

Exploring the Continent of Europe with Finn

Learning objective: To identify, locate, and compare the physical and human geographical features of European countries, demonstrating an understanding of how landscapes influence settlement.

Use your atlas and geographical knowledge to answer the following questions. Provide detailed explanations where required to show your understanding of European geography.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the coastlines of Europe. From the frozen fjords of the north to the sun-drenched Mediterranean shores, Europe is a continent of incredible variety. Its physical geography includes mountain ranges like the Alps and vast plains, while its human geography is defined by diverse languages, historic cities, and complex trade networks. Finn wants to know if you can navigate the complexities of this continent.

Word bank: tundra · peninsula · longitude · latitude · urbanisation · topography · archipelago · climate · boreal · infrastructure

1. Explain why many of Europe's major capital cities were historically established along major river systems. Consider the benefits for trade and transport. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the climate of Southern Europe (such as Greece or Spain) with Northern Europe (such as Norway or Sweden). How does this affect the lifestyle of the people living there? (4 marks)

3. Europe is often described as a 'peninsula of peninsulas'. Justify this statement by describing the physical shape of the continent and the surrounding bodies of water. (3 marks)

4. If a new country were to be formed in the centre of Europe, what might happen to the current trade and transport routes of neighbouring nations? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. Identify two major mountain ranges in Europe and explain how their topography creates barriers for human settlement or travel. (2 marks)

6. Evaluate the impact of high levels of urbanisation on the natural landscape of Western Europe. What are the potential consequences for biodiversity? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch map of Europe. Label the Arctic Circle, the Prime Meridian, the Alps, and at least three major seas that surround the continent.



Extension challenge: Research a European country that has a unique physical feature (e.g., a volcanic landscape, a delta, or a massive fjord). Write a persuasive paragraph explaining why a tourist should visit, focusing specifically on how the physical geography creates a unique experience compared to the UK.