

Finn's European Expedition: A Geographical Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and classify European countries, capital cities, and key physical features, whilst developing an understanding of the continent's diverse geography.

Finn the dolphin has been busy mapping the continent of Europe. Below is a list of geographical features, cities, and countries. Your task is to sort these items into three distinct categories: 'Countries', 'Capital Cities', and 'Physical Landmarks'. Once you have categorised them, use the information to justify your placement of these items within the European continent.

Word bank: France · The Alps · Berlin · Italy · River Thames · Madrid · Norway · Mount Elbrus · Paris · The Mediterranean Sea · Rome · Germany

1. Sort the items from the word bank into the correct category table. Explain why you classified 'The Alps' as a physical landmark rather than a country. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the geography of Norway (in Northern Europe) and Italy (in Southern Europe). How might their climates differ? (3 marks)

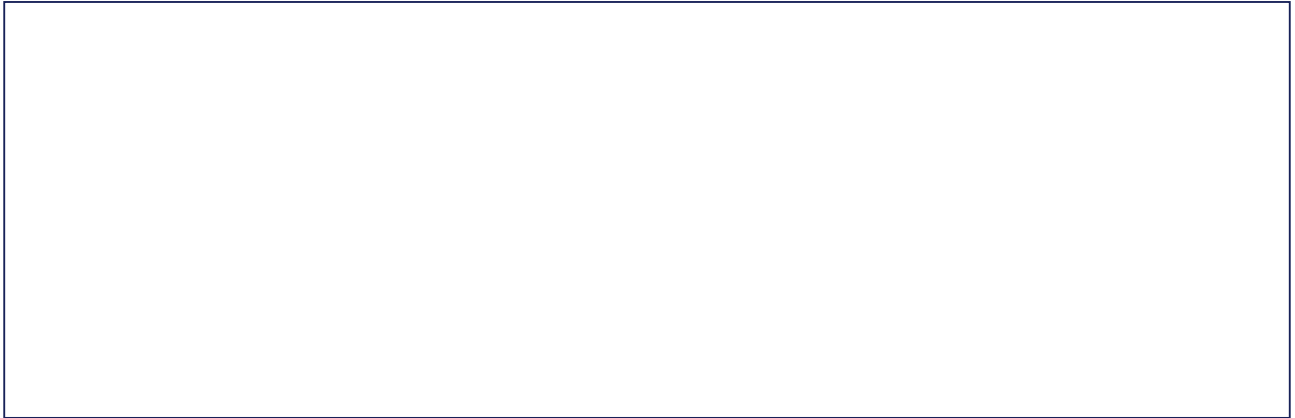
3. If a traveller wanted to visit the capital city of France, which city would they be heading to? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if the Mediterranean Sea were to dry up? Consider the impact on the countries that border it. (3 marks)

5. Select one country from your list. If you were planning a school trip there, what is one physical landmark you would visit and why? (2 marks)

6. Justify why it is important for geographers to distinguish between a country and a capital city when creating maps. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of a map of Europe. Include at least two countries, two capital cities, and one physical landmark from your word bank, adding labels to identify each one.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a travel writer for Finn's Explorer Magazine. Write a short, persuasive paragraph (3–5 sentences) encouraging tourists to visit a specific country in Europe, highlighting one physical feature and one cultural aspect.