

Exploring the Continent: A European Journey with Finn

Learning objective: To identify, locate, and describe the physical and human geographical features of Europe, including major countries, capitals, and mountain ranges.

Use your knowledge of European geography to answer the questions below. Think carefully about the locations of countries and how their landscapes differ.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the waters around Europe. He has swum from the icy northern coasts near Scandinavia down to the warm Mediterranean Sea. Along the way, he has observed the towering mountain ranges, bustling cities, and the many different countries that make up this diverse continent.

Word bank: continent · capital city · Alps · Mediterranean · human geography · physical features · latitude · border

1. Identify three European countries and their respective capital cities. Explain why it is useful for a country to have a capital city. (4 marks)

2. The Alps are a major mountain range in Europe. Compare and contrast the physical geography of a high mountain region with that of a coastal region. (3 marks)

3. If you were to travel from the United Kingdom to Italy, which cardinal directions would you be moving in? Justify your answer by visualising a map of Europe. (2 marks)

4. Explain why the climate in Southern Europe is typically warmer than the climate in Northern Europe. Consider the role of latitude in your answer. (3 marks)

5. Imagine a new country is formed in Europe. What physical features would you want your country to have, and why would these be beneficial for trade or tourism? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw an outline map of Europe. Label the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and one major mountain range. Add a symbol in the Mediterranean Sea to show where Finn the dolphin is currently swimming.



Extension challenge: Research a European country of your choice. Create a 'Travel Fact File' that includes its currency (£ is not used in all European countries, find out which ones do!), its main language, one famous human landmark, and one natural physical feature. What might happen to the economy of a country if it relied solely on tourism?