

Exploring Europe with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify key geographical features of Europe and understand its diversity in climate and terrain.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences and refer to the text to support your answers.

Europe is a fascinating continent, bordered by the Arctic Ocean to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Finn the dolphin loves navigating these diverse waters, from the icy fjords of Norway to the sun-drenched coastlines of Greece. Unlike larger continents, Europe is essentially a giant peninsula made up of many smaller peninsulas. Its physical geography is remarkably varied; the soaring, snow-capped peaks of the Alps stretch across several countries, providing a dramatic contrast to the vast, flat plains of the east. Because of the North Atlantic Drift, much of Western Europe enjoys a temperate climate, which is milder than other regions at similar latitudes. This climate supports a rich tapestry of ecosystems, from dense pine forests to rolling vineyards. Throughout history, the landscape has shaped how people live, trade, and travel. From the bustling ports of the west to the ancient mountain passes, Europe's geography remains a vital puzzle. Finn often marvels at how such a relatively small landmass can contain such an incredible variety of cultures, languages, and natural wonders, all packed into one interconnected region.

Word bank: continent · peninsula · terrain · diversity · temperate · latitude

1. Identify two bodies of water that border Europe according to the text. (2 marks)

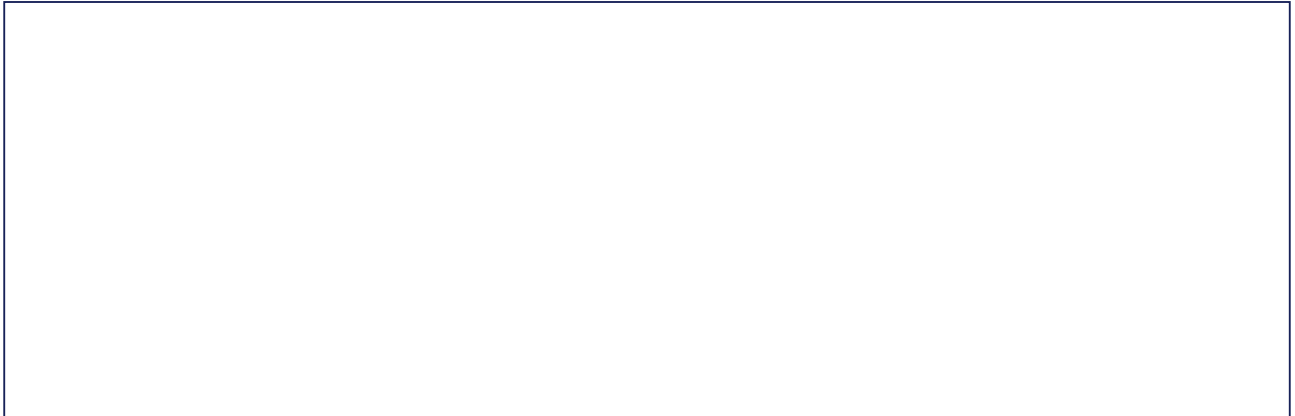
2. What is the North Atlantic Drift, and what effect does it have on Western Europe? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe Europe as a 'giant peninsula made up of many smaller peninsulas'? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the climate in Western Europe might be different from other regions located at the same latitude. (3 marks)

5. Do you think the varied landscape of Europe has helped or hindered the development of trade? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Europe highlighting three distinct geographical features mentioned in the text, such as the Alps, a northern fjord, or a southern coastline.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast Europe with another continent of your choice. In a short paragraph, explain how their physical geography (mountains, rivers, and climate) influences the way people live there. Then, justify whether you think Europe's size makes it easier or harder to govern compared to a larger continent.