

Exploring the Continent of Europe

Learning objective: To understand the geographical location and diverse physical features of Europe.

Read the passage carefully about Europe and answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences.

Finn the dolphin loves to travel along the coastlines of Europe, a continent known for its incredible variety of landscapes. Europe is the second smallest continent in the world, yet it is home to over 40 different countries. To the north, the climate is much colder, featuring icy tundra, while the southern regions enjoy the warm, sunny weather of the Mediterranean. Europe is bordered by the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. One of the most famous physical features is the Alps, a massive mountain range that stretches across several countries, including France, Switzerland, and Italy. Because the coastline is so jagged and irregular, many countries act as peninsulas, surrounded by water on three sides. From the busy, historic cities to the quiet, rolling countryside, Europe is a place where geography changes dramatically over short distances. Finn finds that the best way to understand Europe is to look at a map and trace the winding rivers and vast forests that connect its unique nations.

Word bank: continent · mountain range · peninsula · diverse · tundra · Mediterranean

1. Name the three bodies of water that border the continent of Europe. (2 marks)

2. Which mountain range is mentioned in the text as stretching across countries like France and Italy? (1 mark)

3. Why might the climate in the north of Europe be different to the climate in the south? (2 marks)

4. What does the author mean when they describe the European coastline as 'jagged and irregular'? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning a holiday to Europe, would you prefer to visit the icy north or the sunny Mediterranean? Explain your choice using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Europe including the Alps mountain range, the Mediterranean Sea, and a small picture of Finn the dolphin swimming off the coast.



Extension challenge: Research one European country not mentioned in the text. Find out its capital city, the language spoken there, and one famous landmark.