled from 1967 to 1974. More recently, democracy has once again taken root in the country where it was born nearly 2,500 years ago.

**Reading Check** Sequencing What groups have ruled Greece throughout history?
**Culture**
Over the course of its history, many factors have combined to shape Greece's culture. These factors include the Greek language, Christianity, and customs adopted from the many groups who have ruled Greece.

**Language and Religion**
The people of Greece today speak a form of the same language their ancestors spoke long ago. In fact, Greek is one of the oldest languages still spoken in Europe today. The language has changed greatly over time, but it was never lost.

Although the Greeks maintained their language, their ancient religions have long since disappeared. Today nearly everyone in Greece belongs to the **Orthodox Church**, a branch of Christianity that dates to the **Byzantine Empire**. Religion is important to the Greeks, and holidays such as Easter are popular times for celebration.

**Customs**
Greek customs reflect the country's long history and its physical geography. Greek food, for example, is influenced both by products native to Greece and by groups who have ruled Greece over time.

Ingredients such as lamb, olives, and vegetables are easily available in Greece because they grow well there. As a result, the Greeks use lots of these ingredients in their cooking. Greek cuisine was later enhanced with ideas borrowed from other people. From the Turks, the Greeks learned to cook with yogurt and honey, and from the Italians they learned about pasta.

Greek meals are often eaten at family gatherings. For centuries, family has been central to Greek culture. Even as Greece is becoming more modernized, the family has remained the cornerstone of society.

**READING CHECK**
**Summarizing** What are two dominant elements of Greek culture?

---

**Easter in Greece**
Easter is one of the most sacred days of the year for Orthodox Christians. All over Greece, people celebrate Easter with festivals, feasts, and special rituals.

**ANALYZING VISUALS** What evidence in this photo suggests that Easter is a major celebration?

The priests carry containers of holy water. Later, they will sprinkle this holy water on crowds as part of a blessing.

Priests wear richly decorated robes as part of their Easter celebration.

Many Easter ceremonies are led by an archbishop, a high-ranking official in the Orthodox Church.
Greece Today

When many people think of Greece now, they think about the country’s history. In fact, Greece’s past often overshadows its present. Today, though, Greece is a largely urbanized society with a rapidly growing and diverse economy.

Urban and Rural Greece

About three-fifths of all people in Greece today live in cities. Of these cities, Athens—the nation’s capital—is by far the largest. In fact, almost one-third of the country’s entire population lives in or around the city of Athens.

Athens is a huge city where old and new mix. Modern skyscrapers rise high above the ancient ruins of Greek temples. Most of the country’s industry is centered there. However, this industry has resulted in air pollution, which damages the ancient ruins and causes health problems.

Outside of the city, Greek life is very different. People in rural areas still live largely as people have lived for centuries. Many live in isolated mountain villages, where they grow crops and raise sheep and goats. Village life often centers around the village square. People meet there to discuss local events and make decisions.
Greece’s Economy

Although Greece is experiencing rapid economic growth, it still lags behind some other European nations. This lag is largely caused by a lack of resources. Greece has few mineral resources, and only about one-fifth of its land can be farmed. The rest of the land is too rugged.

One industry in which Greece excels is shipping. Greece has one of the largest shipping fleets in the world. Greek ships can be found in ports all around the world, loaded with cargo from countries in Europe and other parts of the world.

Another profitable industry in Greece is tourism. Millions of people from around the world visit every year. Some are drawn to ancient ruins in Athens and other parts of the country. Others prefer the sunny, sandy beaches of Greece’s many islands. The Greek government actively promotes this tourism, and more people visit the country every year. Largely due to this tourism, Greece’s GDP—the value of all its goods and services—has risen steadily in recent years.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What are the most important industries in Greece?

**Per Capita GDP of Greece**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Per Capita GDP (dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interpreting Graphs What was Greece’s per capita GDP in 1994? What was it in 2004?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW In this section you learned about Greece, a country with a long and varied history that still shapes its culture and economy today. In the next section you will learn about Italy, another country in the region that has been shaped by history.

Section 2 Assessment

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Identify** What were two major achievements of the ancient Greeks? b. **Sequence** What steps did the Greeks take to gain their independence?
2. a. **Define** What is the *Orthodox Church*? b. **Generalize** What is one way in which Greece’s history affects its culture today?
3. a. **Describe** What is life like in *Athens* today? b. **Explain** Why is manufacturing not a major industry in Greece? c. **Evaluate** Would you rather live in Athens or in rural Greece? Why?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Categorizing** Draw a table like the one here. Use the table to organize your notes into columns about Greece’s history, its culture, and Greece today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greece</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Focus on Writing**

5. **Introducing Greece** If you choose Greece for the site of your news report, what would be a good topic? The movement of people to the cities? An event at a historic site? Jot down your ideas.
If YOU lived there...

You live in Rome, the historic heart of Italy. Wherever you walk in Rome, you see reminders of the city’s long and rich history. It may be a 600-year-old church or a 2,000-year-old market. One of your favorite spots to visit is the Colosseum. When you sit inside this ancient arena, you can imagine fierce gladiators and wild animals fighting there long ago.

How does history affect life in Italy?

Building Background

Italian history continues to affect life in Italy today, but its influence extends far beyond that one country. All around the world, people owe their ideas about art, government, law, and language to Italy and its people. Many of these ideas are ancient, but even today Italians help shape the world’s culture.

History

Greece may have been the birthplace of the first civilization in Europe, but Italy was the home of the continent’s greatest empire. For centuries, Italy was the heart of one of the largest and most powerful states the world has ever seen. Even after that state collapsed, Italy remained a major influence on Europe and other parts of the world.

Ancient Rome

The great civilization that developed in Italy was Rome. Built in the 700s BC as a tiny village, Rome grew to control nearly all the land around the Mediterranean Sea. At the height of the Roman Empire, the Romans controlled an empire that stretched from Britain in the northwest to the Persian Gulf. It included most of Europe as well as parts of southwest Asia and northern Africa.

Roman influences in the world can still be seen today. The Romans’ art, architecture, and literature are still admired. Their laws and political ideas have influenced the governments and legal systems of many countries. In addition, the Romans helped spread Christianity, one of the world’s major religions.
The Renaissance

The Roman Empire collapsed in the AD 400s, largely due to weak leadership and invasions from outside. With no central government to unite them, Italy's cities formed their own states. Each had its own laws, its own government, and its own army. Wars between them were common.

As time passed, the cities of Italy became major centers of trade. Merchants from these cities traveled to far-off places like China to bring goods back to Europe.

Many merchants became very rich from this trade. With the money they made, these merchants sponsored artists and architects. Their support of the arts helped lead to the Renaissance, a period of great creativity in Europe. It lasted from about 1350 through the 1500s. During the Renaissance artists and writers—many of them Italian—created some of the world's greatest works of art and literature.

Unified Italy

Italy remained divided into small states until the mid-1800s. At that time, a rise in nationalism, or strong patriotic feelings for a country, led people across Italy to fight for unification. As a result of their efforts, Italy became a unified kingdom in 1861.

In the 1920s a new government came to power. Under Benito Mussolini, Italy became a dictatorship. That dictatorship was short-lived, however. Mussolini joined Hitler to fight other countries of Europe in World War II. In 1945 Italy was defeated.

After World War II, Italy became a democracy. Since that time, power has rested in an elected Parliament and prime minister. Also since the end of the war, Italy has developed one of the strongest economies in Europe.

**READING CHECK**  **Summarizing**  What are some key periods in the history of Italy?
Culture

For centuries, people around the world have admired and borrowed from Italian culture. Italy’s culture has been shaped by many factors. Among these factors are the Roman Catholic Church, local traditions, and regional geography.

Religion

Most people in Italy belong to the Roman Catholic Church. Historically, the church has been the single strongest influence on Italian culture. This influence is strong in part because the pope, the spiritual head of the Roman Catholic Church, lives on the Italian Peninsula. He resides in Vatican City, an independent state located within the city of Rome.

The lasting importance of the church can be seen in many ways in Italy. For example, the city of Rome alone is home to hundreds of Catholic churches from all periods of history. In addition, religious holidays and festivals are major events.

Local Traditions

In addition to religion, local traditions have influenced Italian culture. Italian food, for example, varies widely from region to region. These variations are based on local preferences and products. All over Italy, people eat many of the same foods—olives, tomatoes, rice, pasta. However, the ways in which people prepare this food differ. In the south, for example, people often serve pasta with tomato sauces. In the north, creamy sauces are much more common.

Other traditions reflect Italy’s past. For example, Italy has always been known as a center of the arts. The people of Italy have long been trendsetters, shaping styles that are later adopted by other people. As a result, the Italians are leaders in many contemporary art forms. For example, Italy has produced some of the world’s greatest painters, sculptors, authors, composers, fashion designers, and filmmakers.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What are two major influences on Italian culture?

Major Cities of Italy

Milan, Rome, and Naples are the three largest cities in Italy. Because of their varied histories and locations, each city has a distinct landscape and culture.

ANALYZING VISUALS Which city would you most like to visit?

Milan, the largest city in Italy, is a global fashion capital. The clothes created there influence fashion designers around the world.
Italy Today
A shared language, the Roman Catholic Church, and strong family ties help bind Italians together. At the same time, though, major differences exist in the northern and southern parts of the country.

Southern Italy
Southern Italy is the country’s poorer half. Its economy has less industry than the north and depends heavily on agriculture. Farming is especially important in Sicily, an island at the peninsula’s tip. Tourism is also vital to the south’s economy. Among the region’s attractions are its dazzling beaches and ancient Roman ruins.

In recent decades, Italy’s government has tried to promote industry in the south. It has offered incentives, such as lower taxes, to private companies that will build factories there. Many of these government efforts center on the city of Naples, a busy port and the largest city in southern Italy. Thanks to government programs, Naples is now also an industrial center.

Northern Italy
In contrast to southern Italy, the northern part of the country has a strong economy. Northern Italy includes the country’s most fertile farmlands, its major trade centers, and its most popular tourist destinations.

The Po River valley in northern Italy has the country’s most productive farmland. For decades, the Po valley has been called the breadbasket of Italy because most of the country’s crops are grown there. Despite its fertile soils, farmers cannot grow enough to support Italy’s population. Italy has to import much of its food.

The north is also home to Italy’s major industrial centers. Busy factories in such cities as Turin and Genoa make appliances, automobiles, and other goods for export. Milan is also a major industrial center as well as a worldwide center for fashion design. The location of these cities near central Europe helps companies sell their goods to foreign customers. Railroads, highways, and tunnels make the shipment of goods through the Alps easy.

Rome
Rome, the capital of Italy, is in the central part of the country. A major center of banking and industry, Rome is also one of the world’s most popular tourist sites.

Naples
Naples is the most important city in southern Italy. Less glamorous than many northern cities, it is a port and manufacturing center.
ONLINE QUIZ

CHAPTER 12

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Describe What was Renaissance Italy like?
   b. Interpret How did nationalism influence Italian history?

2. a. Identify What religion has had a major impact on Italian culture?
    b. Explain How have local traditions helped shape Italian culture?

3. a. Recall What is the main economic activity of southern Italy?
    b. Contrast How are the economies of Milan, Rome, and Naples different?
    c. Rate If you could visit any one city in Italy, which would it be? Why?

Critical Thinking

4. Comparing and Contrasting Draw two circles like the ones here. Using your notes, list details about southern Italy in the left circle and about northern Italy in the right circle. Where the circles overlap, list common features of the two.

5. Investigating Italy What Italian event could you report on? Perhaps it could be a fashion show or a religious service at the Vatican. Make a list of events that could make an interesting report.

Venice

Venice, in northeastern Italy, is one of the country’s most visited tourist attractions. Look at the image of Venice above, taken by an orbiting satellite. Does it look like other cities you have seen? What may not be obvious is that the paths that wind their way through the city are not roads, but canals. In fact, Venice has very few roads. This is because the city was built on islands—118 of them! People move about the city on boats that navigate along the canals. Every year, millions of tourists travel to Venice to see the sights as they are rowed along the scenic waterways.

Tens of millions of tourists visit the cities of northern Italy every year. They are drawn by the cities’ rich histories and unique cultural features. Florence, for example, is a center of Italian art and culture. It was there that the Renaissance began in the 1300s. To the west of Florence is Pisa, famous for its Leaning Tower—the bell tower of the city’s church. On the coast of the Adriatic Sea lies the city of Venice. Tourists are lured there by the romantic canals that serve as roads through the city.

Nestled in the center of the country is Italy’s capital, Rome. With ties to both north and south, Rome does not fully belong to either region. From there, the country’s leaders attempt to bring all the people of Italy together as one nation.

READING CHECK Contrast How are northern and southern Italy different?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW In this section you read about Italy. The country’s long history continues to affect life in Italy even today. Next, you will study two other countries whose pasts still affect life there—Spain and Portugal.

Contrasting How is Venice unlike other cities you have studied?
Spain and Portugal

If YOU lived there...
You have just moved to southern Spain from a town in the far north. You cannot help noticing that many of the buildings here look different from those in your hometown. Many of the buildings here have rounded arches over the doorways and tall towers in front of them. In addition, some are decorated with ornate tiles.

Why do you think the buildings look different?

Building Background Throughout history, many different groups have ruled parts of Spain and Portugal. Each group brought elements of its own culture to the region. As a result, parts of the two countries have cultures unlike those found anywhere else.

History
The countries of Spain and Portugal share the Iberian Peninsula, or Iberia, the westernmost peninsula in Europe. Although the two are different in many ways, they share a common history.

Across the centuries, several powerful empires controlled all or part of the Iberian Peninsula. By 700 BC, the Phoenicians, from the eastern Mediterranean, had colonized coastal areas of what is now Spain. After the Phoenicians came the Greeks. A few centuries later, all of Iberia became part of the Roman Empire.

After the Roman Empire fell apart, Iberia was invaded by the Moors, a group of Muslims from North Africa. For about 600 years, much of the Iberian Peninsula was under Muslim rule.

Moorish structures, such as this tower outside of Lisbon, Portugal, can still be seen all over Iberia.
By the end of the 1400s, however, the Muslims were driven out of Iberia. The rulers of the Christian kingdoms of Spain and Portugal banded together to force non-Christians to leave Iberia. Those who refused to leave were made to convert or face severe punishments.

Spain and Portugal went on to build large empires that spanned the oceans. Both countries ruled huge territories in the Americas as well as smaller areas in Africa and Asia. These territories made the two kingdoms rich and powerful until most of their colonies broke away and became independent in the 1800s and 1900s.

READING CHECK Summarizing What empires have ruled Spain and Portugal?

In some ways, the cultures of Spain and Portugal are like those of other southern European countries. For example, the Spanish, Portuguese, Greeks, and Italians all cook with many of the same ingredients. The Catholic Church is very influential in Italy as well as Spain and Portugal. In other ways, Iberian cultures are unique.

Language

The most spoken languages in Iberia are, of course, Spanish and Portuguese. Various dialects of these languages are spoken in different parts of the peninsula. In addition, other languages are also spoken by many people in Iberia. The Catalan language of eastern Spain is similar to Spanish. Galician, which is spoken in northwest Spain, is more closely related to Portuguese.

In addition, the Basque (BASK) people of the Pyrenees have their own language, which is not related to either Spanish or Portuguese. The Basques also have their own customs and traditions, unlike those of the rest of Spain. As a result, many Basques have long wanted to form their own independent country.
Religion
Most people in both Spain and Portugal are Roman Catholic. People in both countries celebrate Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter. In addition, many towns hold fiestas, or festivals, in honor of their patron saints. At these festivals, people may gather to dance or to watch a bullfight.

Music and Art
Music and art have been central to Iberian culture for centuries. The Portuguese are famous for sad folk songs called fados. The Spanish are known for a style of song and dance called flamenco.

Many elements of Iberia’s art and architecture reflect its Muslim past. Many buildings in the peninsula have elements of Muslim design, such as round arches and elaborate tilework.

Spain and Portugal Today
Like other countries in Western Europe, Spain and Portugal have rather strong economies. They do have some problems, however, problems that were largely brought on by past events.

Challenge of the Past
Spain and Portugal were once Europe’s richest countries. Their wealth came from gold and silver found in their colonies.

When other countries in Europe began to build industrial economies, Spain and Portugal continued to rely on gold from their colonies. As those colonies became independent, that source of income was lost. As a result, Spain and Portugal were late in developing manufacturing.

Although Spain and Portugal are still poorer than other countries in Western Europe, they are growing rapidly. New industries such as tourism are making this new growth possible.

Finding Main Ideas
What are the major elements of flamenco music and dancing?
Spain Today

The people of Spain have kept many aspects of their history alive. For example, Spain is still governed by a king, a descendant of the kings who ruled the country long ago. Unlike in the past, however, Spain today is a parliamentary monarchy, which means that the king rules with the help of an elected parliament.

In other ways, Spain has become a more modern country. Agriculture was once the major economic activity, but factories now create automobiles and other high-tech products. Cities such as Madrid—the capital—and Barcelona are centers of industry, tourism, and culture.

Portugal Today

Unlike Spain, Portugal is not a monarchy. It is a republic with elected leaders. As in Spain, the economy is based largely on industries centered in large cities, especially Lisbon. In many rural areas, though, people depend on agriculture. Farmers there grow many crops but are most famous for grapes and cork. Farmers harvest cork from the bark of a particular type of oak tree. Once it is dried, the cork is used to make bottle stoppers and other products.

Reading Check

Contrasting How are Spain and Portugal’s governments different?

Summary and Preview

You have just learned about the countries of Southern Europe. Next, you will move north to study West-Central Europe.

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Recall What is Iberia? What two countries are located there?
   b. Sequence What people have ruled Iberia, and in what order did they rule it?
2. a. Identify What is the most common religion in Spain and Portugal?
   b. Generalize How is Spain’s history reflected in its architecture?
   c. Elaborate Why do you think many Basques want to become independent from Spain?
3. a. Identify What are two crops grown in Portugal?
   b. Analyze What is Spain’s government like?

Critical Thinking

4. Categorizing Draw a diagram like the one here. Using your notes, record information about the cultures and economies of Spain and Portugal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on Writing

5. Writing about Spain and Portugal What details about Spain and Portugal will grab your readers’ attention? Look back through your notes to choose the topic for your article.
CHAPTER 12

Chapter Review

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

Greece
The birthplace of democracy, Greece is working to improve its economy.

Italy
Italy is one of Europe’s leading cultural and economic countries.

Spain and Portugal
The rich cultures of Spain and Portugal are shaped by their histories.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Fill in the blanks with the correct term or location from this chapter.

1. The climate found in most of Southern Europe is the __________.
2. The __________ is the head of the Roman Catholic Church.
3. The highest mountains in Europe are the __________.
4. __________ is the capital of Greece.
5. A __________ is a government in which a king rules with the help of an elected body.
6. Italy’s capital, __________, was the birthplace of an ancient civilization.
7. __________ is an independent state located within the city of Rome.
8. Spain and Portugal are located on a peninsula known as __________.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 286–289)

9. a. Describe What are two physical features that all the countries of Southern Europe have in common?
   b. Draw Conclusions Why has Southern Europe’s climate been called its most valuable resource?
   c. Predict How would daily life in Southern Europe be different if it were not a coastal region?

SECTION 2 (Pages 291–295)

10. a. Identify What is the largest city in Greece? How would you describe the city?
    b. Generalize How has Greece’s economy changed in the last decade? What is largely responsible for this change?
    c. Elaborate How does Greek history still affect the country today?
SECTION 3 (Pages 296–300)

11. a. **Recall** Which region of Italy has the stronger economy? Why?
   
   b. **Sequence** What periods followed the Roman Empire in Italy? What happened during those periods?
   
   c. **Elaborate** What are some ways in which the Italians have influenced world culture?

SECTION 4 (Pages 301–304)

12. a. **Identify** Who are the Basques?
   
   b. **Compare and Contrast** How are Spain and Portugal alike? How are they different?
   
   c. **Elaborate** How do you think Iberia's history makes it different from other places in Europe?

**Social Studies Skills**

**Reading a Climate Map** Use the climate map from the Social Studies Skills lesson of this chapter to answer the following questions.

13. What type of climate does London have?

14. What climate is found only in the far north?

15. Where in Europe would you find a humid subtropical climate?

**Using the Internet**

16. **Activity: Exploring Italian Cuisine** Pizza. Pasta. Mozzarella. Olive oil. These are some of the most popular elements of Italian food, one of the world's favorites. Through your online textbook, learn more about the history and variety of Italian cooking. Then test your knowledge with the interactive activity.

17. **Map Activity** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.
   
   Mediterranean Sea | Lisbon, Portugal
   --|---
   Athens, Greece | Po River
   Sicily | Rome, Italy
   Spain | Aegean Sea

**FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING**

**Asking Questions** Read the passage below. After you read it, answer the questions below to be sure you have understood what you read.

Spain is a democracy, but it has not always been. From 1939 to 1975, a dictator named Francisco Franco ruled the country. He came to power as a result of a bloody civil war and was unpopular with the Spanish people.

18. Who is this paragraph about?

19. What did the people in this passage do?

20. When did the events described take place?

21. Where did the events described take place?

22. Why did the events happen?

**Writing Your News Report** Use your notes and the instructions below to help you create your news report.

23. Select a topic for your news report. Create a plan for your report by answering these questions: What is the scene or setting of the event? Who is there? Why is it important enough to include in the news? What happened? Start your news report with a dateline, for example: Rome, May 5, 2009. Begin your first paragraph with an interesting observation or detail. Explain the event in two or three short paragraphs. Close with an important piece of information or interesting detail.
CHAPTER 12
Standardized Test Prep

DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1 In which country of Southern Europe is the Orthodox Church dominant?
   A Portugal  
   B Spain  
   C Italy  
   D Greece

2 Two of the most common foods in Southern European cooking are
   A grapes and olives.  
   B corn and barley.  
   C beans and squash.  
   D beef and pork.

3 The form of government for which ancient Greece is best known is
   A monarchy.  
   B dictatorship.  
   C democracy.  
   D parliamentary monarchy.

4 The Moors were Muslims who conquered
   A Spain.  
   B Greece.  
   C Crete.  
   D Italy.

5 Which of these cities is in Portugal?
   A Rome  
   B Athens  
   C Lisbon  
   D Madrid

6 Based on the map above, which city in Spain lies in an area with a steppe climate?
   A Bilbao  
   B Cartagena  
   C Lisbon  
   D Madrid

7 Based on the map on this page, which is the most common climate in Spain?
   A Steppe  
   B Mediterranean  
   C Marine west coast  
   D Tropical

8 Extended response Climate influences many aspects of people’s lives in Southern Europe. Write a short paragraph that describes the region’s climate. At the end of the paragraph, list two ways in which climate affects how people live.
West-Central Europe

Essential Question What geographic and cultural features characterize West-Central Europe?

What You Will Learn...
In this chapter you will learn about the physical features, climate, and natural resources of West-Central Europe. You will also study the histories and cultures of the countries in this region. Finally, you will learn about life in these countries today.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography ...................... 310
The Big Idea West-Central Europe has a range of landscapes, a mild climate, and rich farmland.

SECTION 2: France and the Benelux Countries .... 314
The Big Idea France and the Benelux Countries have strong economies and rich cultural traditions.

SECTION 3: Germany and the Alpine Countries ... 322
The Big Idea Germany and the Alpine Countries are prosperous countries with similar cultures.

FOCUS ON READING AND SPEAKING

Recognizing Word Origins Many of the words we use today came into English from other languages, such as Latin, French, or German. As you read this chapter, think about the origin, or sources, of words. Knowing a word’s origin can help you remember the word’s meaning. See the lesson, Recognizing Word Origins, on page R14.

Writing a Persuasive Speech As you read about West-Central Europe, you will discover some issues. Issues are topics that people disagree about. Think about which of the issues seem important to you. Later, you will take a stand on one of these issues by writing and presenting a persuasive speech.

History The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, was completed in 1889. It was the world’s tallest structure until 1930.
West-Central Europe: Political

Geography Skills

Regions The countries of West-Central Europe are some of the most industrialized and richest countries in the world.

1. Identify Which countries make up this region?
2. Make Inferences Why do you think some of the countries in this region might want to join together to promote economic growth?

The Netherlands is famous for its fields of brightly colored tulips.

A German teen participates in a Bavarian cow festival.
What You Will Learn…

Main Ideas

1. The physical features of West-Central Europe include plains, uplands, mountains, rivers, and seas.
2. West-Central Europe's mild climate and resources support agriculture, energy production, and tourism.

The Big Idea

West-Central Europe has a range of landscapes, a mild climate, and rich farmland.

Key Terms and Places

Northern European Plain, p. 310
North Sea, p. 312
English Channel, p. 312
Danube River, p. 312
Rhine River, p. 312
Navigable river, p. 312

If YOU lived there…

You are a photographer planning a book about the landscapes of West-Central Europe. You are trying to decide where to find the best pictures of rich farmland, forested plateaus, and rugged mountains. So far, you are planning to show the colorful tulip fields of the Netherlands, the hilly Black Forest region of Germany, and the snow-covered Alps in Switzerland.

What other places might you want to show?

Building Background

The countries of West-Central Europe are among the most prosperous and powerful countries in the world. The reasons include their mild climates, good farmland, many rivers, market economies, and stable governments. In addition, most of these countries cooperate as members of the European Union.

Physical Features

From fields of tulips, to sunny beaches, to icy mountain peaks, West-Central Europe offers a wide range of landscapes. Even though the region is small, it includes three major types of landforms—plains, uplands, and mountains. These landforms extend in wide bands across the region.

Plains, Uplands, and Mountains

Look at the map at right. Picture West-Central Europe as an open fan with Italy as the handle. The outer edge of this imaginary fan is a broad coastal plain called the Northern European Plain. This plain stretches from the Atlantic coast into Eastern Europe.

Most of this plain is flat or rolling and lies less than 500 feet (150 m) above sea level. In the Netherlands, parts of the plain dip below sea level. There, people must build walls to hold back the sea. In Brittany in northwestern France, the land rises to form a plateau above the surrounding plain.
The Northern European Plain provides the region's best farmland. Many people live on the plain, and the region's largest cities are located there.

The Central Uplands extend across the center of our imaginary fan. This area has many rounded hills, small plateaus, and valleys. In France, the uplands include the Massif Central (ma-SEF sahn-TRAHL), a plateau region, and the Jura Mountains. This range is on the French-Swiss border. In Germany, uplands cover much of the southern two-thirds of the country. Dense woodlands, such as the Black Forest, blanket many of the hills in this area.

The Central Uplands have many productive coalfields. As a result, the area is important for mining and industry. Some valleys provide fertile soil for farming, but most of the area is too rocky to farm.

**Focus on Reading**

Look up the origin of **massif** in a dictionary. How does its origin relate to the description of the Massif Central?

Each summer, lavender blooms across Provence, a region of southern France. Lavender is used in perfumes and soaps.
Along the inner part of our imaginary fan, the land rises dramatically to form the alpine mountain system. This system includes the Alps and the Pyrenees, which you read about in the last chapter.

As you have read, the Alps are Europe’s highest mountain range. They stretch from southern France to the Balkan Peninsula. Several of the jagged peaks in the Alps soar to more than 14,000 feet (4,270 m). The highest peak is Mont Blanc (mawn B L A H N), which rises to 15,771 feet (4,807 m) in France. Because of the height of the Alps, large snowfields coat some peaks.

**Water Features**

Several bodies of water are important to West-Central Europe’s physical geography. The North Sea and English Channel lie to the north. The Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Ocean lie to the west. The Mediterranean Sea borders France to the south.

Several rivers cross the region as well. Look at the map on the previous page to identify them. Two important rivers are the Danube (D A N-yoob) and the Rhine (RYN). For centuries people and goods have traveled these rivers, and many cities, farms, and industrial areas line their banks.

Several of West-Central Europe’s rivers are navigable. A navigable river is one that is deep and wide enough for ships to use. These rivers and a system of canals link the region’s interior to the seas. These waterways are important for trade and travel.

**Reading Check** Finding Main Ideas What are the region’s three major landform areas?

**Climate and Resources**

A warm ocean current flows along Europe’s northwestern coast. This current creates a marine west coast climate in most of West-Central Europe. This climate makes much of the area a pleasant place to live. Though winters can get cold, summers are mild. Rain and storms occur often, though.

At higher elevations, such as in the Alps, the climate is colder and wetter. In contrast, southern France has a warm Mediterranean climate. Summers are dry and hot, and winters are mild and wet.

West-Central Europe’s mild climate is a valuable natural resource. Mild temperatures, plenty of rain, and rich soil have made the region’s farmlands highly productive. Farm crops include grapes, grains, and vegetables. In the uplands and Alps, pastures and valleys support livestock.
Energy and mineral resources are not evenly distributed across the region, as the map shows. France has coal and iron ore, Germany also has coal, and the Netherlands has natural gas. Fast-flowing alpine rivers provide hydroelectric power. Even so, many countries must import fuels.

Another valuable natural resource is found in the breathtaking beauty of the Alps. Each year, tourists flock to the Alps to enjoy the scenery and to hike and ski.

**Reading Check** Summarizing What natural resources contribute to the region’s economy?

**Summary and Preview** West-Central Europe includes low plains, uplands, and mountains. The climate is mild, and natural resources support farming, industry, and tourism. Next, you will read about France and the Benelux Countries.
SECTION 2

France and the Benelux Countries

If YOU lived there...

You are strolling through one of the many open-air markets in a Paris neighborhood. You stop to buy some fruit, then go into a bakery to buy bread, cheese, and lemonade. You sit on a park bench to eat lunch. You end your day with a stroll along the banks of the Seine River, where you look at books and postcards.

Why do you think people enjoy living in Paris?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

For centuries, France has played a major role not only in Europe but also in the histories of the United Kingdom and the United States. The Norman Conquest in 1066 brought French influences into English language, law, and culture. France later helped the American colonists win their independence.

History of France

In southwest France, Lascaux (lah-SKOH) Cave holds a treasure from the past. Inside, prehistoric paintings of bulls run and jump along the stone walls. More than 15,000 years old, these paintings show how long people have lived in what is now France.

Early History

In ancient times, France was part of a region called Gaul (GAWL). Centuries ago, Celtic peoples from eastern Europe settled in Gaul. In the 50s BC, the Romans conquered the region. They introduced Roman law. The Romans also established a Latin-based language that in time developed into French.

Roman rule in Gaul lasted until the AD 400s. The Franks, a Germanic people, then conquered much of Gaul. It is from the Franks that France gets its name. The Franks’ greatest ruler was Charlemagne (SHAHHR-luh-mayn), who built a powerful Christian empire. After he had conquered much of the old Roman Empire, the pope crowned him Emperor of the Romans in 800.
After Charlemagne’s death, many invaders attacked the Franks. One such group, the Normans, settled in northwestern France. This area is called Normandy.

In 1066 the Normans conquered England. William the Conqueror, the duke of Normandy, became king of England. He now ruled England as well as part of France. In the 1300s England’s king tried to claim the French throne to gain control of the rest of France. This event led to the Hundred Years’ War (1337–1453). The French eventually drove out the English.

**Revolution and Empire**

From the 1500s to the 1700s, France built a colonial empire. The French established colonies in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. At this time, most French people lived in poverty and had few rights. For these reasons, in 1789 the French people overthrew their king in the French Revolution.

A few years later a brilliant general named Napoleon took power. In time, he conquered much of Europe. Then in 1815 several European powers joined forces and defeated Napoleon. They exiled him and chose a new king to rule France.

**Modern History**

During both World War I and World War II, German forces invaded France. After each war, France worked to rebuild its economy. In the 1950s it experienced rapid growth.

During the 1950s and 1960s, many of the French colonies gained their independence. Some people from these former colonies then moved to France.

France is now a republic with a parliament and an elected president. France still controls several overseas territories, such as Martinique in the West Indies.

**Reading Check** Summarizing Which foreign groups have affected France’s history?
The Culture of France

During their long history, the French have developed a strong cultural identity. Today French culture is admired worldwide.

Language and Religion

A common heritage unites the French. Most people speak French and are Catholic. At the same time, many immigrants have settled in France. These immigrants have their own languages, religions, and customs. For example, many Algerian Muslims have moved to France. This immigration is making France more culturally diverse.

Customs

The French have a phrase that describes their attitude toward life—joie de vivre (zhwah duh VEEV-ruh), meaning “enjoyment of life.” The French enjoy good food, good company, and good conversation.

An enjoyment of food has helped make French cooking some of the best in the world. French chefs and cooking schools have worldwide reputations. The French have also contributed to the language of food. Terms such as café, cuisine (cooking), and menu all come from the French.

The French also enjoy their festivals. The major national festival is Bastille Day, held on July 14. On that date in 1789 a mob destroyed the Bastille, a Paris prison symbolizing the French king’s harsh rule. The event began the French Revolution.

Ideas and the Arts

The French have made major contributions to the arts and ideas. In the Middle Ages, the French built majestic cathedrals in the Gothic style. This style has high pointed ceilings, stained-glass windows, and tall towers that reach heavenward. Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris is an example.

Close-up

Paris

Some 2,000 years old, Paris grew up along the banks of the Seine (SEN) River. Known as “the City of Light” for its gleaming beauty, Paris shines as one of Europe’s most cultured cities. Wide tree-lined avenues, historic squares, and lovely gardens and parks grace the city center.

Notre Dame is France’s most famous cathedral. It is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture.

The Seine River winds through the heart of Paris. Beautiful bridges cross the river, and in places booksellers line its banks.
In the 1700s France was a center of the Enlightenment, a period in which people used reason to improve society. French Enlightenment ideas about government inspired the American Revolution and the development of modern democracy.

In the 1800s France was the center of one of the most famous art movements of the modern age—impressionism. This style of painting uses rippling light to create an impression of a scene. During the same period, French authors wrote classics such as *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas (doo-mah). Today France is known for art and its fashion and film industries.

**READING CHECK**  
**Summarizing** What are some main features of French culture?

### France Today

France is now West-Central Europe's largest country. It plays a leading role in Europe and in the European Union (EU).

Today about 75 percent of the French live in cities. Paris, the capital, is by far the largest city, with about 10 million people. Fashionable with a quick pace, Paris is a center of business, finance, learning, and culture. It boasts world-class museums, art galleries, and restaurants as well as famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Other major cities include Marseille (mar-SAY), a Mediterranean seaport, and Lyon (LYAWN), located on the Rhone River. A modern system of highways, canals, and high-speed trains links France's cities.

France has a strong economy. It is the EU's top agricultural producer, and its major crops include wheat and grapes. French workers are also highly productive. Rich soil and efficient workers have made France a major exporter of goods, such as its famous perfumes and wines.

Paris is known for its many sidewalk cafés, where people meet to eat, socialize, and relax.

The Paris Métro, or subway, is known for its decorative wrought-iron entrances, built in the early 1900s.

What examples do you see of the mixing of the new and the old in Paris?
In World War II, Germany occupied the Benelux Countries. After the war, they joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for protection. NATO is an alliance of nations. In the 1950s the Benelux Countries joined the group of nations now known as the EU.

Today the Benelux Countries each have a parliament and ceremonial monarch. The tiny, densely populated countries lie between larger, stronger countries. This location has led to invasions but has also promoted trade. The Benelux Countries now have wealthy economies.

The Netherlands
Bordering the North Sea, the Netherlands is low and flat. Some of the land lies below sea level. The Netherlands includes the historical region of Holland and is sometimes called Holland. The people here are the Dutch, and the language they speak is also called Dutch.

Tourism is also vital to the economy. Each year, millions of people visit Paris, the French Alps, and the sunny French Riviera, a resort area on the Mediterranean coast.

**Reading Check**

**Drawing Conclusions**

Why do you think tourists might want to visit Paris?

**Finding Main Ideas**

How have the Dutch modified their environment to live in a region that lies below sea level?

**Dutch Polders**

More than 25 percent of the Netherlands lies below sea level. For centuries, the Dutch have reclaimed land from the sea. These reclaimed lands are called polders.

To create polders, the Dutch build dikes near the shoreline. They then use pumps to remove the water behind the dikes. A national system of dikes, dams, floodgates, and storm barriers now holds back the sea.

Unfortunately, creating polders has caused sinking lowlands and other environmental damage. The Dutch are working to address these problems. For example, they are considering restoring some of the polders to wetlands, lakes, and the seas.

**The Benelux Countries**

Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are called the Benelux Countries. Benelux combines the first letters of each country’s name. They are also called the Low Countries because of their elevation.

**History**

Many nations and empires dominated the Benelux region. In 1648 the Netherlands gained its independence. It ruled Belgium until 1830, and Luxembourg until 1867, when they gained independence.
Excellent harbors on the North Sea have made the Netherlands a center of international trade. The city of Rotterdam is one of the world’s busiest seaports. It is also part of a highly industrial and urban, or city-based, area. This area includes Amsterdam, the capital, and The Hague (HAYG), the seat of government. Agriculture is also important to the Dutch economy, and Dutch cheese and tulips are world famous.

**Belgium**

Belgium is a highly urban country. More than 95 percent of the people of Belgium live in cities. The capital city, Brussels, serves as the headquarters for many international organizations, including the EU and NATO. The city of Brussels is as a result highly cosmopolitan, or characterized by many foreign influences.

Language divides Belgium. The coast and north are called Flanders. The people there speak Flemish. The southern interior is called Wallonia. The people there speak French and are called Walloons. These cultural differences have caused tensions.

Belgium is known for its cheeses, chocolate, cocoa, and lace. The city of Antwerp is a key port and diamond-cutting center.

**Luxembourg**

Luxembourg is a forested, hilly country. Although smaller than Rhode Island, it has one of the world’s highest standards of living. Most of the people in Luxembourg are Roman Catholic and speak either French or German.

Luxembourg earns much of its income from services such as banking. The region also produces steel and chemicals. Its small cities are cosmopolitan centers of international business and government.

**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Identify** Who was Charlemagne?
   b. **Explain** Why is Napoleon considered a significant figure in French history?
   c. **Develop** Why might the French be proud of their long history?
2. a. **Define** What is impressionism?
   b. **Summarize** What are some major contributions of French culture?
   c. **Elaborate** How has immigration influenced French culture?
3. a. **Describe** Why is Paris an important city?
   b. **Summarize** What is the French economy like?
4. a. **Describe** How does language divide Belgium?
   b. **Draw Conclusions** Why might Brussels be such a cosmopolitan city?
5. **Categorizing** Draw a chart like the one here. Use your notes and enter information into each category. Within each category, organize the information by country.

**Critical Thinking**

6. **Describing France and the Benelux Countries** For each country, note one possible issue for your persuasive speech. For example, one issue might be language in Belgium. Should all Belgians have to speak the same language?

**Summary and Preview** As you have learned, France and the Benelux Countries are modern and urban with strong economies. Next, you will read about Germany and the Alpine Countries.
The European Union

How can smaller countries compete with larger ones? One way is by working together. Since the 1950s, countries across Europe have been working to build a united community. Today this organization is called the European Union (EU). It promotes political and economic cooperation among member nations. The chart on the next page shows how the EU has changed life in Europe.
### Benefits of Membership in the European Union

#### Trade

<table>
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<th>Before</th>
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| - European countries had to pay customs duties, or taxes, on goods they traded with other European countries.  
- Many European countries’ economies were small compared to those of larger nations such as the United States. | - EU countries are part of a common market. They can trade freely with each other without paying duties.  
- EU countries create a combined economy that is one of the largest in the world. |

#### Currency

<table>
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<th>Before</th>
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| - Each European country had its own separate currency, or form of money.  
- European countries and their citizens had to exchange currencies to buy goods from other European countries. | - Most EU countries share one currency, the euro.  
- EU countries and their citizens can use the euro to buy goods and trade throughout the EU. |

#### Work and Travel

<table>
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| - Europeans had to have passports or other special permits to travel from one European country to another.  
- Europeans had to obtain permission to live and work in other countries in Europe. | - Citizens of EU countries do not need passports or special permits to travel throughout most of the EU.  
- Citizens of EU countries can live and work anywhere in the EU without having to obtain permission. |

### The Euro

The front sides of euro coins all have the same image, but the backs feature a unique symbol for each country. Euro bills show symbols of unity.

### Questions

1. **Name**  
Which six countries were the first to unite?

2. **Make Inferences**  
How do you think democracy’s spread in Eastern Europe has affected the EU?

3. **Interpreting Charts**  
Based on the chart above, what are two benefits of EU membership?
Germany and the Alpine Countries

If YOU lived there...
You are walking with your grandfather through Berlin, Germany. He begins telling you about a time when Germany was divided into two countries—one democratic and one Communist. A large wall even divided the city of Berlin. Germans could not pass freely through the wall. You think of your friends who live in eastern Berlin. They would have been on the other side of the wall back then.

What do you think life in Berlin was like then?

Building Background
Since the Middle Ages, Germany and France have been the dominant countries in West-Central Europe. Both are large and prosperous with hardworking people and good farmland. The two countries have often been at war, but today they are partners in building a cooperative European Union.

History of Germany
Some countries have had a strong influence on world events. Germany is one of these countries. From its location in the heart of Europe, Germany has shaped events across Europe and the world—for both good and bad.

Growth of a Nation
In ancient times, tribes from northern Europe settled in the land that is now Germany. The Romans called this region Germania, after the name of one of the tribes. Over time, many small German states developed in the region. Princes ruled these states. With the support of the Roman Catholic Church, these states became part of the Holy Roman Empire.

For hundreds of years, Germany remained a loose association of small states. Then in 1871, Prussia, the strongest state, united Germany into one nation. As a unified nation, Germany developed into an industrial and military world power.
War and Division

In 1914–1918, Germany fought and lost World War I. Payments for war damages and a major depression severely hurt the German economy. Looking for a strong leader, Germans found Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party. Hitler promised the Germans to restore their country to its former glory.

In 1939 Germany attacked Poland, starting World War II. Soon, Germany had conquered much of Europe. The Nazis also sought to kill all European Jews in what is called the Holocaust. Germany lost the war, though. By 1945 it lay in ruins, defeated.

After the war, British, French, and U.S. troops occupied West Germany. The Soviet Union’s troops occupied East Germany. Over time, two countries emerged.

The city of Berlin was in Communist East Germany. Even so, West Germany kept control of the western part of the city. In 1961 Communist leaders built the Berlin Wall. The Wall’s purpose was to prevent East Germans from fleeing to West Berlin.

A Reunited Germany

After World War II, U.S. aid helped West Germany rebuild rapidly. It soon became an economic power. East Germany rebuilt as well, but its economy lagged. In addition, its people had limited freedoms.


Reading Check Finding Main Ideas What major challenges has Germany overcome?
Culture of Germany

Germans are known as hardworking and efficient people. At the same time, they enjoy their traditions and celebrating their cultural achievements.

People

Most Germans share a common heritage. About 90 percent are ethnic German, and most speak German. In recent years, significant numbers of immigrants have come to Germany to live and work as well. These immigrants include Turks, Italians, and refugees from Eastern Europe. Their influence is making German culture more diverse.

Religion

In 1517 Martin Luther, a German monk, helped start the Reformation. This religious reform movement led to the development of Protestant churches. Many Germanic states became Protestant; others remained Roman Catholic. Today in north and central Germany, most people are Protestant. In the south, most are Catholic. In eastern Germany, fewer Germans have religious ties, reflecting the area’s Communist past.

Customs

Festivals and holidays tell us much about German culture. Religious festivals are very popular. For example, many areas hold festivals before the Christian season of Lent. In addition, Christmas is a major family event. The tradition of the Christmas tree even began in Germany.

Each region has local festivals as well. The best known is Oktoberfest in Bavaria, the region of southeast Germany. This festival is held each fall in Munich (MYO-nik) to celebrate the region’s food and drink.

The Arts and Sciences

Germany’s contributions to the arts and sciences are widely admired. In music, Germany has produced famed classical composers, such as Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven. In literature, author Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (GOOH-tuh) ranks among Europe’s most important writers. In science, Germans have made contributions in chemistry, engineering, medicine, and physics.

Reading Check

Summarizing What contributions have Germans made to world culture?
Germany Today

Despite a stormy history, Germany has endured. Today the country is a leading power in Europe and the world.

Government and Economy

Germany is a federal republic. A parliament chooses a chancellor, or prime minister, to run the government. The parliament also helps elect a president, whose duties are largely ceremonial. On the world stage, Germany belongs to the EU and NATO.

Germany’s market economy has helped the country become an economic giant. It is Europe’s largest economy, producing nearly one-fifth of all goods and services in the EU. The nation exports a wide range of products. You may be familiar with German cars, such as BMWs or Volkswagens.

The German economy is based on industry, such as chemicals, engineering, and steel. The main industrial district is the Ruhr, located in western Germany. Fewer Germans farm than in the past, but agriculture remains important. Major crops include grain, potatoes, and grapes. Timber is harvested in the south.

Interpreting Graphs  Germany’s population is slowly aging because Germans are living longer and families are becoming smaller. Which age group in Germany is now the largest?

Soccer Fans  German soccer fans celebrate a victory. Soccer is the most popular sport in Germany. The country hosted the soccer World Cup in 2006.

Christmas Markets  German Christmas markets and fairs like this one have been popular for centuries. Booths sell trees, crafts, and food. Rides and music provide entertainment.
Economic growth has slowed since East and West Germany reunited, however. The economy of former East Germany continues to lag. The region also suffers high unemployment. Germany’s government is working to solve these problems.

Cities

Most Germans live in cities. The largest city is Berlin, the capital. During World War II, Berlin suffered major destruction. Today Germans have restored their capital to its former splendor. A historic city, it has wide boulevards and many parks.

Other major German cities include Hamburg, a key port city on the North Sea, and Munich, a cultural and manufacturing center. Like France, Germany has an excellent transportation system that links its cities. Germany’s highway system, the Autobahn, is one of the best in the world.

Reading Check Analyzing How has the reunification of Germany affected its economy?

The Alpine Countries

The beauty of the Alps draws many tourists to Austria and Switzerland. These countries are called the Alpine Countries after the Alps, which cover much of them.

Austria and Switzerland have many similarities. Both are landlocked. Both are heavily influenced by German culture and were once part of the Holy Roman Empire. Yet, the countries have their differences.

Austria

Austria was once the center of one of the most powerful empires in Europe. The royal Habsburg family came to control this empire. At its height, the Habsburg line ruled the Netherlands, Spain, and much of Germany, Italy, and Eastern Europe.

In 1918, however, the Habsburgs were on the losing side of World War I. After the war, Austria became a republic. Since then, Austria has grown into a modern, industrialized nation. Today it is a federal republic and EU member.
Most Austrians speak German and are Roman Catholic. The city of Vienna is Austria’s capital and largest city. Located on the banks of the Danube, Vienna was once the center of Habsburg rule. Today historic palaces grace the city, which is a center of music and the fine arts.

Austria has a prosperous economy with little unemployment. Service industries, such as banking, are important and employ more than half of Austria’s workforce. Tourism is important as well.

Switzerland
Since the 1600s Switzerland has been an independent country. Today it is a federal republic with 26 districts called cantons. Citizens are active in local government. In addition, all male citizens serve for a period in the militia, a citizen army.

Switzerland’s location in the Alps has helped it remain neutral for centuries. To stay neutral, Switzerland has not joined the EU or NATO. The Swiss are active in international organizations, however.

As the map shows, the Swiss speak several languages. The main languages are German and French. Switzerland’s capital, Bern, is centrally located to be near both German- and French-speaking regions.

Switzerland has one of the world’s highest standards of living. It is famous for its banks, watches and other precision devices, and chocolate and cheese.

**READING CHECK** Contrasting How are the countries of Austria and Switzerland different?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** You have read that Germany is an economic power with a rich culture, while the Alpine Countries are prosperous with beautiful mountain scenery. In the next chapter you will learn about Northern Europe.
Analyzing a Circle Graph

Learn
Circle graphs, also called pie charts, represent all the parts that make up something. Each piece of the circle, or “pie,” shows what proportion that part is of the whole. Use the following guidelines to analyze circle graphs.

• Read the title to identify the circle graph’s subject. The circle graph here shows the main languages spoken in Switzerland.

• Read the circle graph’s other labels. Note what each part, or slice, of the circle graph represents. In the circle graph at right, each slice represents a different language.

• Analyze the data by comparing the size of the slices in the circle graph. Think about what the differences mean or imply.

Practice
1. Based on the circle graph at right, what are the three main languages spoken in Switzerland?
2. What language do less than 1 percent of the Swiss speak?
3. What percentage of the Swiss speak other languages not listed individually?

Apply
To answer the following questions, use the circle graph titled France’s Current Export Partners in the Standardized Test Practice.

1. To which country does France send the highest percentage of its exports?
2. How many of France’s main export partners belong to the European Union?
3. What percentage of French exports go to the United States?
CHAPTER 13

Chapter Review

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

France is a leading European nation and cultural center. The Benelux Countries are small, densely populated, and rich. Germany is an industrial powerhouse with a rich culture. The landlocked Alpine Countries have stunning mountains.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Match each “I” statement below with the person, place, or thing that might have made the statement.

a. Berlin
b. Brussels
c. canton
d. chancellor
e. cosmopolitan city
f. Danube River
g. dike
h. navigable river
i. North Sea
j. Paris

1. “I am the capital of France and a center of business, finance, learning, and culture.”
2. “I am an important waterway in the region of West-Central Europe.”
3. “I am a prime minister in Germany.”
4. “I am an earthen wall used to hold back water.”
5. “I am a type of river that is wide and deep enough for ships to use.”
6. “I am a district in Switzerland.”
7. “I am a city that has many foreign influences.”
8. “I am an international city and the capital of Belgium.”
9. “I am a large body of water located to the north of the Benelux Countries and Germany.”
10. “I was divided into two parts after World War II and am now the capital of Germany.”

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 310–313)

11. a. Recall From southeast to northwest, what are the major landforms in West-Central Europe?
   b. Analyze How have geographic features supported trade and travel across the region of West-Central Europe?
   c. Elaborate How does West-Central Europe’s mild climate serve as a valuable resource and contribute to the economy?
SECTION 2 (Pages 314–319)

12. a. Identify Where is the busiest seaport in the Netherlands located?
   b. Summarize What are some products and cultural features for which France is famous?
   c. Develop How have geographic features helped the Benelux Countries become centers of trade and international business?

SECTION 3 (Pages 322–327)

13. a. Recall What are three major events in German history, and when did each one occur?
   b. Analyze How is Switzerland’s position in European affairs unique?
   c. Elaborate How has the royal Habsburg family shaped Austria’s history?

Social Studies Skills

Analyzing a Circle Graph Use the circle graph titled Languages in Switzerland in the Social Studies Skills to answer the following questions.

14. Based on the circle graph, what percentage of the Swiss speak German?
15. What percentage of the Swiss speak French and Italian?
16. What fourth language do the Swiss speak?

Using the Internet

17. Activity: Researching Schools Imagine that your family is moving to Belgium or the Netherlands. In your new country you will be attending an international school. What kinds of classes will you have? What will your school day be like? What kinds of things might you see and do outside of school? Through your online textbook, research schools and daily life there. Then complete the online worksheet to record what you have learned. Finally, compare the schools you researched to the school you attend today.

Map Activity

18. West-Central Europe On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   Alps                                   Paris, France
   Berlin, Germany                       Pyrenees
   North Sea                              Vienna, Austria
   Northern European Plain

19. Recognizing Word Origins Find the key term cosmopolitan in Section 2. Write the word’s definition. Then use a good dictionary to research the word’s origins. Explain how the word’s origins relate to its definition.

20. Writing a Persuasive Speech Choose one of the issues you identified as you read the chapter. Write an opinion statement about the issue, such as “The Dutch polders should be restored to wetlands.” Next, list three facts or examples that support your opinion. Use the chapter and other sources to find information. Then use the list to write your short persuasive speech. Practice delivering your speech using an assured tone of voice and a confident posture.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. The alpine mountain system includes the Alps and the
   A. Black Forest.
   B. Jura Mountains.
   C. Massif Central.
   D. Pyrenees.

2. What type of climate does most of West-Central Europe have?
   A. highland climate
   B. humid tropical climate
   C. marine west coast climate
   D. Mediterranean climate

3. Which three countries make up the Benelux Countries?
   A. Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg
   B. France, Belgium, and Luxembourg
   C. France, Germany, and Austria
   D. Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

4. Which French leader created a great empire only to be defeated in 1815?
   A. Adolf Hitler
   B. Charlemagne
   C. Napoleon
   D. William the Conqueror

5. What capital city in West-Central Europe was divided after World War II?
   A. Berlin
   B. Brussels
   C. Paris
   D. Vienna

6. Based on the graph above, what percentage of French goods went to France’s top two export partners?
   A. 10%
   B. 15%
   C. 25%
   D. 30%

7. What is the main language spoken in both of the Alpine Countries?
   A. Dutch
   B. French
   C. German
   D. Italian

8. Extended Response  Examine the map of Germany in Section 3. Use the map to explain how the physical geography of former East and West Germany differed. Then analyze how you think each former country’s physical geography affected its economy.
What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will discover Northern Europe’s unique and varied physical geography. You will also study the history and culture of Northern Europe’s two main regions—the British Isles and Scandinavia. Finally, you will learn about the British Isles and Scandinavia today.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography .......................... 334
The Big Idea  Northern Europe is a region of unique physical features, rich resources, and diverse climates.

SECTION 2: The British Isles .............................. 338
The Big Idea  Close cultural and historical ties link the people of the British Isles today.

SECTION 3: Scandinavia .................................. 344
The Big Idea  Scandinavia has developed into one of the most stable and prosperous regions in Europe.

Focus on Reading and Writing

Using Context Clues—Synonyms  As you read, you may occasionally encounter a word or phrase that you do not know. When that happens, use the words and sentences around the unfamiliar word—context clues—to help you determine the word’s meaning. As you read this chapter, look for words that are synonyms, or words that mean the same as the unfamiliar word. See the lesson, Using Context Clues—Synonyms, on page R15.

Writing a Letter  Letters are a great way to stay in touch with friends and family. As you read this chapter, gather information about Northern Europe. Then imagine you are traveling through this region. Write a letter to your friends and family at home in which you describe what you have learned on your travels.

Geography  Fertile plains like this one in Ireland provide Northern Europe with much of its farmland.
Location Much of Northern Europe is separated from the rest of the continent by the English Channel and the North and Baltic seas.

1. **Identify** What countries extend north of the Arctic Circle?

2. **Contrast** How does Northern Europe differ physically from the rest of Europe?

**History** The Palace of Westminster in London has been home to the British Parliament for over 600 years.

**Culture** Skiing and other forms of outdoor recreation are popular throughout much of Scandinavia.
Physical Geography

If YOU lived there...

Your family is planning to visit friends in Tromso, Norway. It is a city on the Norwegian Sea located 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle. You imagine a landscape covered in snow and ice. When you arrive, however, you discover green hills and ice-free harbors.

What might explain the mild climate?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Although located at high latitudes, Norway and the rest of Northern Europe have surprisingly mild temperatures. All the countries of Northern Europe are located on seas and oceans. As a result, they benefit from ocean currents that bring warm water north and keep the climate reasonably warm.

Physical Features

From Ireland's gently rolling hills to Iceland's icy glaciers and fiery volcanoes, Northern Europe is a land of great variety. Because of this variety, the physical geography of Northern Europe changes greatly from one location to another.

Two regions—the British Isles and Scandinavia—make up Northern Europe. To the southwest lie the British Isles, a group of islands located across the English Channel from the rest of Europe. Northeast of the British Isles is Scandinavia, a region of islands and peninsulas in far northern Europe. The island of Iceland, to the west, is often considered part of Scandinavia.

Hills and Mountains Rough, rocky hills and low mountains cover much of Northern Europe. Rugged hills stretch across much of Iceland, northern Scotland, and Scandinavia. The jagged Kjolen (CHUI-luhn) Mountains on the Scandinavian Peninsula divide Norway from Sweden. The rocky soil and uneven terrain in these parts of Northern Europe make farming there difficult. As a result, fewer people live there than in the rest of Northern Europe.
Farmland and Plains Fertile farmland and flat plains stretch across the southern parts of the British Isles and Scandinavia. Ireland’s rolling, green hills provide rich farmland. Wide valleys in England and Denmark also have plenty of fertile soil.

Effects of Glaciers Slow-moving sheets of ice, or glaciers, have left their mark on Northern Europe’s coastlines and lakes. As you can see on the map above, Norway’s western coastline is very jagged. Millions of years ago, glaciers cut deep valleys into Norway’s coastal mountains. As the glaciers melted, these valleys filled with water, creating deep fjords. A fjord (fee-owaćrd) is a narrow inlet of the sea set between high, rocky cliffs. Many fjords are very long and deep. Norway’s Sogne (SAWN-guh) Fjord, for example, is over 100 miles (160 km) long and more than three-quarters of a mile (1.2 km) deep. Melting glaciers also carved thousands of lakes in Northern Europe. Sweden’s Lake Vanern, along with many of the lakes in the British Isles, were carved by glaciers thousands of years ago.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing What are some physical features of Northern Europe?
Natural Resources

Natural resources have helped to make Northern Europe one of the wealthiest regions in the world. Northern Europe’s primary resources are its energy resources, forests and soils, and surrounding seas.

Energy

Northern Europe has a variety of energy resources. Norway and the United Kingdom benefit from oil and natural gas deposits under the North Sea. Hydroelectric energy is produced by the region’s many lakes and rivers. In Iceland steam from hot springs produces geothermal energy, or energy from the heat of Earth’s interior.

Forests and Soils

Forests and soils are two other important natural resources in Northern Europe. Large areas of timber-producing forests stretch across Finland and the Scandinavian Peninsula. Fertile soils provide rich farmland for crops, such as wheat and potatoes. Livestock like sheep and dairy cattle are also common.

Seas and Oceans

The seas that surround Northern Europe are another important natural resource. For centuries, the North Sea, the Norwegian Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean have provided rich stocks of fish. Today, fishing is a key industry in Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.

READING CHECK

Summarizing

What natural resources are found in Northern Europe?

Climates

Locate Northern Europe on a map of the world. Notice that much of the region lies near the Arctic Circle. Due to the region’s high latitude, you might imagine that it would be quite cold during much of the year. In reality, however, the climates in Northern Europe are remarkably mild.

Northern Europe’s mild climates are a result of the North Atlantic Drift, an ocean current that brings warm, moist air across the Atlantic Ocean. Warm waters from this ocean current keep most of the region warmer than other locations around the globe at similar latitudes.

Much of Northern Europe has a marine west coast climate. Denmark, the British Isles, and western Norway benefit from mild summers and frequent rainfall. Snow and frosts may occur in winter but do not usually last long.

Central Norway, Sweden, and southern Finland have a humid continental climate. This area has four true seasons with cold, snowy winters and mild summers.
Far to the north are colder climates. Subarctic regions, like those in Northern Scandinavia, have long, cold winters and short summers. Iceland’s tundra and ice cap climates produce extremely cold temperatures all year.

**READING CHECK** Analyzing How does the North Atlantic Drift keep climates mild?

**Summary and Preview** Northern Europe has many different physical features, natural resources, and climates. Next, you will learn about the history and culture of the British Isles.
What You Will Learn…

Main Ideas
1. Invaders and a global empire have shaped the history of the British Isles.
2. British culture, such as government and music, has influenced much of the world.
3. Efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland and maintain strong economies are important issues in the British Isles today.

The Big Idea
Close cultural and historical ties link the people of the British Isles today.

Key Terms and Places
- constitutional monarchy, p. 340
- Magna Carta, p. 340
- disarm, p. 341
- London, p. 342
- Dublin, p. 342

BUILDING BACKGROUND
The people of the British Isles have had close ties for thousands of years. As a result, the people of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales share many of the same culture traits. Similar religions, languages, literary traditions, and even holidays are common throughout the British Isles.

History
Two independent countries—the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom—make up the British Isles. The United Kingdom is a union of four small countries: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Throughout their history, the people of the British Isles have been closely linked together.

If YOU lived there...
You have family and friends that live throughout the British Isles. On visits you have discovered that the people of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales share the same language, use the same type of government, and eat many of the same foods.

Why might culture in the British Isles be similar?

History of the British Isles

1558–1603
England becomes a world power during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

3100 BC
Ancient settlers in England build Stonehenge.

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on the British Isles.
Early History

The history of the British Isles dates back thousands of years. Early settlers built Stonehenge, an ancient monument, some 5,000 years ago. Around 450 BC, the Celts (Celts) arrived in the British Isles and settled Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Britain was even part of the ancient Roman Empire.

In the Middle Ages a series of invaders ruled the British Isles. The Angles, Saxons, and Vikings all established small kingdoms in Britain. Finally, in 1066, the Normans from northern France conquered England and established a strong kingdom there.

Over time, England grew in strength and power. It soon overshadowed its neighbors in the British Isles. By the 1500s strong rulers like Queen Elizabeth I had turned England into a world power.

Rise of the British Empire

A strong economy and mighty navy helped England build a vast empire. Over time, England joined with Wales and Scotland to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain. Eventually, Ireland was annexed too. England also launched an overseas empire. By the 1800s Britain had colonies in the Americas, India, and Australia.

The United Kingdom’s economy soared in the 1700s and 1800s, thanks to the Industrial Revolution. Industries like iron, steel, and textiles, or cloth products, helped make the United Kingdom one of the world’s richest countries.

Not everyone benefited, however. In the 1840s a severe food shortage devastated Ireland. Lack of support from the English government during the famine increased tensions between the two countries.
By the late 1800s the British Empire spanned the globe. Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas were all home to British colonies. At its height, the British Empire was the largest empire in history.

Decline of Empire
In the 1900s the British Empire began to fall apart. Both World War I and the Great Depression hurt the British economy. Rebellions in Ireland forced Britain to grant self-rule to all but the northern part of Ireland. In 1949 the Republic of Ireland gained full independence. Movements for independence also emerged in Britain’s overseas colonies. After World War II, Great Britain gave up most of its colonies. The British Empire was no more.

READING CHECK Sequencing What major events mark the history of the British Isles?

Culture
For years the British ruled much of the world. As a result, the government, people, and popular culture of the British Isles have influenced people all around the globe.

Government
The government of the United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, a type of democracy in which a king or queen serves as head of state but a legislature makes the laws. The English first limited the power of monarchs in the Middle Ages. A document known as Magna Carta, or Great Charter, limited the powers of kings. It also required everyone to obey the law. Today, a prime minister leads the British government. Most members of Britain’s legislative body, known as Parliament, are elected.

The Republic of Ireland has a president as head of state. The president, who has limited powers, appoints a prime minister. Together with the Irish parliament, the prime minister runs the government.

People
For hundreds of years, the countries of the British Isles have had close ties. As a result, the countries share many culture traits. One similarity is their common heritage. Many people in the British Isles can trace their heritage to the region’s early settlers, such as the Celts, Angles, and Saxons. Sports like soccer and rugby are another shared trait among the people of Britain.

Although people in the British Isles share many culture traits, each region still maintains its own unique identity. This is particularly true in Ireland and Scotland. Unlike the rest of the British Isles, most Irish are Roman Catholic. Irish Gaelic, a Celtic language, is one of the country’s official languages. The people of Scotland have also maintained their unique culture.
It is not unusual in Scotland to see people wearing kilts and playing bagpipes on special occasions.

Immigrants from all corners of the world have settled in Britain. Many immigrants from former British colonies, such as India and Jamaica, add to the rich culture of the British Isles.

**Popular Culture**

British popular culture influences people all around the globe. For example, English is the language of business, education, and the Internet in many places. British music and literature are also popular. Millions of people around the globe listen to music by bands like Ireland’s U2 and England’s The Beatles and read works by British authors like William Shakespeare.

**READING CHECK** **Summarizing** What parts of British culture have spread around the world?

**British Isles Today**

The British Isles face some challenges. Efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland and to maintain a powerful economy are key issues in the British Isles today.

**Northern Ireland**

One of the toughest problems facing the British Isles today is conflict in Northern Ireland. Disputes between the people of Northern Ireland have a long history.

In the 1500s Protestants from England and Scotland began settling in Northern Ireland. Over time, they outnumbered Irish Catholics in the area. When Ireland became a separate state, Northern Ireland’s Protestant majority chose to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Since then, many Catholics in Northern Ireland believe they have not been treated fairly by Protestants. Some Catholics hope to unite with the Republic of Ireland. For years the two sides have waged a bitter and violent struggle. In the late 1990s peace talks between the two warring sides began. An agreement eventually led to a cease-fire and the creation of a national assembly in Northern Ireland. However, the refusal of some groups to disarm, or give up all weapons, stalled the peace talks. Recently, however, hopes are once again high that peaceful relations between the groups will bring about a long-lasting peace.
The Economy
The economies of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are among Europe’s strongest. London, the capital of the United Kingdom, is a center for world trade and industry. North Sea energy reserves have made the United Kingdom a major producer of oil and natural gas. In Ireland, computer equipment and software have become major industries, especially near Dublin, Ireland’s capital. The economies of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland also rely on service industries like banking, tourism, and insurance.

Reading Check Summarizing What has been the cause of conflict in Northern Ireland?

Summary and Preview You have learned about the rich history and culture of the British Isles. Next, you will learn about the countries of Scandinavia.

Section 2 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places
1. a. Identify What peoples invaded the British Isles?
   b. Make Inferences How did the Industrial Revolution strengthen the British Empire?
2. a. Describe What elements of British culture are found around the world?
   b. Explain How did Magna Carta affect British government?
3. a. Define What does disarm mean?
   b. Analyze What are the central issues of the conflict in Northern Ireland?
   c. Elaborate Why do you think the economy of the British Isles is so strong?

Critical Thinking
4. Summarizing Using your notes and a graphic organizer like the one here, summarize the history and culture of the British Isles in your own words.

Focus on Writing
5. Writing about the British Isles What information about the British Isles do you think is most interesting? Take notes on what you could include in a letter to someone who has never visited the area.
Writing to Learn

Learn
Writing is an important tool for learning new information. When you write about what you read, you can better understand and remember information. For example, when you write a list of items you need from the grocery store, the act of writing can help you remember what to buy. Use the steps below to write to learn.

• Read the text carefully. Look for the main idea and important details.
• Think about the information you just read. Then summarize in your own words what you learned.
• Write a personal response to what you read. What do you think about the information? What questions might you have? How does this information affect you?

Practice
Use the steps you just learned to practice writing to learn. Read the paragraph below carefully, then complete a chart like the one here.

Tromso, Norway, is one of Europe’s northern-most cities. Because of Earth’s tilt and Tromso’s location north of the Arctic Circle, the city experiences unusual conditions in both summer and winter. During the summer, the sun stays above the horizon continuously from late May to late July. In winter, residents of Tromso do not see the sun from November to January.

Apply
Read the information in Section 3 carefully. Then create a chart similar to the one above. In the first column, summarize the key ideas from the section in your own words. Use the second column to write your personal reaction to the information you learned.
Scandinavia

If YOU lived there...

You live in Copenhagen, the picturesque capital of Denmark. One of your favorite walks is along the waterfront, which is lined with colorful medieval buildings. Sailing boats of all sizes are anchored here. A famous statue in the harbor shows the Little Mermaid. But your favorite place of all is the huge amusement park called Tivoli Gardens, where you can enjoy fun and good food.

What sights would you show to a visitor?

Building Background

After a long and warlike history, the modern countries of Scandinavia are models of peace and prosperity for the rest of Europe. Their cultures are similar in several ways, but each country has its own personality.

History

Hundreds of years ago, Scandinavia was home to warlike Vikings. The Vikings were Scandinavian warriors who raided Europe and the Mediterranean in the early Middle Ages. Excellent sailors, the Vikings used quick and powerful longboats to attack villages along coasts or rivers. The Vikings conquered the British Isles, Finland, and parts of France, Germany, and Russia. They were some of the most feared warriors of their time.

The Vikings were also great explorers. They established the first settlements in Iceland in the 800s and in Greenland in the 900s. A short time later, Vikings led by Leif Eriksson became the first Europeans to reach North America. The ruins of a Viking colony have been found in present-day Newfoundland, off the southeast coast of Canada.

In the 1100s the Viking raids ended. Powerful Scandinavian chiefs instead concentrated on strengthening their kingdoms. During the Middle Ages three kingdoms—Norway, Sweden, and Denmark—competed for power in the region.

Denmark was the first to gain the upper hand. By the late 1300s Denmark ruled a union of all the Scandinavian kingdoms and territories. Eventually, Sweden challenged Denmark's power.
In time, Sweden left the Danish-led union, taking Finland with it. Many years later, Sweden won control of Norway as well.

By the 1900s Scandinavian countries wanted their independence. Norway won its independence from Sweden in the early 1900s. Soon after, Finland became independent after centuries of foreign domination, or control, by Sweden and later by Russia. Iceland, then a Danish territory, declared its independence in 1944. To this day, however, Greenland remains a part of Denmark as a self-ruling territory.

**Close-up**

**Viking Raids**

The Vikings of Scandinavia launched raids on many European settlements in the early Middle Ages. Using powerful longships, Viking warriors attacked towns and villages near coasts and rivers. Vikings even sailed as far as North America in their longships.

A large woolen sail helped increase the ship's speed.

Sometimes as many as 30 oars spanned each side of a longship.

The longship's shallow design made river travel possible and allowed Viking raiders to sail their ships ashore.

Viking longships were designed the same at each end. As a result, warriors did not have to turn the ship around to make a quick escape.

**Focus on Reading**

What other word has the same meaning as domination? How can you tell?

**Reading Check**  Analyzing What historical ties do the countries of Scandinavia have?
Scandinavia Today

Today the countries of Scandinavia have much in common. Similar political views, languages, and religion unite the region. The countries of Scandinavia have large, wealthy cities, strong economies, and well-educated workers. Scandinavians enjoy some of the world’s highest standards of living. Each country provides its citizens with excellent social programs and services, such as free health care. Sweden, Denmark, Greenland, Norway, Finland, and Iceland are among the world’s most peaceful, stable, and prosperous nations.

Sweden

Sweden is Scandinavia’s largest and most populous country. Most Swedes live in the southern part of the country in large towns and cities. In fact, more than 84 percent of Swedes live in urban areas. Stockholm, Sweden’s capital and largest city, is located on the east coast near the Baltic Sea. Often called a floating city, Stockholm is built on 14 islands and part of the mainland.

For almost 200 years, Sweden has been a neutral country. Neutral means that it has chosen not to take sides in an international conflict. Sweden does, however, play an active role in the United Nations as well as the European Union.

Denmark

Denmark, once the most powerful country in Scandinavia, is also the smallest. It is Scandinavia’s most densely populated country, with some 336 people per square mile (130 per square km).

ANALYZING VISUALS 

What elements in the photograph indicate a high standard of living?
About 50 percent of Denmark’s land is good for farming. Farm goods, especially meat and dairy products, are important Danish exports. Denmark also has modern industries, including iron, steel, textiles, and electronics industries.

Greenland

The island of Greenland is geographically part of North America. However, it is a territory of Denmark. A thick ice sheet covers about 80 percent of the island. Because of this, much of Greenland is uninhabitable, or not able to support human settlement. Most people live on the island’s southwest coast where the climate is warmest.

Recently, a movement for complete independence from Denmark has gained popularity. However, economic problems make independence unlikely, as Greenland relies heavily on imports and economic aid from Denmark.

Norway

With one of the longest coastlines in the world, Norway takes advantage of its access to the sea. Fjords shelter Norway’s many harbors. Its fishing and shipping fleets are among the largest in the world. Oslo, Norway’s capital, is the country’s leading seaport as well as its industrial center.

Norway has other valuable resources as well. Oil and natural gas provide Norway with the highest per capita GDP in Scandinavia. However, North Sea oil fields are expected to run dry over the next century. Despite strong economic ties to the rest of Europe, Norway’s citizens have refused to join the European Union.

Finland

Finland is Scandinavia’s easternmost country. It lies between Sweden and Russia. The capital and largest city is Helsinki, which is located on the southern coast.

As with other countries in the region, trade is important to Finland. Paper and other forest products are major exports. Shipbuilding and electronics are also important industries in Finland.

Iceland

Iceland is much greener than its name implies. Fertile farmland along the island’s coast produces potatoes and vegetables and supports cattle and sheep.

Icelanders also make good use of their other natural resources. Fish from the rich waters of the Atlantic Ocean account for about 70 percent of Iceland’s exports.
In addition, steam from hot springs and geysers produces geothermal energy. **Geysers** are springs that shoot hot water and steam into the air. Geothermal energy heats many of Iceland’s buildings. Each year thousands of tourists flock to see Iceland’s many geysers, volcanoes, and glaciers.

**Reading Check** Comparing and Contrasting
In what ways are the countries of Scandinavia similar and different?

**Summary and Preview** Scandinavia today is a region of relative peace and stability. A common history and culture link the people of the region. Today, Scandinavia is one of the wealthiest regions in Europe and in the world. In the next chapter, you will learn about the unique geography, history, and culture of another European region—Eastern Europe.

**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**
1. **Identify** Who were the **Vikings**?
   - **Analyze** What effect did the Vikings have on Scandinavian history?
   - **Evaluate** Do you think the Vikings helped or hurt the future of Scandinavia? Explain your answer.
2. **Define** What does the term **neutral** mean?
   - **Compare** What features do the countries of Scandinavia have in common today?
   - **Elaborate** In which Scandinavian country would you prefer to live? Why?

**Critical Thinking**
3. **Finding Main Ideas** Use your notes and this chart to identify two main ideas about Scandinavia’s history and two about its culture today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Focus on Writing**
4. **Writing about Scandinavia** Where would you travel and what would you see in Scandinavia? Take notes on the details you might include in your letter.
Chapter Review

Visual Summary
Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

Low mountains and plentiful resources are key features of Northern Europe’s physical geography.

The British Isles are known around the world for their rich history, vibrant culture, and healthy economies.

The countries of Scandinavia are among the most peaceful and prosperous in the world.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places
Write each word defined below, and circle each letter marked by a star. Then write the word these letters spell.

1. __ __ __ __ __—to give up all weapons
2. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — a decision reached by two or more people or groups
3. __ __ __ __ __ — a narrow inlet of the sea set between high, rocky cliffs
4. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — a region in far Northern Europe that crosses the Arctic Circle
5. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — warriors from Northern Europe who raided much of Europe and the Mediterranean during the early Middle Ages
6. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — unable to support human settlement
7. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — energy—energy produced by the heat of the planet’s interior
8. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — the capital of the Republic of Ireland
9. __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ — main or most important

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 334–337)

10. a. **Identify** What are the major resources found in Northern Europe?
    b. **Analyze** Explain how the North Atlantic Drift is responsible for the relatively mild climates in Northern Europe.
    c. **Elaborate** In which region of Northern Europe would you prefer to live—the British Isles or Scandinavia? Why?

SECTION 2 (Pages 338–342)

11. a. **Describe** What culture traits do the people of the British Isles share in common?
    b. **Make Inferences** Why did the people of Ireland want to break away from the British Empire?
    c. **Predict** How might the conflict in Northern Ireland affect the future of the United Kingdom?
SECTION 3 (Pages 344–348)

12. a. **Recall** What countries make up Scandinavia?
   b. **Compare and Contrast** In what ways are the countries of Scandinavia similar and different?
   c. **Elaborate** Why do you think Scandinavian countries today are so prosperous and stable?

**Social Studies Skills**

13. **Writing to Learn** Read the paragraph below carefully, then summarize it in your own words. Finally, write a personal response to what you learned in the paragraph.

In the mid-1800s Ireland was devastated by a severe famine. For many Irish, the potato was a key part of their diet. When a disease infected potato crops around the country, millions were left without enough to eat. About 1.5 million Irish died as a result of the Irish Potato Famine.

**Map Activity**

14. **Northern Europe** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   - Dublin
   - English Channel
   - Helsinki
   - London
   - Oslo
   - Reykjavik
   - Scandinavian Peninsula
   - Stockholm

**Using the Internet**

15. **Activity: Creating a Poster** What does a medieval king have to do with modern democracy? Magna Carta was signed in 1215 by King John I of England. It established the principle that no one, including the king, is above the law. It also opened the door to a more democratic government in England. Centuries later, emerging democracies in the United States and France looked to Magna Carta for guidance. Through your online textbook, learn more about Magna Carta and its relationship with modern democracy. Then create a poster to display some of the ways this document has influenced modern governments.

**Using Context Clues—Synonyms** Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined words in the sentences below.

16. Wealthy in part because of its many natural resources, Scandinavia is one of the most affluent regions in Europe.

17. Thanks to the North Atlantic Drift, the British Isles are rarely affected by inclement, or harsh, weather.

18. Dissent, or disagreement, between Catholics and Protestants has caused years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

**Writing a Letter** Use your notes from the chapter and the directions below to write a letter.

19. Tell your friends and family members what you have seen on your travels in the British Isles and Scandinavia. You may want to organize the information by country. For example, you could start with a flight into London and end in Iceland. Include descriptions of fascinating physical features as well as any cities or cultural activities that are unusual or interesting.
**DIRECTIONS:** Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. **What group of people from Northern Europe raided Europe between 800 and 1100?**
   A. Anglo-Saxons  
   B. Celts  
   C. Sami  
   D. Vikings

2. **Which of the following accounts for the relatively mild climate throughout much of Northern Europe?**
   A. Arctic Ocean  
   B. few mountains or hills  
   C. North Atlantic Drift  
   D. seasonal monsoons

3. **Which Northern European city is a major European economic center?**
   A. Dublin  
   B. Helsinki  
   C. London  
   D. Stockholm

4. **What important energy source does Iceland use to heat buildings?**
   A. geothermal energy  
   B. hydroelectric energy  
   C. natural gas  
   D. solar energy

5. **Since the early 1900s, disputes and even violence have disrupted life in**
   A. Finland.  
   B. Greenland.  
   C. Northern Ireland.  
   D. Scotland.

6. **According to the map above, which part of Scandinavia is least densely populated?**
   A. Northern Scandinavia  
   B. Southern Scandinavia  
   C. Eastern Scandinavia  
   D. Western Scandinavia

7. **Which of the following characteristics do the countries of Scandinavia have in common?**
   A. high standards of living  
   B. membership in the European Union  
   C. status as neutral nations  
   D. high unemployment rates

8. **Extended Response Question** Use the climate map in Section 1 and the map above to write a paragraph explaining how climate might affect settlement patterns in Scandinavia.
What You Will Learn...
In this chapter you will learn about the countries of Eastern Europe. Once dominated by the Soviet Union, these countries have experienced major changes since the early 1990s. In some cases, those changes have been peaceful and have led to great economic success. In other places, the changes resulted in war, economic hardship, and political problems.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography ................. 354
The Big Idea The physical geography of Eastern Europe varies greatly from place to place.

SECTION 2: Poland and the Baltic Republics ...... 358
The Big Idea The histories of Poland and the Baltic Republics, both as free states and as areas dominated by the Soviet Union, still shape life there.

SECTION 3: Inland Eastern Europe ............... 362
The Big Idea The countries of inland Eastern Europe have varied histories and cultures but face many of the same issues today.

SECTION 4: The Balkan Countries ............... 366
The Big Idea Life in the Balkans reflects the region’s troubled past and its varied ethnic makeup.

Focus on Reading and Viewing

Understanding Problems and Solutions Writers sometimes organize information by stating a problem and then explaining the solution taken to solve it. To understand this type of writing, you need to identify both problems and solutions. See the lesson, Understanding Problems and Solutions, on page R16.

Making a Presentation After you read this chapter, you will present an oral report about one Eastern European country. You will also create a poster showing important features of the country. Finally, you will view and critique your classmates’ reports and posters.
**Geography** Like the Danube River shown here, many rivers flow through the mountains and plains of Eastern Europe.

**History** Buildings in cities like Prague, Czech Republic, are symbols of Eastern Europe’s long history.
What You Will Learn…

1. The physical features of Eastern Europe include wide open plains, rugged mountain ranges, and many rivers.
2. The climate and vegetation of Eastern Europe differ widely in the north and the south.

Main Ideas

The physical geography of Eastern Europe varies greatly from place to place.

Key Places

Carpathians, p. 354
Balkan Peninsula, p. 355
Danube, p. 356
Chernobyl, p. 357

If YOU lived there...

You are traveling on a boat down the Danube River, one of the longest in Europe. As you float downstream, you pass through dozens of towns and cities. Outside of the cities, the banks are lined with huge castles, soaring churches, and busy farms. From time to time, other boats pass you, some loaded with passengers and some with goods.

Why do you think the Danube is so busy?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

The physical geography of Eastern Europe varies widely from north to south. Many of the landforms you learned about in earlier chapters, including the Northern European Plain and the Alps, extend into this region.

Physical Features

Eastern Europe is a land of amazing contrasts. The northern parts of the region lie along the cold, often stormy shores of the Baltic Sea. In the south, however, are warm, sunny beaches along the Adriatic and Black seas. Jagged mountain peaks jut high into the sky in some places, while wildflowers dot the gently rolling hills of other parts of the region. These contrasts stem from the region’s wide variety of landforms, water features, and climates.

Landforms

As you can see on the map, the landforms of Eastern Europe are arranged in a series of broad bands. In the north is the Northern European Plain. As you have already learned, this large plain stretches across most of Northern Europe.

South of the Northern European Plain is a low mountain range called the Carpathians (kahr-PAY-thee-uhhnz). These rugged mountains are an extension of the Alps of West-Central Europe. They stretch in a long arc from the Alps to the Black Sea area.
South and west of the Carpathians is another plain, the Great Hungarian Plain. As its name suggests, this fertile area is located mostly within Hungary.

South of the plain are more mountains, the Dinaric (duh-NAR-ik) Alps and Balkan Mountains. These two ranges together cover most of the Balkan Peninsula, one of the largest peninsulas in Europe. It extends south into the Mediterranean Sea.

**Water Features**

Like the rest of the continent, Eastern Europe has many bodies of water that affect how people live. To the southwest is the Adriatic Sea, an important route for transportation and trade. To the east, the Black Sea serves the same function. In the far north is the Baltic Sea. It is another important trade route, though parts of the sea freeze over in the winter.

**Place** The physical features of Eastern Europe are arranged in alternating bands of rugged mountains and fertile plains.

1. **Locate** What large river flows through the southern part of the region?
2. **Interpret** Where do you think most of Eastern Europe’s large cities are? Why?
In addition to these seas, Eastern Europe has several rivers that are vital paths for transportation and trade. The longest of these rivers, the **Danube** (DAN-yoo), begins in Germany and flows east across the Great Hungarian Plain. The river winds its way through nine countries before it finally empties into the Black Sea.

As you might expect, the Danube is central to the Eastern European economy. Some of the region’s largest cities lie on the Danube’s banks. Thousands of ships travel up and down the river every year, loaded with both goods and people. In addition, dams on the western parts of the river generate much of the region’s electricity. Unfortunately, the high level of activity on the Danube has left it heavily polluted.

**Climate and Vegetation**

Like its landforms, the climates and natural vegetation of Eastern Europe vary widely. In fact, the climates and landscapes found across Eastern Europe determine which plants will grow there.

**The Baltic Coast**

The shores of the Baltic Sea are the coldest location in Eastern Europe. Winters there are long, cold, and harsh. This northern part of Eastern Europe receives less rain than other areas, but fog is common. In fact, some parts of the area have as few as 30 sunny days each year. The climate allows huge forests to grow there.

**The Interior Plains**

The interior plains of Eastern Europe are much milder than the far north. Winters there can be very cold, but summers are generally pleasant and mild. The western parts of these plains receive much more rain than those areas farther east.

Because of this variation in climate, the plains of Eastern Europe have many types of vegetation. Huge forests cover much of the north. South of these forests are open grassy plains. In the spring, these plains erupt with colorful wildflowers.

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**BOOK**

**The Plains of Ukraine**

One of Russia’s greatest novelists, Nikolai Gogol (gaw-guhl), was actually born in what is now Ukraine. Very fond of his homeland, he frequently wrote about its great beauty. In this passage from the short story “Taras Bulba,” he describes a man’s passage across the wide open fields of Ukraine.

“‘No plough had ever passed over the immeasurable waves of wild growth; horses alone, hidden in it as in a forest, trod it down. Nothing in nature could be finer. The whole surface resembled a golden-green ocean, upon which were sprinkled millions of different flowers. Through the tall, slender stems of the grass peeped light-blue, dark-blue, and lilac star-thistles; the yellow broom thrust up its pyramidal head; the parasol-shaped white flower of the false flax shimmered on high. A wheat-ear, brought God knows whence, was filling out to ripening. Amongst the roots of this luxuriant vegetation ran partridges with outstretched necks. The air was filled with the notes of a thousand different birds.’”

—from “Taras Bulba” by Nikolai Gogol
Unfortunately, Eastern Europe’s forests were greatly damaged by a terrible accident in 1986. A faulty reactor at the Chernobyl (chuhr-NOH-buhl) nuclear power plant in Ukraine exploded, releasing huge amounts of radiation into the air. This radiation poisoned millions of acres of forest and ruined soil across much of the region.

**The Balkan Coast**

Along the Adriatic Sea, the Balkan coast has a Mediterranean climate, with warm summers and mild winters. As a result, its beaches are popular tourist destinations.

Because a Mediterranean climate does not bring much rain, the Balkan coast does not have many forests. Instead, the land there is covered by shrubs and hardy trees that do not need much water.

**REVIEWING IDEAS, TERMS, AND PLACES**

1. **Identify** What are the major mountain ranges of Eastern Europe?
2. **Describe** What is the climate of the Balkan Peninsula like?
3. **Categorizing** Draw a chart like the one shown here. In each column, identify the landforms, climates, and vegetation of each area in Eastern Europe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Landforms</th>
<th>Climates</th>
<th>Vegetation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baltic coast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior coast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balkan coast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CRITICAL THINKING**

3. **Categorizing** Draw a chart like the one shown here. In each column, identify the landforms, climates, and vegetation of each area in Eastern Europe.

**FOCUS ON VIEWING**

4. **Presenting Physical Geography** Until you decide what country you will report on, take notes about all of them. Make a list of the countries of Eastern Europe and the physical features found in each.
Poland and the Baltic Republics

If YOU lived there...

You live in the beautiful and historic city of Krakow, Poland. Over the centuries, terrible wars have damaged many Polish cities, but Krakow is filled with cobblestone streets, romantic castles, and elaborate churches. The city is home to one of Europe’s oldest shopping malls, the 500-year-old Cloth Hall. Glorious old Catholic churches also rise high above many parts of the city.

What does the city suggest about Polish history?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

Located on the Northern European Plain, Poland and the Baltic Republics are caught between east and west. As a result, the region has often been a battlefield. On the other hand, this location at a cultural crossroads has helped each country develop its own distinctive culture, traditions, and customs.

History

The area around the Baltic Sea was settled in ancient times by many different groups. In time, these groups developed into the people who live in the region today. One group became the Estonians, one became the Latvians and Lithuanians, and one became the Polish. Each of these groups had its own language and culture. Over the centuries, however, shared historical events have helped tie all these people together.

Early History

By the Middle Ages, the people of the Baltics had formed many independent kingdoms. The kingdoms of Lithuania and Poland were large and strong. Together they ruled much of Eastern and Northern Europe. The smaller kingdoms of Latvia and Estonia, on the other hand, were not strong. In fact, they were often invaded by their more powerful neighbors. These invasions continued through the 1800s.
The World Wars

Both World War I and World War II were devastating for the Baltic people. Much of the fighting in World War I took place in Poland. As a result, millions of Poles—both soldiers and civilians—died. Thousands more were killed in the Baltic countries.

World War II began when the Germans invaded Poland from the west. As the Germans pushed through Poland from the west, the army of the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east. Once again, Poland suffered tremendously. Millions of people were killed, and property all over Poland was destroyed. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania also suffered. All three countries were occupied by the Soviet army.

Soviet Domination

As the map shows, the Soviet Union totally dominated Eastern Europe after World War II. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania became parts of the Soviet Union. Poland remained free, but the Soviets forced the Poles to accept a Communist government.

Many Eastern Europeans opposed Communist rule, and the Communist governments in the region eventually fell. Poland rejected Communism and elected new leaders in 1989. The Baltic Republics broke away from the Soviet Union in 1991 and became independent once more.

Reading Check

Analyzing How did the Soviet Union influence the region’s history?
Culture
In some ways, the cultures of Poland and the Baltic Republics are very different from each other. For example, people in the area speak different languages and practice different religions. In other ways, however, their cultures are actually quite similar. Because the four countries lie near each other, common customs have taken root in all of them. People cook similar foods and enjoy the same types of entertainment.

Cultural Differences
The most obvious differences between the cultures of the Baltic countries are their languages and religions. Because the countries were first settled by different groups, each has its own language today. Of these languages, only Latvian and Lithuanian are similar to each other. Polish is related to the languages of countries farther south. Estonian is similar to Finnish.

Trade patterns and invasions have affected religion in the area. Poland and Lithuania traded mostly with Roman Catholic countries, and so most people there are Catholic. Latvia and Estonia, on the other hand, were ruled for a long time by Sweden. Because the Swedish are mostly Lutheran, most people in Latvia and Estonia are Lutheran as well.

Cultural Similarities
Unlike language and religion, many of the customs practiced in the Baltic countries cross national boundaries. For example, people in these countries eat many of the same types of foods. Potatoes and sausage are very popular, as is seafood.

Other shared customs tie the Baltic countries together as well. For example, people in all three countries practice many of the same crafts. Among these crafts are pottery, painting, and embroidery.

Also common to the countries of the Baltic Sea area is a love of music and dance. For centuries, people of the Baltics have been famous for their musical abilities. Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849), for example, was a famous Polish pianist and composer. Today, people throughout Poland and the Baltic Republics gather at music festivals to hear popular and traditional tunes.

Baltic Embroidery
One of the crafts for which the people of the Baltic region are best known is embroidery. This type of decorative sewing lets people create beautiful designs. They use these designs on their clothing, tablecloths, and other cloth goods.

For centuries, people in the Baltic countries—both men and women—have embroidered the clothing they wear on special occasions, such as weddings. They use many colors of thread to sew intricate patterns of flowers, hearts, and geometric designs. Because the embroidery is done by hand, it can take hours of work to create a single garment.

Drawing Conclusions Why do you think people embroider only clothing for special occasions?
The Region Today

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland all still feel the effects of decades of Soviet rule. The economies of all four countries suffered because the Soviets did not build a decent infrastructure. An infrastructure is the set of resources, like roads, airports, and factories, that a country needs in order to support economic activities. The many factories built by the Soviets in Poland and the Baltics could not produce as many goods as those in Western Europe.

Today Poland and the Baltic Republics are working to rebuild and strengthen their economies. They are replacing the old and outdated factories built by the Soviets with new ones that take advantage of modern technology. As a result, cities like Warsaw, the capital of Poland, have become major industrial centers.

To further their economic growth, the countries of this region are also seeking new sources of income. One area in which they have found some success is tourism. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, many Americans and Western Europeans have begun visiting. Polish cities like Warsaw and Krakow have long attracted tourists with their rich history and famous sites. Vilnius, Lithuania; Tallinn, Estonia; and Riga, Latvia, have also become tourist attractions. People are drawn to these cities by their fascinating cultures, cool summer climates, and historic sites.

**Reading Check**

Generalizing How has the region changed in recent years?

**Summary and Preview** Poland and the Baltic Republics are still feeling the effects of decades of Soviet rule. In the next section, you will learn about more countries that feel the same effects.

**Tourism in the Baltics**

Baltic cities such as Tallinn, Estonia, draw many tourists each year. These tourists are attracted to the cities’ many churches and cultural sites.

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**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Identify** What country ran the area after World War II?
   b. **Draw Conclusions** How do you think the two world wars affected the people of Poland?
2. a. **Describe** How do the languages spoken in Poland and the Baltic Republics reflect the region’s history?
   b. **Elaborate** Why do you think that people across the region practice many of the same customs?
3. a. **Recall** What is one industry that has grown in the region since the fall of the Soviet Union?
   b. **Explain** How did Soviet rule hurt the area’s economy?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Identifying Cause and Effect** Draw a chart like the one shown here. In each box on the right, explain how the event affected the cultures or economies of the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soviet rule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakup of the Soviet Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth of tourism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus on Viewing**

5. **Considering Poland and the Baltics** If you were to give your report about Poland or one of the Baltic Republics, what details would you include? Write down some ideas.
Inland Eastern Europe

If YOU lived there...

You are a tourist visiting Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Early one morning, you stand on a bridge over the glittering water of the Danube River. You read in your guidebook that the two banks of the river were once separate cities. On the bank to your right, you see huge castles and churches standing on a tall hill. To your left is the Parliament building, obviously a much newer building.

What might have brought the cities together?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

The city of Budapest, like many of the cities of inland Eastern Europe, has a long, colorful history. Various parts of the city reflect wildly different eras in its past. Medieval churches, for example, stand near huge imperial fortresses and Soviet-built warehouses, all relics of the region’s history.

History and Culture

Located on the Northern European and Hungarian plains, inland Eastern Europe consists of six countries. They are the Czech (ČEKN) Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Throughout history, many different peoples ruled these countries. Each ruling group influenced the culture and customs of the area.

Czech Republic and Slovakia

The area that now includes the Czech Republic and Slovakia was once home to many small kingdoms. People called the Slavs founded these kingdoms. The Slavs were people from Asia who moved into Europe by AD 1000. Eventually, strong neighbors such as Austria conquered the Slavic kingdoms.

After World War I, the victorious Allies took land away from Austria to form a new nation, Czechoslovakia. About fifty years later, in 1993, it split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
Because of their location, these two countries have long had ties with Western Europe. As a result, Western influences are common. For example, many people in the two countries are Roman Catholic. The architecture of cities like Prague (PRAHG), the capital of the Czech Republic, also reflects Western influences.

**Hungary**

In the 900s, a group of fierce invaders called the Magyars swept into what is now Hungary. Although they were conquered by the Austrians, the Magyars continued to shape Hungarian culture. The Hungarian language is based on the language spoken by the Magyars. In fact, people in Hungary today still refer to themselves as Magyars.

**Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova**

The Slavs also settled Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova. Later other groups, including the Vikings of Scandinavia, invaded and conquered the Slavs.

A group called the Rus (RUHSH) built a settlement in what is now Kiev, Ukraine, in the 800s. The rulers of Kiev eventually created a huge empire.

In the late 1700s, that empire became part of Russia. When the Soviet Union was formed in 1922, Ukraine and Belarus were made Soviet republics. Moldova became a republic two years later. They did not become independent until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The long history of Russian influence in the region is reflected in the countries’ cultures. For example, most people in these countries are Orthodox Christians, like the people of Russia. In addition, Ukrainian and Belarusian languages are written in the Cyrillic, or Russian, alphabet.

**READING CHECK** Analyzing Which groups have influenced the history of the region?
Inland Eastern Europe Today

All of the countries of inland Eastern Europe were either part of the Soviet Union or run by Soviet-influenced governments. Since the end of Soviet domination, the people of inland Eastern Europe have largely overcome the problems created by the Soviets. Still, a few issues remain for the region’s governments and economies.

Government

During the Soviet era, the countries of inland Eastern Europe had Communist governments. Under the Communists, people had few freedoms. In addition, the Soviets were poor economic planners, and their policies caused many hardships.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the governments of inland Eastern Europe have changed. Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Moldova are now republics in which the people elect their leaders. Belarus also claims to be a republic, but it is really a dictatorship.

The countries of inland Eastern Europe belong to several international alliances. One such alliance, the Commonwealth of Independent States, or CIS, meets to discuss issues such as trade and immigration that affect former Soviet republics. The CIS is based in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Ukraine and Moldova are also members, as are many countries in Asia.

The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria are not part of the CIS. They have sought closer ties to the West than to the former Soviet Union. As a result, all five belong to the EU.

Economy

Economic development has been a major challenge for these countries since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Ukraine have been most successful. All four are thriving industrial centers. Ukraine, with rich, productive farmlands, grows grains, potatoes, and sugar beets.
Cities

Life in inland Eastern Europe is centered around cities, especially national capitals. In each country, the capital is both a key economic center and a cultural one.

Three cities in the region are especially important—Prague, Kiev, and Budapest, the capital of Hungary. They are the most prosperous cities in the region and home to influential leaders and universities. In addition, the cities are popular tourist destinations. People from all over the world visit Eastern Europe to see these cities’ architectural and cultural sites.

**READING CHECK** Generalizing What are the countries of inland Eastern Europe like today?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** Inland Eastern Europe has been successful in facing the challenges left by Soviet influence. Next, you will learn about a region that has faced more challenges, the Balkans.

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**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Recall** In what country is Prague located?
   - **Sequence** List the groups that ruled Kiev and the surrounding area in chronological order.
   - **Elaborate** How has Hungary’s history helped set it apart from other countries in inland Eastern Europe?

2. a. **Identify** What is the Commonwealth of Independent States? Which countries in this region are members?
   - **Draw Conclusions** How have the economies of the region changed since the collapse of the Soviet Union?
   - **Develop** Why do you think life is largely centered around cities in inland Eastern Europe?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Generalizing** Draw a diagram like the one shown here. In the left oval, describe the government and economy of inland Eastern Europe under the Soviet Union. In the right oval, describe them since the Soviet Union’s collapse.

**Focus on Viewing**

4. **Picturing Inland Eastern Europe** Which country sounds most interesting to you? Write down some details about it. Make a list of pictures you could use on your poster.
The Balkan Countries

If YOU lived there...

As part of your summer vacation, you are hiking across the Balkan Peninsula. As you hike through villages in the rugged mountains, you are amazed at the different churches you see. There are small Roman Catholic churches, huge Orthodox churches with onion-shaped domes, and Muslim mosques with tall minarets.

Why are there so many types of churches here?

BUILDING BACKGROUND The Balkan countries are possibly the most diverse area in Europe. In addition to practicing many religions, the people there speak many languages and have different customs. At times, the area’s diversity has led to serious problems.

History

Like the rest of Eastern Europe, the Balkan Peninsula has been conquered and ruled by many different groups. The presence of these many groups continues to shape life in the area today.

Early History

By the 600s BC the ancient Greeks had founded colonies on the northern Black Sea coast. The area they settled is now part of Bulgaria and Romania. Later, the Romans conquered most of the area from the Adriatic Sea to the Danube River.

When the Roman Empire divided into west and east in the late AD 300s, the Balkan Peninsula became part of the Eastern, or Byzantine, Empire. Under Byzantine rule, many people of the Balkans became Orthodox Christians. More than 1,000 years later, Muslim Ottoman Turks conquered the Byzantine Empire. Under the Ottomans, many people became Muslims.

The Ottomans ruled the Balkan Peninsula until the 1800s. At that time, the people of the region rose up and drove the Ottomans out. They then created their own kingdoms.
World War I and After
Trouble between the Balkan kingdoms and their neighbors led to World War I. In the late 1800s the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which lay north of the Balkans, took over part of the peninsula. In protest, a man from Serbia shot the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, sparking the war.

After World War I, the Balkans changed dramatically. Europe’s leaders divided the peninsula into new countries. Among these new countries was Yugoslavia, which combined many formerly independent countries under one government.

The nation of Yugoslavia lasted until the 1990s. The country eventually broke up, however, because of conflict between ethnic and religious groups.

READING CHECK  Summarizing How did World War I affect the Balkan Peninsula?

Culture
Culturally, the Balkans are the most diverse area of Europe. This diversity is reflected in the large number of religions practiced and languages spoken there.

Religion
Most religious believers in the Balkans, like elsewhere in Europe, are Christian. However, three types of Christianity are practiced in the area. Most Balkan Christians belong to the Orthodox Church. In the western part of the peninsula, there are many Roman Catholics. In addition, many countries also have large Protestant communities.

Christianity is not the only religion in the Balkans. Because of the Ottomans’ long rule, Islam is also common. In fact, Albania is the only country in Europe in which most people are Muslims.

Religion in the Balkans
Buildings from many religions can be found around the Balkans. This Orthodox church is in Bulgaria.

Facts about the World

Major Religions in the Balkans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number of followers (in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholicism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox Christianity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestantism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analyzing Graphs  What is the largest religion in the Balkans?
Language
People in the Balkans speak languages from three major groups. Most languages in the region belong to the Slavic family and are related to Russian. In Romania, though, people speak a language that developed from Latin. It is more closely related to French, Italian, and Spanish than to Slavic languages. In addition, some people in Romania speak Germanic languages.

Some languages of the Balkans are not related to these groups. For example, Albanian is unlike any other language in the world. In addition, a group called the Roma have a language of their own.

The Balkans Today
The countries of the Balkan Peninsula, like most of Eastern Europe, were once run by Communist governments. Weak economic planning has left most of them poor and struggling to improve their economies. This area is still the poorest in Europe today.

Relations among religious and ethnic groups have had serious implications for the Balkans. When Yugoslavia broke apart, violence broke out among groups in some of the newly formed countries. Members of the largest religious or ethnic group in each country tried to get rid of all other groups who lived there. They threatened those who refused to leave with punishments or death. This kind of effort to remove all members of a group from a country or region is called ethnic cleansing.

The violence in the former Yugoslavia was so terrible that other countries stepped in to put an end to it. In 1995 countries around the world sent troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina to help bring an end to the fighting. The fighting between groups eventually ended and, in 2008, ten countries shared the Balkan Peninsula:

- **Albania** The poorest country in Europe, Albania has struggled since the end of the Soviet period. High unemployment and crime rates have prevented the country’s economy from improving.

- **Macedonia** Once a part of Yugoslavia, Macedonia broke away in 1991. It was the first country to do so peacefully.

- **Slovenia** Slovenia also broke from Yugoslavia in 1991. In 2004 it became the first Balkan country to join the EU.

- **Croatia** When Croatia broke away from Yugoslavia, fighting broke out within the country. Ethnic Croats and Serbs fought over land for many years. In the end, many Serbs left Croatia, and peace was restored.

**Focus on Culture**

**The Roma**
The Roma are a nomadic people. For centuries, they have roamed from place to place in horse-drawn wagons, working as blacksmiths, animal trainers, and musicians. Although Roma live all over the world, the largest concentration of them is in southeastern Europe.

For centuries, many other Europeans did not trust the Roma. They were suspicious of the Roma’s nomadic lifestyle and could not understand their language. As a result, many Roma have been subject to prejudice and discrimination.

**Summarizing**
What is traditional Roma life like?
Bosnia and Herzegovina Since the end of ethnic and religious violence, peace has returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The people there are working to rebuild.

Serbia Serbia is the largest nation to emerge from the former Yugoslavia. Like other Balkan countries, Serbia has seen fighting among ethnic groups.

Kosovo Formerly a province of Serbia, Kosovo declared independence in 2008. Its population is mostly ethnic Albanian.

Montenegro The mountainous country of Montenegro separated peacefully from Serbia in June 2006.

Romania Romania, the largest of the Balkan states, is working to recover from years of bad government. Poor leaders have left its government and economy in ruins.

Bulgaria Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria has changed dramatically. People there are working to develop a capitalist economy based on industry and tourism.

**Reading Check**

**Generalizing** What issues does the Balkan region face today?

**Summary and Preview** The Soviet Union had a huge effect on Eastern Europe. Next, you will read about the Soviet Union and Russia.

---

**Section 4 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. Describe What was Yugoslavia? When did it break apart?
   b. Explain What role did the Balkan countries play in starting World War I?
2. a. Identify What are the four most common religions in the Balkans?
   b. Analyze Why are so many different languages spoken in the Balkans?
3. a. Define What is ethnic cleansing?
   b. Elaborate Why do you think other countries sent troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina? How has the country changed since the war ended?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Summarizing** Draw a chart like this one. Use your notes to write a sentence about how each topic listed in the left column affected life in the Balkans after the breakup of Yugoslavia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Balkans Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soviet influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus on Viewing**

5. **Choosing a Country** Now that you have studied all of Eastern Europe, choose your topic. What information and pictures will you include?
Case Study

The Breakup of Yugoslavia

Background A school playground has a limited amount of space. If many students want to use the playground at the same time, they have to work together and consider each other’s feelings. Otherwise, conflict could break out.

Space on Earth is also limited. As a result, people are sometimes forced to live near people with whom they disagree. Like students on a playground, they must learn to work together to live in peace.

Yugoslavia The country of Yugoslavia was created after World War I. As a result, people from many ethnic groups—Serbs, Montenegrins, Bosnians, Croats, Slovenes, and Macedonians—lived together in one country. Each group had its own republic, or self-governed area, in the new country.

For decades, the republics of Yugoslavia worked together peacefully. People from various ethnic groups mixed within each republic. Then in 1991 Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia declared independence. The republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina did the same a year later. These republics were afraid Serbia wanted to take over Yugoslavia.

It appeared that they were right. Serbia’s leader, Slobodan Milosevic (sloh-bon-dahn mee-loh-suh-vich), wanted to increase Serbia’s power. He took land from other ethnic groups. He also called on Serbs who lived in other republics to vote to give Serbia more influence in the country.

Refugees Violence between ethnic groups led many people in Yugoslavia to leave their homes. The people in this photo are fleeing Bosnia to seek refuge in a safer area.
When the other republics broke away from Yugoslavia, Milosevic called on Serbs who lived there to rise up and demand that they rejoin the country. He also provided aid to Serbian military groups in these republics. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbian rebels fought for three years against the Bosnian army in a destructive civil war.

Milosevic’s actions caused other ethnic groups in Yugoslavia to resent the Serbs. As a result, additional violence broke out. In Croatia, for example, the army violently expelled all Serbs from their country. War raged in the area until 1995, when a peace accord was signed. As a result of that accord, Yugoslavia was dissolved. In its place were five countries that had once been Yugoslav republics.

**What It Means** The violent breakup of Yugoslavia has taught other countries some valuable lessons. First, it reinforced the idea that national borders are not permanent. Borders can and do change.

More importantly, however, the struggles in Yugoslavia have made some countries more aware of their people’s needs. People want to feel that they have some say in their lives. When they feel as though another group is trying to take that say from them, as many in Yugoslavia felt the Serbs were doing, then trouble will often follow.

1. What led to the breakup of Yugoslavia?
2. Look at the maps on this page. How did the pattern of ethnic groups in Yugoslavia change between 1991 and 2000? Why do you think this is so?
3. **Investigating Ethnic Relationships** Yugoslavia is not the only country in which multiple ethnic groups lived together. Research another country in which multiple groups live together, such as Switzerland or Indonesia. How do the groups who live there live together?
Analyzing Benefits and Costs

Learn
Decisions can be tough to make. A seemingly simple choice can have both positive effects, or benefits, and negative effects, or costs. Before you make a decision, it can be helpful to analyze all the possible benefits and costs that will result.

One way to analyze benefits and costs is to create a chart like the one below. On one side, list all the benefits that will result from your decision. On the other side, list the costs. Not all costs involve money. You must also consider opportunity costs, or the things that you might lose as a result of your decision. For example, going to a movie might mean that you have to miss a baseball game.

Practice
The chart to the right could have been written by an official considering whether to develop a tourism industry in Croatia. Decide whether each of the numbered items listed here should be added to the benefits column or the costs column. Once you have determined that, use the chart to decide whether the benefits of tourism outweigh the costs. Write a short paragraph to support your decision.

1. Would mean that tourist areas were not available for farming or industry
2. Would improve Croatia’s image to people in other parts of the world

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourism in Dalmatia, Croatia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would create much-needed income for towns in the region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would not require much new investment, since tourists are drawn to region’s beaches and climate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apply
Imagine that city leaders in your area are trying to decide whether to build a new school. They cannot make a decision and have asked you to help analyze the benefits and costs of building the school. Create a chart like the one above to list those benefits and costs. Then write a brief paragraph stating whether the benefits of the plan outweigh its costs.
CHAPTER 15

Chapter Review

Visual Summary
Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

**Poland and the Baltics**
The history of Poland and the Baltic Republics still shapes their culture, government, and economy.

**Inland Eastern Europe**
Once Communist, the countries of inland Eastern Europe have stable governments and strong economies.

**The Balkans**
Since the breakup of Yugoslavia, the Balkans have been faced with conflict and economic challenges.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places
Unscramble each group of letters below to spell a term that matches the given definition.

1. arwswa — the capital of Poland
2. neicht glncaenis — the effort to remove all members of a group from a country or region
3. ebndua — the major river that flows through Eastern Europe, one of the longest on the continent
4. ageurp — the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic
5. ncimlaitpiso — consequences
6. laknab — the peninsula on which much of Eastern Europe is located
7. ufrnrtriuacste — the set of resources, like roads and factories, that a country needs to support economic activities
8. nrhatcapias — a mountain range in Eastern Europe

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 354–357)

9. a. **Identify** Name two major bodies of water that border Eastern Europe.
   b. **Explain** How do the Danube and other rivers affect life for people in Eastern Europe?
   c. **Evaluate** If you could live in any region of Eastern Europe, where would it be? Why?

SECTION 2 (Pages 358–361)

10. a. **Identify** What are the three Baltic Republics? Why are they called that?
    b. **Compare and Contrast** What are two cultural features that Poland and the Baltic Republics have in common? What are two features that are different in those countries?
    c. **Elaborate** How did the collapse of the Soviet Union affect people in Poland and the Baltic Republics?
SECTION 3 (Pages 362–365)

11. a. **Describe** What is the government of Belarus like? What type of government do the other countries of inland Eastern Europe have?

b. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think that some countries in inland Eastern Europe have stronger economies than others?

c. **Elaborate** How has its location influenced the culture of the Czech Republic?

SECTION 4 (Pages 366–369)

12. a. **Identify** What religions are common in the Balkan countries?

b. **Explain** Why did countries from around the world send troops to Kosovo?

c. **Predict** How do you think peace will affect life in the Balkans?

Map Activity

13. **Eastern Europe** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   - Great Hungarian Plain
   - Latvia
   - Albania
   - Kiev, Ukraine
   - Warsaw, Poland
   - Danube River

Using the Internet

14. **Activity: Writing a Report** For centuries the Balkans have been an arena of conflict. Through your online textbook, learn about the history and cultures of the Balkans and investigate recent conflicts there. Write a report on what you find.

Social Studies Skills

15. **Analyzing Costs and Benefits** Imagine that you are a government official in Ukraine. Your country cannot produce enough energy to meet its needs and has to buy energy from Russia. A company in Kiev has expressed interest in building nuclear power plants, but many people are leery of nuclear power since the Chernobyl incident. Make a list of the costs and benefits of nuclear power. Then write a statement that either supports or argues against the plan.

Focus on Reading and Viewing

16. **Understanding Problems and Solutions** Re-read the first paragraph under the heading The Region Today in Section 2. Then write a short paragraph that explains the main problem facing Poland and the Baltics today. End your paragraph by suggesting a solution their governments might use to address the problem.

17. **Making a Presentation** Write a brief report about a country in Eastern Europe and prepare a poster that illustrates your main ideas. Find pictures of major features of your chosen country and arrange them on a poster board. Write a short caption that explains what each picture is. Present your report to the class. As you discuss each main idea, point out the pictures that illustrate it on your poster. Speak clearly and keep eye contact with your audience. Then, listen as your peers present their reports and posters. Note whether they speak clearly and maintain eye contact. Do their posters illustrate the main ideas in their reports?
CHAPTER 15

Standardized Test Prep

DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. The country most influential in Eastern Europe after World War II was
   A. the United States.
   B. the Soviet Union.
   C. France.
   D. Germany.

2. Which of the following countries violently broke apart in the 1990s?
   A. Poland
   B. Romania
   C. Czechoslovakia
   D. Yugoslavia

3. The major river of Eastern Europe is the
   A. Baltic River.
   B. Carpathian River.
   C. Danube River.
   D. Hungarian River.

4. Which of these countries is located on the Balkan Peninsula?
   A. Croatia
   B. Poland
   C. Belarus
   D. Estonia

5. Which of these statements about religion in Eastern Europe is correct?
   A. Nearly everyone in the region is Muslim.
   B. Nearly everyone in the region is Catholic.
   C. Nearly everyone in the region is Orthodox Christian.
   D. People in the region practice many different religions.

6. Read the passage above from a travel guide to Hungary. According to this passage, what do people from Hungary call themselves?
   A. Hungarians
   B. Magyars
   C. Budapestians
   D. Europeans

7. Based on the above passage, which of the following statements is true?
   A. Hungarian culture is similar to many others in Europe.
   B. There are few things to do in Hungary.
   C. People outside of Budapest live simpler and slower lives than people in the city.
   D. Hungary is the largest country in Europe.

8. Extended Response: Life in Eastern Europe is still influenced by the Soviet era, even though the Soviet Union collapsed many years ago. Consider what you have read in this chapter and write a paragraph in which you explain how Soviet influence is still felt in the region.

For those in search of the heart and soul of Europe, there’s nowhere better. Hungarians, who call themselves Magyars, speak a language and revel in a culture unlike any other. Away from the cosmopolitan charms of Budapest, life in the provinces is more redolent of times past—simpler, slower, often friendlier. There are endless opportunities for those with special interests—from horse riding and cycling to bird-watching and “taking the waters” at the country’s many thermal spas.

—from Lonely Planet World Guide Online
Russia and the Caucasus

Essential Question What cultural and geographic features help define Russia and the Caucasus?

What You Will Learn…

In this chapter you will learn about the physical features, climate, and natural resources of Russia and the Caucasus. You will also study the histories and cultures of these countries. Finally, you will learn about life in each of the countries today.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography .......................... 378
The Big Idea Russia is big and cold with vast plains and forests; whereas the Caucasus countries are small, mountainous, and warmer.

SECTION 2: History and Culture of Russia ............ 382
The Big Idea Strict rule, unrest, and ethnic diversity have shaped Russia’s history and culture.

SECTION 3: Russia Today ................................. 388
The Big Idea Russia is a federal republic with a growing market economy but faces tough challenges.

SECTION 4: The Caucasus ................................. 394
The Big Idea In an area long ruled by outside groups, the Caucasus republics are struggling to strengthen their economies and to deal with ethnic unrest.

Focus on Reading and Writing

Making Generalizations A generalization is a broad, general idea drawn from new information combined with what you already know. As you read this chapter, stop now and then to make a generalization. It will help you pull the pieces of information together and make sense of them. See the lesson, Making Generalizations, on page R17.

Creating a Real Estate Ad As you read this chapter, imagine you work for a real estate agency in Russia or the Caucasus. You are trying to sell a piece of property there. In order to sell the property, you must write an ad to be published in the newspaper and on the Internet. As you read, decide where your property would be located and what its characteristics would be.

Geography A volcano created Crater Bay in the Kuril Islands off the east coast of Russia. The islands have several active volcanoes.
Regions  Russia, the world’s largest country, lies north and east of the small Caucasus countries.
1. Name  What ocean lies north of Russia?
2. Contrast  How does the land and size of Russia differ from that of the other countries in this region?

History  The Kremlin complex houses Russia’s government as well as gold-domed churches and beautiful, historical palaces.

Culture  The Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, Russia, is famous throughout the world. Above, dancers perform Swan Lake.
Physical Geography

If YOU lived there...

You are making a documentary about the Trans-Siberian Railroad, a famous train that crosses the vast country of Russia. The train travels more than 5,700 miles across plains and mountains and through thick forests. As the train leaves the city of Moscow, you look out the window and see wheat fields and white birch trees.

What scenes might you include in your film?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

Look at a globe, and you will see that Russia extends nearly halfway around the world. Russia is the world’s largest country. It is so vast that it spans 11 time zones. While huge, much of Russia consists of flat or rolling plains.

Physical Features

Have you ever stood on two continents at once? In Russia’s Ural (YOOHR-uhl) Mountains, you can. There, the continents of Europe and Asia meet. Europe lies to the west; Asia to the east. Together, Europe and Asia form the large landmass of Eurasia. On the map, you can see that a large chunk of Eurasia is the country of Russia. In fact, Russia is the world’s largest country. Compared to the United States, Russia is almost twice as big.

South of Russia are three much smaller countries—Georgia, Armenia (ahr-MEE-nee-uh), and Azerbaijan (a-zuhr-by-JAHN). They lie in the Caucasus (KAW-kuh-suhs), the area between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. This area, which includes part of southern Russia, is named for the Caucasus Mountains.

Landforms

As the map shows, Russia’s landforms vary from west to east. The Northern European Plain stretches across western, or European, Russia. This fertile plain forms Russia’s heartland, where most Russians live. Moscow, Russia’s capital, is located there.
To the east, the plain rises to form the Ural Mountains. These low mountains are worn down and rounded from erosion.

The vast area between the Urals and the Pacific Ocean is Siberia. This area includes several landforms, shown on the map. The West Siberian Plain is a flat, marshy area. It is one of the largest plains in the world. East of this plain is an upland called the Central Siberian Plateau. Mountain ranges run through southern and eastern Siberia.

Eastern Siberia is called the Russian Far East. This area includes the Kamchatka (kuhm-CHAHT-kuh) Peninsula and several islands. The Russian Far East is part of the Ring of Fire, the area circling the Pacific.

The Kamchatka Peninsula on Russia’s east coast has many old and active volcanoes.
The Ring of Fire is known for its volcanoes and earthquakes, and the Russian Far East is no exception. It has several active volcanoes, and earthquakes can occur. In some areas, steam from within Earth breaks free to form geysers and hot springs.

South of Russia, the Caucasus countries consist largely of rugged uplands. The Caucasus Mountains cover much of Georgia and extend into Armenia and Azerbaijan.

These soaring mountains include Mount Elbrus (el-broos). At 18,510 feet (5,642 m), it is the highest peak in Europe. South of the mountains, a plateau covers much of Armenia. Gorges cut through this plateau, and earthquakes are common there. Lowlands lie along the Black and Caspian seas.

**Bodies of Water**

Some of the longest rivers in the world flow through the region of Russia and the Caucasus. One of the most important is the **Volga** (VAHL-guh) River in western Russia. The longest river in Europe, the Volga winds southward to the Caspian Sea. The Volga has long formed the core of Russia’s river network. Canals link the Volga to the nearby Don River and to the Baltic Sea.

Even longer rivers than the Volga flow through Siberia in the Asian part of Russia. The Ob (AWB), Yenisey (yi-ni-SAY), and Lena rivers flow northward to the Arctic Ocean. Like many of Russia’s rivers, they are frozen for much of the year. The ice often hinders shipping and trade and closes some of Russia’s ports for part of the year.

In addition to its rivers, Russia has some 200,000 lakes. Lake Baikal (by-KAHL), in south-central Siberia, is the world’s deepest lake. Although not that large in surface area, Lake Baikal is deep enough to hold all the water in all five of the Great Lakes. Because of its beauty, Lake Baikal is called the Jewel of Siberia. Logging and factories have polluted the water, but Russians are now working to clean up the lake.

In the southwest part of the region, the Black and Caspian Seas border Russia and the Caucasus. The Black Sea connects to the Mediterranean Sea and is important for trade. The Caspian Sea holds saltwater and is the world’s largest inland sea.

**Russia’s Climate and Plant Life**

In the top photo, Russians bundled up in furs hurry through the snow and cold of Moscow, the capital. In the lower photo, evergreen forest called taiga blankets a Russian plain. In the distance, the low Ural Mountains mark the division between Europe and Asia.

**Reading Check** Summarizing What are the major landforms in Russia and the Caucasus?
Climate and Plant Life

Russians sometimes joke that winter lasts for 12 months and then summer begins. Russia is a cold country. The reason is its northern location partly within the Arctic Circle. In general, Russia has short summers and long, snowy winters. The climate is milder west of the Urals and grows colder and harsher as one goes north and east.

Russia’s northern coast is tundra. Winters are dark and bitterly cold, and the brief summers are cool. Much of the ground is permafrost, or permanently frozen soil. Only small plants such as mosses grow.

South of the tundra is a vast forest of evergreen trees called taiga (TY-guh). This huge forest covers about half of Russia. In Siberia, snow covers the taiga much of the year. South of the taiga is a flat grassland called the steppe (STEP). With rich, black soil and a warmer climate, the steppe is Russia’s most important farming area.

Farther south, the Caucasus countries are warmer than Russia in general. Climate in the Caucasus ranges from warm and wet along the Black Sea to cooler in the uplands to hot and dry in much of Azerbaijan.

Natural Resources

Russia and the Caucasus have a wealth of resources. The Northern European Plain and the steppe provide fertile soil for farming. The taiga provides wood for building and paper products. Metals, such as copper and gold, and precious gems such as diamonds provide useful raw materials.

The region’s main energy resources are coal, hydroelectricity, natural gas, and oil. Both Russia and Azerbaijan have large oil and gas fields. Oil also lies beneath the Caspian Sea.

The region’s natural resources have been poorly managed, however. Until the early 1990s this region was part of the Soviet Union. The Soviet government put more importance on industry than on managing its resources. In Russia, many of the resources that were easy to access are gone. For example, most of the timber in western Russia has been cut down. Many remaining resources are in remote Siberia.
If YOU lived there...

It is 1992, an exciting time in your home town of Moscow. At the end of 1991 the Soviet Union fell apart. Russia became independent. You watched on TV as people pulled down the red Soviet flag and knocked down statues of former leaders. Everyone is talking about new freedoms and a new kind of government.

What new freedoms do you hope to have?

The Big Idea

Strict rule, unrest, and ethnic diversity have shaped Russia’s history and culture.

Key Terms and Places

Kiev, p. 382
Cyrillic, p. 382
czar, p. 383
Bolsheviks, p. 383
gulags, p. 384

The Russian Empire

Russia’s roots lie in the grassy, windswept plains of the steppe. For thousands of years, people from Asia moved across the steppe. These groups of people included the Slavs. As you read in the last chapter, the Slavs settled in Eastern Europe, including what is now Ukraine and western Russia.

Early History and Empire

The Slavs developed towns and began trading with people from other areas. In the AD 800s, Viking traders from Scandinavia invaded the Slavs. These Vikings were called Rus (ROOS), and the word Russia probably comes from their name. The Vikings shaped the first Russian state among the Slavs. This Russian state, called Kievan (KEE-e-fuhn) Rus, centered around the city of Kiev. This city is now the capital of Ukraine.

Over time, missionaries introduced the Orthodox Christian faith to Kiev. In addition, the missionaries introduced a form of the Greek alphabet called Cyrillic (suh-RI-lik). The Russians adopted this Cyrillic alphabet and still use it today.
In the 1200s, fierce Mongol invaders called Tatars (TAH-ters) swept out of Central Asia and conquered Kiev. The Mongols allowed Russian princes to rule over local states. In time, Muscovy became the strongest state. Its main city was Moscow.

After about 200 years Muscovy's prince, Ivan III, seized control from the Mongols. In the 1540s his grandson, Ivan IV, crowned himself Czar (ZAHR), or emperor. Czar is Russian for “caesar.” As czar, Ivan IV had total power. A cruel and savage ruler, he became known as Ivan the Terrible.

In time, Muscovy developed into the country of Russia. Strong czars such as Peter the Great (1682–1725) and Catherine the Great (1762–1796) built Russia into a huge empire and a world power. This empire included many conquered peoples.

In spite of its growth, Russia remained largely a country of poor farmers, while the czars and nobles had most of the wealth. In the early 1900s Russians began demanding improvements. The czar agreed to some changes, but unrest continued to grow.

**War and Revolution**

In 1914 Russia entered World War I. The country suffered huge losses in the war. In addition, the Russian people experienced severe shortages of food. When the czar seemed to ignore the people's hardship, they rose up against him. He was forced to give up his throne in 1917.

Later that year the Bolsheviks, a radical Russian Communist group, seized power in the Russian Revolution. They then killed the czar and his family. In 1922 the Bolsheviks formed a new country, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), or the Soviet Union. It soon included 15 republics, the strongest of which was Russia. The first leader was Vladimir Lenin.
The Soviet Union

The Soviet Union, led by Lenin, became a Communist country. In this political system, the government owns all property and controls all aspects of life. In 1924 Lenin died. Joseph Stalin took power, ruling as a brutal and paranoid dictator.

The Soviet Union under Stalin

Under Stalin, the Soviet Union set up a command economy. In this system, the government owns all businesses and farms and makes all decisions. People were told what to make and how much to charge. Without competition, though, efficiency and the quality of goods fell over time.

The Soviet Union strictly controlled its people as well as its economy. Stalin had anyone who spoke out against the government jailed, exiled, or killed. Millions of people were sent to gulags, harsh Soviet labor camps often located in Siberia.

Cold War and Collapse

During World War II, the Soviet Union fought with the Allies against Germany. Millions of Soviet citizens died in the war. Stalin’s reaction to the war was to build a buffer around the Soviet Union to protect it from invasion. To do so, he set up Communist governments in Eastern Europe.

The United States opposed communism and saw its spread as a threat to democracy. This opposition led to the Cold War, a period of tense rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States. The two rival countries became superpowers as they competed to have superior weapons.

In part because of the high costs of weapons, the Soviet economy was near collapse by the 1980s. Mikhail Gorbachev (GAWR-buh-chawf), the Soviet leader, began making changes. He reduced government control and introduced some democracy. Despite his actions, the Soviet republics began pushing for independence. In 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed. It broke apart into 15 independent countries, including Russia. The Soviet Union was no more.

Reading Check

Analyzing How did the Cold War help lead to the Soviet Union’s collapse?

Culture

In the Soviet Union, the government had controlled culture just like everything else. Today, however, Russian culture is once again alive and vibrant.

People and Religion

Russia is big and diverse, with more than 140 million people. About 80 percent are ethnic Russians, or Slavs, but Russia also has many other ethnic groups. The largest are the Tatars and Ukrainians. Russia’s many ethnic groups are once again taking great pride in their cultures.

Like ethnic culture, religious worship has seen a revival. The Soviet government opposed religion and closed many houses of worship. Today many have reopened, including historic Russian cathedrals with their onion-shaped domes. The main faith is Russian Orthodox Christian. Other religions include Islam, Buddhism, and other forms of Christianity.

Customs

Russian history has shaped its customs, such as holidays. Religious holidays, like Easter and Christmas, are popular. The main family holiday is New Year’s Eve. To celebrate this holiday, families decorate a tree where, according to Russian folklore, Grandfather Frost and his helper the Snow Maiden leave gifts. A newer holiday is Russian Independence Day, which marks the end of the Soviet Union on June 12.
St. Basil’s Cathedral

Colorful St. Basil’s Cathedral, in Moscow’s Red Square, has become a symbol of Russia. Czar Ivan IV had the cathedral built between 1555 and 1561 in honor of Russian military victories. According to legend, Ivan had the architects blinded so they could never design anything else as magnificent.

In 1588 a chapel was added for the tomb of St. Basil the Blessed, a popular saint in Russia. In time, his name became linked to the cathedral.

St. Basil’s Cathedral houses nine small, separate chapels.

Onion-shaped domes, based on Byzantine designs, decorate many early Russian churches.

Steeply sloped towers, called tent roofs, and onion-shaped domes easily shed snow.

Besides onion domes, what other shapes and patterns are visible on the cathedral?
Russia has made great contributions in the arts and sciences. In the performing arts, Russia’s ballet companies are world famous for their skill. In music, Peter Tchaikovsky (chy-KAWF-skee) is Russia’s most famous composer. His many works include The Nutcracker ballet and the 1812 Overture.

In the material arts, Russia’s Fabergé eggs are priceless. Gifts for the czars, these eggs are made of precious metals and covered with gems such as emeralds and rubies. Each egg opens to reveal a tiny surprise.

In the sciences, Russia has contributed to space research. In 1957 the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite in space. Russian scientists now help work on the International Space Station.

**Reading Check**  
Generalizing How did the end of the Soviet Union affect Russian culture?

**Summary and Preview**  
The history of Russia, from a great empire to a Communist superpower to a new nation, has shaped its rich culture. Next, you will read about life in Russia today.

**Communist-era Poster**  
The Soviet Union used posters as propaganda. Propaganda is information designed to promote a specific cause or idea by influencing people’s thoughts and beliefs. For example, Soviet posters often promoted the greatness and power of the Soviet state, its leaders, and their Communist policies.

**Primary Source**  
**Communist-era Poster**

The Soviet Union used posters as propaganda. Propaganda is information designed to promote a specific cause or idea by influencing people’s thoughts and beliefs. For example, Soviet posters often promoted the greatness and power of the Soviet state, its leaders, and their Communist policies.

The message of this 1924 poster reads, “Long live the Young Communist League! The young are taking over the older generation’s torch!”

The color red in this poster symbolizes communism and the Russian Revolution.

**Analysis Skill**  
**Analyzing Primary Sources**

How do you think the poster’s images and message influenced Soviet teens at the time?

**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **a. Define** Who were the czars?
   **b. Analyze** What role did the city of Kiev play in Russian history?
   **c. Elaborate** What problems and events caused the Russian Empire to decline?

2. **a. Identify** Why are Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin significant in Russian history?
   **b. Evaluate** Do you think life in the Soviet Union was an improvement over life in the Russian empire? Why, or why not?

3. **a. Recall** What is the main religion in Russia?
   **b. Summarize** How has Russian culture changed since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Sequencing** Draw a chart like the one here. Use your notes to list the order of the major events leading up to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**Focus on Writing**

5. **Considering Russia’s History and Culture** Look at the locations you listed for Section 1. For the Russian locations, make notes about historical or cultural details you could include in your ad.
Interpreting a Population Map

Learn
Population maps give you a snapshot of the distribution of people in a region or country. Each color on a population map represents an average number of people living within a square mile or square kilometer. Sometimes symbols identify the cities with populations of a certain size. The map’s legend identifies what the colors and symbols in the map mean.

Practice
1. Based on the map below, in which region of Russia do most of the country’s people live?
2. Which two cities in Russia have the largest population?
3. How many Russian cities have more than 1 million people?

Apply
Use an atlas to locate a current population map of the United States. Using the map, identify where the most and the least populated regions of the United States are. Then identify the number of U.S. cities or metropolitan areas with more than 2 million people.
Russia Today

**If YOU lived there...**
You live in St. Petersburg, a city of beautiful palaces and canals. You are looking forward to the end of school, when your family will go to their dacha, a cottage in the country. In midsummer, when the nights are long and the sun never really sets, you will go to concerts and other celebrations of the “White Nights” in your city.

**What do you like about living in St. Petersburg?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** Russians have always had a special feeling for the countryside, from the wheat fields and birch forests in the west to the endless grasslands of the steppe. But Russia’s great cities are exciting, too, with many shops, museums, and events.

**The Russian Federation**
For decades, the Soviet Union reigned as a superpower, with Russia as its strongest republic. Then in 1991 the Soviet Union broke apart. Russia’s leaders had to create a new government as they struggled to change from communism to democracy.

**Government**
The Russian Federation is a federal republic, a system in which power is divided between national and local governments. The voters elect a president to serve as the country’s chief executive, Russia’s most powerful official. The president appoints a prime minister to serve as the head of the government. A legislature, called the Federal Assembly, makes the country’s laws.

Increased democracy has led to more freedom for Russians. Voters can choose from several political parties. Information flows more freely. The government no longer seeks to control every aspect of life. In addition, the move toward democracy has improved relations between Russia and Western nations.

Changing to a democratic system has been difficult, though. Problems such as government corruption, or dishonesty, have slowed the development of a free society in Russia. Time will tell whether Russia will continue to grow as a democracy.

**Main Ideas**
1. The Russian Federation is working to develop democracy and a market economy.
2. Russia’s physical geography, cities, and economy define its many culture regions.
3. Russia faces a number of serious challenges.

**Key Terms and Places**
dachas, p. 389
St. Petersburg, p. 390
smelters, p. 391
Trans-Siberian Railroad, p. 391
Chechnya, p. 392

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on Russia today.
Economy
With the move to democracy, Russia also began shifting to a market economy. This type of economy is based on free trade and competition. Today the Russian government has greatly reduced its control of the economy, and most businesses and farms are now privately owned. These changes have led to economic growth. At the same time, most of Russia’s wealth is now in the hands of a small number of people.

Today Russia produces and exports oil, natural gas, timber, metals, and chemicals. Heavy industry, such as machinery, is still important. However, light industry, such as clothing and electronics, has grown. Furthermore, service industries now make up the largest part of Russia’s economy.

In agriculture, Russia is now a major grower and exporter of grains. Other major crops are fruits, potatoes, and sugar beets.

City and Rural Life
The changes sweeping Russia are visible in its cities. More restaurants and shopping centers are available. Stores offer a wider range of consumer goods, such as TVs. Some Russians have become wealthy and can afford luxuries. In fact, in 2005 Russia had more billionaires than any other European country. Nevertheless, the average Russian’s standard of living remains low.

About 75 percent of all Russians live in cities. Most of these people live in small apartments in high-rise buildings. In rural areas, more people live in houses.

Although most Russians live in cities, they still have access to nature. Cities often have large parks and wooded areas in and around them. Many richer Russians own dachas, or Russian country houses, where they can garden and enjoy the fresh air.

READING CHECK Summarizing How has Russia changed since it became independent?
The Moscow Region

Moscow is Russia’s capital and largest city. The sprawling, modern city has wide boulevards and large public squares. Its many cultural attractions include the world-famous Bolshoi Ballet and Moscow Circus.

At Moscow’s heart is the Kremlin, the center of Russia’s government. In Russian, *kremlin* means “fortress.” The Kremlin consists of several buildings surrounded by a wall and towers. The buildings include not only government offices but also palaces, museums, and gold-domed churches.

Next to the Kremlin is Red Square, an immense plaza. It is lined by many famous landmarks, such as St. Basil’s Cathedral.

The Moscow region is Russia’s most important economic area, and its factories produce a wide range of goods. The city is also a transportation center and links by road, rail, and plane to all parts of Russia.

The St. Petersburg Region

St. Petersburg reflects Russians’ desire for Western ways. Peter the Great founded the city and styled it after those of Western Europe. For some 200 years, St. Petersburg served as Russia’s capital and home to the czars. It features wide avenues, grand palaces, and numerous canals. Theaters and museums enrich the city’s cultural life.
The Ural Mountains are an important mining region and produce nearly every major mineral. Smelters, factories that process metal ores, process copper and iron. The Urals region is also known for gems and semiprecious stones.

**Siberia**

East of the Urals lies the vast expanse of Siberia. In the Tatar language, Siberia means “Sleeping Land.” Siberian winters are long and severe. As you have read, much of the land lies frozen or buried under snow for most or all of the year. The remote region has many valuable resources, but accessing them in the harsh climate is difficult.

Siberia’s main industries are lumber, mining, and oil production. Large coal deposits are mined in southwest Siberia. Rivers produce hydroelectric power. The southern steppes, where the weather is warmer, are Siberia’s main farmlands.

Because of Siberia’s harsh climate, jobs there pay high wages. Even so, few people choose to live in Siberia. Most towns and cities are in the western and southern parts of the region. These cities tend to follow the Trans-Siberian Railroad. This rail line runs from Moscow to Vladivostok on the east coast, and is the longest single rail line in the world.

**The Russian Far East**

Russia has a long coastline on the Pacific Ocean. There, in the Russian Far East, much land remains heavily forested. In the few cities, factories process forest and mineral resources. Farming occurs in the Amur River valley. The city of Vladivostok is a naval base and the area’s main seaport. Islands off the coast provide oil, minerals, and commercial fishing.

St. Petersburg’s location on the Gulf of Finland has made the city a major port and trade center. This northern location also produces “White Nights,” a period during summer when it never gets totally dark.

**The Volga and Urals Regions**

The Volga River and Ural Mountains are the third and fourth culture regions. The broad Volga is a major shipping route. Dams along its course form lakes and provide hydroelectric power. Factories in the area process oil and gas. In addition, a site on the Caspian Sea provides fish called sturgeon. The eggs of this fish are called black caviar, which is a costly delicacy, or rare and valued food.
Second, Russia’s population is falling, as you can see in the graph. More Russians are dying than are being born. One reason is that many Russians cannot afford good health care.

Third, the Soviet government did little to prevent pollution. As a result pollution, such as industrial chemicals, has seriously harmed Russia’s environment. The government must now repair the damage.

Last, Russia faces ethnic conflicts. One of the worst is in the Russian republic of Chechnya (CHECH-nyah) in the Caucasus Mountains. Some people in this Muslim area want independence. Fighting and terrorism there have caused many deaths.

**Russia’s Challenges**

Although Russia has made great progress since 1991, challenges remain. First, Russia’s shift to a market economy has not been without problems. For example, prices and unemployment have risen, and the gap between rich and poor has widened.

**Summary and Preview** As you have read, Russia is a federal republic working to build a market economy. The west is Russia’s heartland, but Siberia has many valuable resources. In the next section, you will read about the Caucasus.
About the Reading  In The Endless Steppe, an autobiographical novel, Esther Hautzig writes about her own experiences as a teenage girl. In the novel, the girl Esther is from a wealthy Jewish family in Poland. In 1941 her family is deported to a labor camp in Siberia. In the excerpt below, Esther and her family are on the train to Siberia. She is dreading their destination.

AS YOU READ  Think about what Esther feels as she watches the passing landscape. What ideas does she already have about life in Siberia?

The flatness of this land was awesome. There wasn’t a hill in sight; it was an enormous, unrippled sea of parched and lifeless grass.

“Tata, why is the earth so flat here?”

“These must be steppes, Esther.”

“Steppes? But steppes are in Siberia.”

“This is Siberia,” he said quietly.

If I had been told that I had been transported to the moon, I could not have been more stunned.

“Siberia?” My voice trembled. “But Siberia is full of snow.”

“It will be,” my father said. 1

Siberia! Siberia was the end of the world, a point of no return. Siberia was for criminals and political enemies, where the punishment was unbelievably cruel, and where people died like flies. 2

Summer or no summer—and who had ever talked about hot Siberia?—Siberia was the tundra and mountainous drifts of snow. Siberia was wolves.

Guided Reading

WORD HELP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deported</td>
<td>forced to leave a country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parched</td>
<td>very thirsty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tata</td>
<td>Polish word that means “daddy” or “papa”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steppes</td>
<td>vast, grassy plains in southern Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tundra</td>
<td>in subarctic climates, an almost treeless plain with permanently frozen subsoil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Analyzing  Russian soldiers took Esther’s family from their home in Poland to work in Siberia. How do you think this fact affects Esther’s feelings as she views the landscape of Siberia from the train?

2. Drawing Inferences  Why do you think Siberia was chosen as a place of exile? What made it a punishment to live there?
The Caucasus

If YOU lived there...

You live in Tbilisi, the capital of the country of Georgia. Several years ago, your sister and her college friends joined the Rose Revolution, a political protest that forced a corrupt president to resign. The protestors’ symbol was a red rose. Since the protest, you have become more interested in politics.

What kind of government do you want?

Building Background

Georgia is one of three republics in the area called the Caucasus. In 1991, when the Soviet Union ended, the Caucasus republics gained independence. Since then, the republics have struggled to become democracies with market economies.

History

The Caucasus lies in the rugged Caucasus Mountains between the Black and Caspian seas. Located where Europe blends into Asia, the Caucasus reflects a range of cultural influences. At one time or another, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols have all ruled or invaded the area. The Russians took control of much of the Caucasus in the early 1800s.

Russian control in the Caucasus did not include what is now western Armenia. The Ottoman Turks held this area. Over time, the Turks grew to distrust the Armenians, however, and in the late 1800s began abusing and killing them. During World War I (1914–1918), the Turks forced all Armenians to leave. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians died during this ethnic cleansing, or attempt to remove an ethnic group. The Turks lost World War I, though, and had to give up western Armenia.

After World War I, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia gained independence—but not for long. By the early 1920s they were part of the vast Soviet Union. Finally in 1991, when the Soviet Union fell, the Caucasus republics achieved true independence.

Reading Check

Finding Main Ideas Why do the countries in the Caucasus reflect a range of cultural influences?
The Caucasus Today

The Caucasus may have a long history, but the Caucasus countries do not. Like other former Soviet republics, these young countries have had to create new governments and economies. Meanwhile, ethnic unrest and conflicts have slowed progress.

The Caucasus republics have similar governments. An elected president governs each nation, and an appointed prime minister runs each government. An elected parliament, or legislature, makes the laws.

Georgia

The country of Georgia lies in the Caucasus Mountains east of the Black Sea. Tbilisi is the capital. About 70 percent of the people are ethnic Georgians, and most belong to the Georgian Orthodox Church. The official language is Georgian, a unique language with its own alphabet. However, many other languages are also spoken.

Since 1991 Georgia has struggled with unrest and civil war. In 2003 Georgians forced out their president in the peaceful Rose Revolution. Meanwhile, ethnic groups in northern Georgia were fighting for independence. Because these groups now hold parts of northern Georgia, division and unrest continues.

Although unrest has hurt Georgia’s economy, international aid is helping it improve. Georgia’s economy is based on services and farming. Major crops include citrus fruits, grapes, and tea. In addition, Georgia produces steel and mines copper and manganese. Georgia is also famous for its wines. The Black Sea is a resort area, and tourism contributes to the economy, too.

Armenia

South of Georgia is the small, landlocked country of Armenia. The tiny country is slightly larger than the state of Maryland. Yerevan (yer-uh-VAHN) is the capital. Almost all the people are ethnic Armenian. Armenia prides itself as being the first country to adopt Christianity, and most people belong to the Armenian Orthodox Church.
In the early 1990s, Armenia fought a bitter war with its neighbor Azerbaijan. The war involved an area of Azerbaijan where most people are ethnic Armenian. Armenia wanted this area to become part of its country. Although a cease-fire stopped the fighting in 1994, Armenian armed forces still control the area. The issue remained unsettled as of the early 2000s.

This conflict has greatly hurt Armenia’s economy. However, international aid is helping Armenia’s economy recover and expand. For example, diamond processing is now a growing industry in Armenia.

**Azerbaijan**

East of Armenia is Azerbaijan. In contrast to the other Caucasus republics, Azerbaijan is largely Muslim. The Azeri (uh-ZE-ree) make up 90 percent of the population.

Azerbaijan’s economy is based on oil, found along and under the Caspian Sea. Baku, the capital, is the center of a large oil-refining industry. This industry has led to strong economic growth. Corruption is high, though; and many people are poor. In addition, Azerbaijan has many refugees as a result of its conflict with Armenia.

**Summary**

The Caucasus republics face challenges but are working to develop democracy and build their economies.

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**Focus on Reading**

What general statements can you make about the Caucasus as a whole?

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**FOCUS ON WRITING**

**4. Collecting Details about the Caucasus**

You have narrowed Russian locations to one possibility. What features do the Caucasus countries have that might be attractive to potential buyers? Identify one Caucasus location you might use in your ad.
Russia is an immense, cold country with plains, mountains, and forest. The Caucasus is a small, mountainous area. With a long history and a rich culture, Russia ranges from large modern cities to the vast plains and forests of Siberia. The three small Caucasus republics lie between the Black and Caspian seas, and face ethnic unrest and conflict.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

For each statement below, write T if it is true and F if it is false. If the statement is false, replace the boldfaced term with one that makes the sentence a true statement.

1. The **Caucasus Mountains** separate European Russia from Asian Russia.
2. Russia’s capital and largest city is **St. Petersburg**.
3. The Caucasus is bordered by the Black Sea to the west and **Lake Baikal** to the east.
4. Under the rule of the **Bolsheviks**, the Russian Empire expanded in size and power.
5. Much of the country of Georgia is located in the high, rugged **Ural Mountains**.
6. Many wealthier Russians have country houses, which are called **gulags**.
7. Russia’s main government buildings are located in the **Kremlin** in Moscow.
8. Russia’s culture regions differ in **features** such as cities, natural resources, and economic activity.

9. **Moscow** is a major port and was once home to Russia’s czars.
10. The capital city of Armenia is **Yerevan**.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

**SECTION 1** (Pages 378–381)

11. a. **Recall** What is Russia’s most important river, and to what major bodies of water does it link?
   b. **Identify Cause and Effect** How does Russia’s location affect its climate?
   c. **Elaborate** Why might developing the many natural resources in Siberia be difficult?

**SECTION 2** (Pages 382–386)

12. a. **Identify** Who was Joseph Stalin?
   b. **Summarize** How has Russia contributed to world culture?
   c. **Elaborate** How was the end of the Soviet Union similar to the end of the Russian Empire?
SECTION 3 (Pages 388–392)

13. a. **Identify** What four culture regions make up the Russian heartland?
   
   b. **Compare and Contrast** How are Moscow and St. Petersburg similar and different?
   
   c. **Elaborate** How might Siberia help make Russia an economic success?

SECTION 4 (Pages 394–396)

14. a. **Recall** What is the capital of each of the Caucasus republics?
   
   b. **Compare** What do the three Caucasus countries have in common?
   
   c. **Elaborate** What issues and challenges do the Caucasus countries need to address to improve their economies?

**Using the Internet**

15. **Activity: Making a Map** The Trans-Siberian Railroad is the longest single rail line in the world. Climb aboard in Moscow and travel all the way across Russia. Through your online textbook, research the people, places, and history along the railroad’s route. Then create an illustrated map of your journey. On the map, show the train’s route, indicate the places where you stopped, and include images and descriptions about what you saw.

**Social Studies Skills**

**Interpreting a Population Map** Use a good atlas to find a population map of Europe. The map does not need to include Russia. Use the map to answer the following questions. Do not include the country of Russia when answering the questions.

16. Not including the cities of Russia, how many cities or metropolitan areas in Europe have more than 2 million people?

17. Not including Russia, which regions of Europe are the most populated? Which regions of Europe are the least populated?

**Map Activity**

18. **Russia and the Caucasus** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   - Caucasus Mountains
   - Caspian Sea
   - Kamchatka Peninsula
   - Moscow, Russia
   - St. Petersburg, Russia

   - Ural Mountains
   - Vladivostok, Russia
   - Volga River
   - West Siberian Plain

19. **Making Generalizations** Examine the information in Section 3 about the four culture regions that make up Russia’s heartland. Based on the specific information about these regions, make two generalizations about western Russia.

20. **Creating a Real Estate Ad** Review your notes about locations in Russia and the Caucasus. Choose one location for the real estate you are selling. What are its best features? How would you describe the land and climate? What are the benefits of living there? If it is a building, what does it look like? What is nearby? Answer these questions in your real estate ad. Remember to include details that will make the property attractive to possible buyers.
Standardized Test Prep

DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. Which word below best describes Russia’s overall climate?
   A. Cold
   B. Dry
   C. Hot
   D. Wet

2. What is the name of the vast forest that covers much of Russia?
   A. Siberia
   B. Steppe
   C. Taiga
   D. Tundra

3. What was the name of the second Soviet leader, who ruled as a brutal dictator?
   A. Ivan III
   B. Ivan the Terrible
   C. Vladimir Lenin
   D. Joseph Stalin

4. The majority of Russians are descended from the
   A. Bolsheviks.
   B. Slavs.
   C. Tatars.
   D. Ukrainians.

5. What are the Caucasus countries?
   A. Armenia, Moscow, and St. Petersburg
   B. Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Russia
   C. Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia
   D. Georgia, Moscow, and Russia

6. Based on the map above, which of the following climates is found along part of the coast of the Black Sea?
   A. Humid subtropical
   B. Mediterranean
   C. Steppe
   D. Tropical Savanna

7. What year did the Soviet Union collapse and break apart into 15 independent republics?
   A. 1990
   B. 1991
   C. 2000
   D. 2001

8. Extended Response  Examine the Section 3 map of Russia’s culture regions. Based on the map, describe how the physical geography in three of the culture regions contributes to the economic activity in those regions.
A Biographical Narrative

People have shaped the world. Who are the important people in history? What were the critical events in their lives? How did geography or location affect those events? These are questions we ask as we try to understand our world.

1. Prewrite
Choose a Topic
- Choose a person who affected European or Russian history in some way.
- Choose a specific event or incident in the person’s life. For example, you might choose Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

Gather and Organize Information
- Look for information about your topic in the library or on the Internet. Book-length biographies about the person are a good source.
- Identify the parts of the event. Organize them in chronological, or time, order. Note details about people, actions, and the location of the event.

2. Write
Use a Writer’s Framework

A Writer’s Framework

Introduction
- Introduce the person and the event.
- Identify the importance of the event.

Body
- Write at least one paragraph for each major part of the event. Include specific details.
- Use chronological, or time, order to organize the parts of the event.

Conclusion
- Summarize the importance of the person and event in the final paragraph.

3. Evaluate and Revise
Review and Improve Your Paper
- Read your first draft at least twice, and then use the questions below to evaluate your paper.
- Make the changes needed to improve your paper.

Evaluation Questions for a Biographical Narrative
1. Do you introduce the person and event and identify the importance of each?
2. Do you have one paragraph for each major part of the event?
3. Do you include specific details about people, actions, and location?
4. Do you use chronological order, the order in time, to organize the parts of the event?
5. Do you end the paper with a summary of the importance of the person and event?

4. Proofread and Publish
Give Your Explanation the Finishing Touch
- Make sure your transitional phrases—such as then, next, later, or finally—help clarify the order of the actions that took place.
- Make sure you capitalized all proper names.
- You can share your biographical narrative by reading it aloud in class or adding it to a class collection of biographies.

5. Practice and Apply
Use the steps and strategies outlined in this workshop to write your biographical narrative. Share your work with others, comparing and contrasting the importance of the people and events.

Assignment
Write a biographical narrative about a significant event in the life of a historical figure such as Queen Isabella, Martin Luther, Napoleon, or Mikhail Gorbachev.