

SECTION  
**5**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Germany and the Alpine countries share common borders and a common language. They are linked in many ways.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

The Nordic countries have histories and cultures that are closely intertwined.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**Vikings** a seafaring Scandinavian people who raided northern and western Europe from the 9th to the 11th century

**Sami** people of northern Scandinavia who traditionally herd reindeer; also the name of their language

**ombudsman** an official who investigates citizens' complaints against the government

**welfare state** a social system in which the government provides for many of its citizens' needs

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**Nordic** relating to Scandinavia

### REVIEW

**hydroelectric power** electricity made by water-powered engines



**Visual Vocabulary** Sami with a reindeer

## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to help you organize important details about the Nordic countries.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R7

### CATEGORIZE

|         | Language | Government | Economy |
|---------|----------|------------|---------|
| Sweden  |          |            |         |
| Norway  |          |            |         |
| Finland |          |            |         |
| Denmark |          |            |         |
| Iceland |          |            |         |



**GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

Go to Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)



# The Nordic Countries

## Connecting to Your World

Who were the first Europeans to reach North America? Many think that Columbus and his crew were the first to do so. In fact, Leif Ericson, a Viking, was probably the first. According to an ancient account from Greenland, Ericson hoped to find a forested land glimpsed by an Icelandic trader and sailor. Ericson and his men sailed west from Greenland. They landed and spent the winter on the North American continent, at a place Ericson called Vinland.



Leif Ericson



## Sweden and Norway

**KEY QUESTION** Why do Sweden and Norway have so much in common?

Five nations in northernmost Europe make up the **Nordic**, or Scandinavian, countries: Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland. These lands were first settled thousands of years ago. Sweden and Norway share the same landmass, the Scandinavian Peninsula. Their histories are intertwined. Sweden and Norway were both influenced by the **Vikings**, seafaring Scandinavians who raided Europe from the 9th to the 11th century.

### Viking Ship

This Viking longship was recovered from a farm in Slagen, Norway, in 1904.



**History** The Vikings were some of the world's best sailors and ship-builders. They also were pirates and fierce warriors. During the three centuries that the Vikings lived in Scandinavia, they invaded much of Europe, as you can see from the map here.

## The Viking Invasions of Western Europe 820–941



### CONNECT Geography & History

- 1. Region** Where was the Viking homeland?
- 2. Movement** What was the southernmost city reached by the Vikings?

In the late 1000s, the Vikings converted to Christianity and settled down. Sweden and Norway became monarchies. Finland became part of Sweden in 1323. In 1397, Denmark's Queen Margaret formed a union with Sweden and Norway, which lasted until Sweden withdrew in 1523. Sweden had become a great power, often battling Denmark, Russia, and Poland for territory. In 1700, those three countries attacked Sweden. Sweden's king, Charles XII, fell in battle in 1718, bringing Sweden's domination to an end. In 1809, Sweden lost control of Finland to Russia.

Norway came under Sweden's control in 1814. In 1905, Sweden recognized Norway's independence. During the two world wars, Sweden and Norway remained neutral. However, during World War II, Norway was invaded and occupied by the Germans.

**Culture** Although Swedes and Norwegians speak different languages, Swedish and Norwegian are similar. As a result, speakers of the two languages often are able to communicate with each other. In both countries, Lutheranism is the official state religion. However, Swedes and Norwegians have the freedom to practice different religions.

In Sweden, Finns make up the largest immigrant population, while immigrants in Norway come from many nations. In the northern regions of Sweden and Norway, there is a large minority population of **Sami**,

whose traditional way of life involves caring for herds of reindeer. Their native language is also called Sami.

Because of their climates, Sweden and Norway are less densely populated than other European countries. Most people live in the countries' southern and central regions. About 80 percent of Swedes and 75 percent of Norwegians live in urban areas. Many people in both countries own vacation homes. Swedes and Norwegians enjoy outdoor sports year round. Skiing and ice skating are both popular.



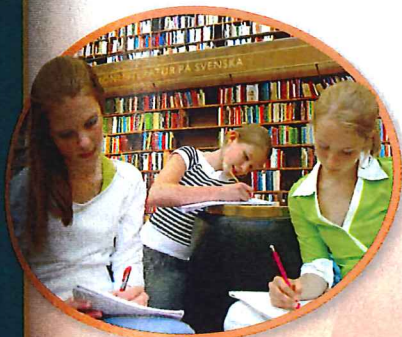
## A Day in Ulrika's Life

To learn more about Ulrika and her world, go to the Activity Center @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

**Hi! My name is Ulrika.** I am 14 years old and live in Uppsala, a city of 180,000 people. Uppsala is about 50 miles north of Stockholm, Sweden's capital. I like to read and play computer games. On the weekends, I leave the city with some of my friends to take horseback-riding lessons. Riding is really popular here. Of course, like you, I go to school. Here's what my day is usually like.

To introduce herself, Ulrika says:

**“Hello, mitt namn är Ulrika.”**



**School** At my school, all of our books and school supplies are free—even paper! We also get a free lunch every day. This year, one of my favorite classes is metal working. I'm making a modern sculpture for our yard.



**Break Time** We have a lot of breaks during the day. Usually, we go outside and play soccer, field hockey, or another game or sport. It's great to be able to go outdoors.



**After School** Today I'll be spending two hours at the hospital. No, I'm not sick! This is part of going to school here. In the eighth grade, we get to learn about different kinds of jobs. I want to be a doctor, so I work one afternoon a week at the hospital as an aide.



**Dinner Time** I'm meeting my family for dinner at my aunt and uncle's house. It's Thursday so I know what we're having—pea soup, with pancakes and lingonberries for dessert. That's a traditional Thursday meal in Sweden!

### CONNECT to Your Life

**Journal Entry** Do you know what kind of job you want when you're older? Would volunteering like Ulrika does help you decide? Record your thoughts in your journal.





### Scandinavian Design

Scandinavian design, known for its use of simple forms, has become popular in the United States.

**Government and Economics** Sweden and Norway are constitutional monarchies. Although both have monarchs, their prime ministers and cabinets hold most of the executive power. Both Sweden and Norway appoint ombudsmen to protect their citizens. An **ombudsman** investigates complaints against the government and makes sure that governmental power is not abused.

Sweden and Norway are welfare states. **Welfare states** use taxes to provide a wide range of services to their citizens. Families with children under age 16 are given money to care for them. Workers receive good retirement and unemployment plans.

Sweden has a highly industrialized economy. It also has a reputation for modern design, which has spread to other countries through two major Swedish companies, household goods store IKEA and clothing store H&M. Norway took longer to develop manufacturing because it did not have enough energy resources to power factories.

By 1900, Norway was able to use hydroelectric power from its rivers. Today, Norway also has access to North Sea oil. Sweden joined the European Union in 1995, but Norway's citizens voted not to join.

▼ **DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Explain why Sweden and Norway share so many similarities.



## Finland

▼ **KEY QUESTION** How did Finland's neighbors affect its history?

Finland's location between Sweden and Russia has played a major role in Finland's history. Both countries have influenced its culture.

**History and Culture** In 1155, Finland became part of Sweden. It remained under Swedish control until 1809, when Russia conquered Finland. In 1917, Finland gained its independence from Russia. During World War II, Finland had to fight off two invasions by the Soviet Union.

Because of its history, Finland's culture is strongly influenced by Sweden. Finland's two official languages are Finnish and Swedish. Most people in Finland are Finnish. Swedes make up the largest minority group. Small groups of Sami also live in Finland.

About three out of five Finns live in urban areas. Still, many of them find opportunities to enjoy outdoor recreation. With snow on the ground for almost half the year, sports like cross-country skiing and ice hockey are especially popular. Northern Finland even has reindeer races!



## Fun Facts!

### REINDEER RACING

What do you do when you've got snow on the ground and a herd of reindeer? If you're in Finland, you race! Each year, the Sami in northern Finland hold a championship reindeer race. Drivers on skis wearing aerodynamic outfits and helmets are harnessed to reindeer. They compete in races against the clock and against other jockeys.



**Government and Economics** Finland is a democratic republic. A president and prime minister share executive power. Voters elect the president, who appoints the prime minister. In 2000, Finland elected its first female president, Tarja Halonen. Finland is a welfare state.

Finland's forests are its most plentiful natural resource. Forests cover almost two-thirds of the land, more than in any other European country. Paper and other forest products make up 30 percent of Finland's exports. Finland also produces mobile phones and other high-tech items. In 1995, Finland joined the European Union.

**SUMMARIZE** Explain how Finland's neighbors affected its history.



## Denmark and Iceland

**KEY QUESTION** How are Denmark and Iceland similar?

Denmark occupies the Jutland Peninsula and over 400 small islands surrounding the peninsula. The nation also includes Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Denmark is a small country, but it has played a large role in Scandinavian history. Iceland is an island nation just south of the Arctic Circle. It was ruled by Denmark for over 500 years.

**History** Viking raids on other countries shaped Denmark's early history. Denmark's power expanded during the late 1100s and early 1200s. For a time, Denmark controlled Sweden, Norway, and Iceland. Sweden withdrew from the union in 1523. Denmark continued to rule Norway until 1814. Iceland gained its independence in 1944.





**Nyhavn Harbor** These colorful old sailors' quarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, have been converted to cafés and dance clubs.

**Culture** Most Danes have Danish ancestry, though some are descended from Germans. Icelanders are mainly of Norwegian or Celtic descent. Over 90 percent of Iceland's population lives in urban areas, as do most Danes. The Evangelical Lutheran Church is the official religion of both countries. Danish is spoken in Denmark, and Icelandic in Iceland.

**Government and Economics** Denmark is a constitutional monarchy. The Danish monarch has mainly ceremonial duties. The prime minister serves as the head of government. Like other Scandinavian nations, Denmark and Iceland have welfare systems that provide for many of their citizens' needs. Iceland is a republic. Its people elect a president, who serves a four-year term and has limited powers. The prime minister and cabinet perform most executive functions.

Despite lacking natural resources, Denmark has a strong, modern economy. The cost of living in Iceland is high because so many goods have to be imported to the small island nation. Denmark belongs to the EU but has not adopted the euro. Iceland is not an EU member.

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST** Explain how Denmark and Iceland are similar to each other.



**ONLINE QUIZ**

For test practice, go to Interactive Review @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)

**Section 5 Assessment**

**TERMS & NAMES**

**1. Explain the importance of**

- Vikings
- Sami
- ombudsman
- welfare state

**USE YOUR READING NOTES**

**2. Categorize** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

Which of the Nordic countries are welfare states?

|         | Language | Government | Economy |
|---------|----------|------------|---------|
| Sweden  |          |            |         |
| Norway  |          |            |         |
| Finland |          |            |         |
| Denmark |          |            |         |
| Iceland |          |            |         |

**KEY IDEAS**

3. What cultural characteristics do Sweden and Norway share?
4. How has Finland's location affected its history?
5. Why is Iceland's cost of living so high?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

6. **Make Inferences** How has the climate of the Scandinavian countries helped define their cultures?
7. **Summarize** What benefits do welfare states offer their citizens?
8. **CONNECT to Today** How do you think having ombudsmen would change the U.S. government?
9. **WRITING Write a Speech** Use appropriate sources to research and prepare a speech explaining three advantages and disadvantages of welfare states like those in Scandinavia. Then explain why you would or would not like to live in a country with that kind of economy.



## CHAPTER SUMMARY



### Key Idea 1

Greece and Italy began as collections of small states that gained independence.

### Key Idea 2

Both Spain and Portugal were ruled by foreigners and developed colonial empires.

### Key Idea 3

France and the Benelux nations have prospered.

### Key Idea 4

Germany and the Alpine countries are linked in many ways.

### Key Idea 5

The Nordic countries have histories and cultures that are closely intertwined.

 For Review and Study Notes, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](#)

## NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- I was a barrier that divided a city in half.  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Berlin Wall** \_\_\_\_\_
- I investigate complaints against the government.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I was the eastern half of the Roman Empire after the fall of Rome. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a political system based on a strong central government led by a dictator. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am one of a group of people living in Sweden's far north. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am an ethnic group living in the northern Pyrenees. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am the official home of the Pope.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I was Germany's leader during World War II.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am an economic union formed by three western European nations. \_\_\_\_\_
- I was a powerful German state in the Holy Roman Empire. \_\_\_\_\_

Adolf Hitler  
Basque  
Benelux  
Berlin Wall  
Byzantine Empire  
Christopher Columbus  
coalition  
fascism  
Moors  
ombudsman  
Prussia  
Reconquista  
Sami  
Vatican  
Vikings

## Activities

### GeoGame

Use this online map to reinforce your understanding of the countries and cities of Western Europe. Drag and drop each place name in the list to its location on the map.

**Geo GAME**

Greece  
Spain  
Paris  
Berlin  
Austria

**Austria**

To play the complete game, go to [Interactive Review @ ClassZone.com](#)

### Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of Western Europe.

#### ACROSS

- seafaring Scandinavians who raided Europe from the 9th to 11th century





## VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. Byzantine Empire
2. Romance language
3. coalition
4. Christopher Columbus
5. Benelux
6. Berlin Wall
7. neutrality



Explain how the terms and names in each group are related.

8. Moors, Reconquista
9. Basque, Sami
10. Adolf Hitler, Holocaust
11. ombudsman, welfare state

## KEY IDEAS

### 1 Greece and Italy

12. How has Greece's geography defined some of its major economic activities?
13. Why has the Catholic Church had such a strong impact on Italian culture?

### 2 Spain and Portugal

14. What was the Reconquista?
15. How has Portugal improved its economy?

### 3 France and the Benelux Countries

16. How is the French government similar to and different from the U.S. government?
17. How are the three Benelux countries alike?

### 4 Germany and the Alpine Countries

18. How did World War II affect Germany's economy?
19. What geographical characteristic most clearly defines the Alpine countries?

### 5 The Nordic Countries

20. Why did Norway's manufacturing sector lag behind other Scandinavian countries?
21. Who were the Vikings?

## CRITICAL THINKING

- 22. Compare and Contrast** Create a table to compare and contrast the geography, work, and recreation of northern and southern Italy.

| NORTHERN ITALY | SOUTHERN ITALY |
|----------------|----------------|
|                |                |

- 23. Analyze Causes and Effects** Why did Spain begin exploring the world by sea?
- 24. Connect Geography & History** What geographical factor helped Portugal to establish an empire despite its small size?
- 25. Compare** How do France's experiences with its eastern neighbor Germany compare to Finland's experiences with Russia?
- 26. Connect Geography & Economics** How has the presence of offshore oil contributed to Norway's economy?
- 27. Five Themes: Location** How has Scandinavia's northern location helped shape its culture?

## Answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION

**What geographic and cultural characteristics define the subregions of Western Europe?**

**Written Response** Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Consider the key ideas of each section and the specific characteristics of each subregion. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

### Response Rubric

A strong response will:

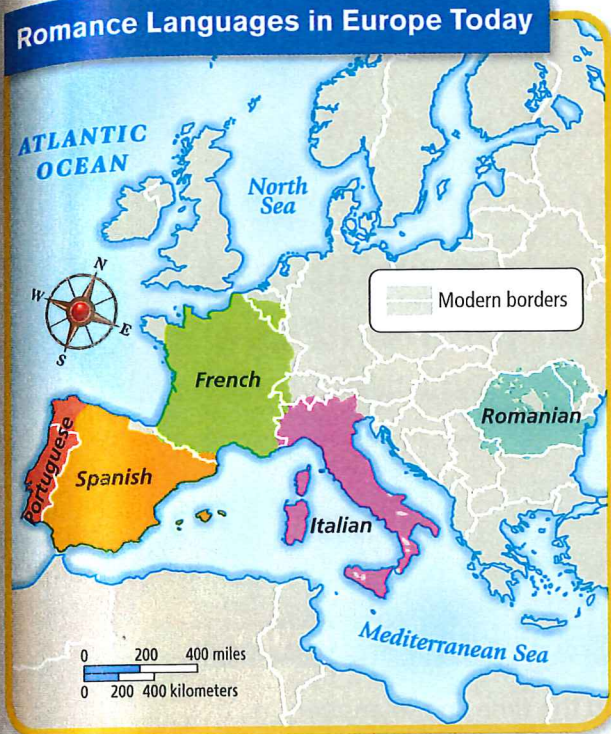
- identify each subregion
- explain how geographic characteristics define each subregion
- compare and contrast cultural characteristics within each subregion



- Online Test Practice @ [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com)
- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

## THEMATIC MAP

Use the map and your knowledge of Europe to answer questions 1 and 2 on your paper.



1. The Romance languages are concentrated in which part of Europe?

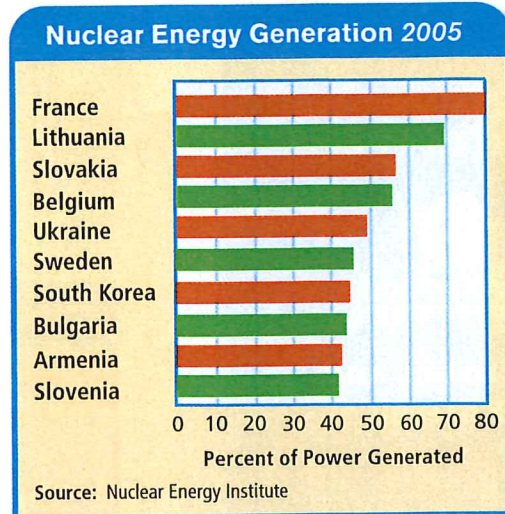
- A. north
- B. east
- C. southwest
- D. southeast

2. Which statement best describes the pattern of Romance languages?

- A. They are not spoken along the Mediterranean Sea.
- B. They are found in the former Roman Empire.
- C. They are dying out.
- D. They are spoken only in northern Europe.

## BAR GRAPH

Use the information in the graph below to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.



3. How many countries get more of their energy from nuclear power than France?

4. How many of the top ten nuclear energy producers are in Western Europe?

## GeoActivity

### 1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-HISTORY

With a small group, research Viking ships and create a poster about them. Be sure your poster shows how the ship was built, what materials were used, and when and where the Vikings traveled.

### 2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Reread the part of Section 5 that describes Ulrika's day. Then write a letter to Ulrika about how you spend a typical day. Use interesting details to describe your activities and point out how your day differs from Ulrika's day.

### 3. MENTAL MAPPING

Create an outline map of Scandinavia and label the following:

- Denmark
- Finland
- Norway
- Iceland
- Sweden
- Greenland
- Faroe Islands