

# Y6 Geography: Europe

## Prior learning that will help me

- Identify the Prime Meridian as a significant line of longitude and understand world time zones in relation to this.
- Recall and describe major climate zones (Year 4); recall key learning from Rivers and Mountains study (Year 5).
- Understand how physical geography (such as mountains and rivers) can affect the way of life in a region.
- Use geographical terms to compare contrasting localities

## The European Union (EU)



The European Union is a collection of 27 countries that share many laws, and a 'free trade' agreement about the shipment of goods between member countries.

- Citizens of the EU can travel freely between member countries for holidays, or to live and work.
- 20 EU countries also use the same currency (the Euro), so there is no need to use different money when trading goods, when travelling for work or when going on holiday.

## Key Vocabulary

**European, continent, country, Mediterranean Sea, Ural mountains, Volga River, Caspian Sea, Caucasus mountains, The Alps, Mount Elbrus, Russia, transcontinental, political, population, border, diverse, contrast, climate, biome, land use, natural resources, economy, distribution, European Union, democracy, monarchy, Westminster, Moscow, the Kremlin, St. Petersburg**



- Europe is bordered by the North Atlantic Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and the continent of Asia, with the Ural Mountains in Russia marking the boundary between Europe and Asia.
- Europe is officially made up of 44 countries, including: the UK (London), France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Spain (Madrid), Western Russia (Moscow).
- Cyprus (an island in the Mediterranean and a member of the European Union) and Kosovo (a 'disputed territory' that declared independence from Serbia in 2008) also want to be counted as part of Europe.
- Of the six inhabited continents, Europe has the third largest population (745 million) but only the fifth largest area (almost 4 million square miles).

## Physical Geography:



The Volga (2,194 miles) is the longest river in Europe; it flows south through western Russia into the Caspian Sea – which is actually the largest lake in the world!

- Over one third of Europe is mountainous; the largest range is the Alps, and the highest peak there is Mont Blanc (4,804m), situated in France and Italy.
- The highest peak in Europe is Mount Elbrus (5,642m), in the Caucasus mountain range in Russia; it is in fact a dormant volcano, that last erupted around 2000 years ago.
- Europe has a diverse climate, ranging from the warm, dry Mediterranean in the south, to the Arctic Circle in the north - where you might spot the Northern Lights!

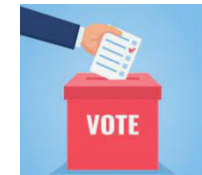


## Human Geography



Over one third of Europe is covered by forests. Agriculture accounts for around 40% of land use in Europe.

There are large natural resource (gas and oil) deposits in Russia, Norway and the North Sea.



Europe is a democratic continent; apart from Russia, Belarus and Hungary, citizens vote for their leaders. 12 European countries have a monarchy, but they also have a democratic government.

- There are over 250 'native' languages in Europe, though each country has 1, 2 or 3 official languages.
- Europe is home to some world-famous landmarks: the Eiffel Tower (Paris), the Colosseum (Rome), Red Square (Moscow), Tower Bridge (London).

