Europe

Why It Matters:
In the past, Europeans used the oceans and seas to make voyages for trade and to build empires. Their culture spread around the world. Today, Europeans still play a large part in world affairs.
Europe occupies the western portion of the Eurasian landmass. Many people view the Ural Mountains as the eastern border of Europe, which means that Europe includes part of Russia. However, for historic and cultural reasons, Russia and the Eurasian republics are not considered in this unit.

As you study the graphs on this page, compare the landmass, population, rivers, and mountains of Europe with those of the United States and the world. Then jot down the answers to the following questions in your notebook.

Comparing Data

1. How does Europe compare in size to the United States?

2. Is Europe's population bigger or smaller than that of the United States? Given what you know about Europe's size, do you think that makes Europe more or less densely populated than the United States?

3. How does the Danube River compare to the Mississippi River in the United States?

4. What is the tallest peak in Europe? Is it taller or shorter than Mt. McKinley, the tallest mountain in the United States?
THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

1. **Place** Where on the continent is the population density highest?
2. **Region** Which is less densely populated, far northern or far southern Europe?
THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

1. **Region**  What climate zone occurs most often in southern Europe?

2. **Human-Environment Interaction**  Compare this map to the population density map on the previous page. What climate is most densely populated?
THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

1. Human-Environment Interaction
   What activity is the majority of the land in Europe used for?

2. Region
   Which sea is the source of many of Europe's energy resources? What countries are most likely to benefit from these resources?
Regional Overview

Europe

Europe is the world's second smallest continent in area, but one of the largest in population. The population is diverse, with many different cultures developing on the small landmass. The chapters in this unit provide more information about the geography, history, culture, government, and economics of Europe.

GEOGRAPHY

Europe extends from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Mediterranean Sea in the south. Geographically, the European continent stretches from the Atlantic Ocean all the way to the Ural Mountains in Russia, but in this unit, we will mark Europe's western border where Russia begins.

HISTORY

For centuries, different groups of people settled, lived in, and fought over the lands of Europe. Though some regions are still troubled by conflict, Europe is more unified than ever before.

CULTURE

Since the time of the ancient Greeks and Romans, Europe's culture has had a global influence. European ideas about politics, science, art, philosophy, and religion have spread around the world.

GOVERNMENT

The governments of Europe come in all shapes and sizes. Some are democracies. Other nations have monarchs who govern alongside a parliament chosen by the people.

ECONOMICS

Europe has many natural resources and abundant farmland that strengthen its economies. Many European countries are also highly industrialized. The European Union has worked to continue Europe's role as an economic power.
Europe is made up of 43 different countries.

**Albania**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Tiranë
  - Total Area: 11,100 sq. mi.
  - Population: 3,130,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: food; machinery; minerals; clothing
  - Exports: clothing; metals
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Albanian
  - Religion: Muslim 39%; Catholic 17%

**Andorra**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Andorra la Vella
  - Total Area: 181 sq. mi.
  - Population: 70,549
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: food; tobacco; machinery
  - Exports: motor vehicles; photo equipment
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Catalan
  - Religion: Catholic 89%; nonreligious 5%

**Austria**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Vienna
  - Total Area: 32,382 sq. mi.
  - Population: 8,189,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: machinery; vehicles; chemicals
  - Exports: transportation equipment; steel
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: German
  - Religion: Catholic 75%; nonreligious 9%; Protestant 5%

**Belgium**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Brussels
  - Total Area: 11,787 sq. mi.
  - Population: 10,419,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: machinery; medicine; food
  - Exports: machinery; vehicles; medicine
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Dutch; French; German
  - Religion: Catholic 88%; Muslim 3%

**Belarus**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Minsk
  - Total Area: 80,155 sq. mi.
  - Population: 9,755,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: petroleum; chemicals; food
  - Exports: food; petroleum; road vehicles
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Belarusian; Russian
  - Religion: Belarusian Orthodox 32%; Catholic 18%

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Sarajevo
  - Total Area: 19,741 sq. mi.
  - Population: 3,907,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: machinery; chemicals; fuels
  - Exports: metals; clothing; wood products
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Bosnian
  - Religion: Sunni Muslim 43%; Serbian Orthodox 30%; Catholic 16%

**Bulgaria**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Sofia
  - Total Area: 42,823 sq. mi.
  - Population: 7,726,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: textiles; crude petroleum; plastics
  - Exports: clothing; metals; mineral fuels
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Bulgarian
  - Religion: Bulgarian Orthodox 72%; Sunni Muslim 12%

**Croatia**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
  - Capital: Zagreb
  - Total Area: 21,831 sq. mi.
  - Population: 4,551,000
- **ECONOMY**
  - Imports: machinery; metals; petroleum
  - Exports: chemicals; clothing; petroleum
- **CULTURE**
  - Language: Croatian
  - Religion: Catholic 89%; Eastern Orthodox 6%; Sunni Muslim 2%
Tour de France Each year, about 200 riders compete in this famous bicycle race.