

## The British Isles

Although the British Isles are not part of the continent of Europe, they are always included as part of Europe. The largest islands are Britain and Ireland. In addition, there are many smaller islands.

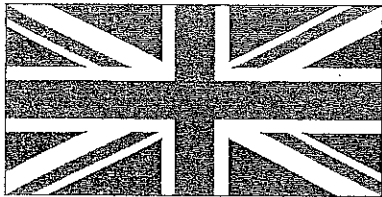
The British Isles have two major political units: the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom is often referred to as Great Britain. The major units of the United Kingdom (UK) are England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Great Britain is governed by a democratic parliament but still retains a monarchy. Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her fiftieth anniversary as Britain's monarch in 2002.

London is the capital of the United Kingdom and is located on the Thames River. London's location has made it a major port and center of commerce for hundreds of years.

England became a major world power when its navy defeated the Spanish navy in 1588. During the Industrial Revolution, Great Britain became a major manufacturing center.

At one time, Great Britain had colonies located throughout the world. A famous saying for many years was that "the sun never sets on the British Empire." Great Britain controlled the American colonies until they gained independence in the Revolutionary War. After World War II, many other British colonies gained independence.

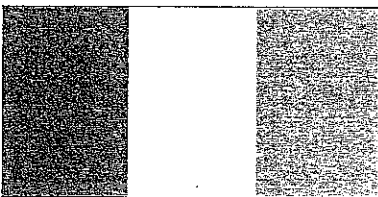


**England** occupies the largest part of the island of Britain. It is also the political, economic, and cultural center of the United Kingdom.

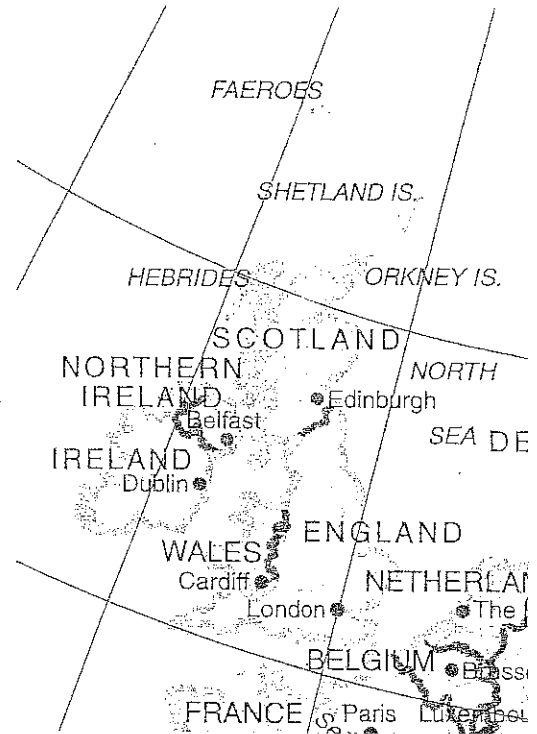
**Scotland** is located to the north of England and is noted for its highlands. Major Scottish industries include raising sheep, cattle, and horses. Large oil and gas reserves in the North Sea have helped to boost Scotland's economy.

**Wales** borders England on the west. It is known for its rugged landscape. It has large coal deposits. Wales' major industries include coal mining, fishing, and agriculture.

**Northern Ireland** is part of the United Kingdom rather than part of the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland remains in conflict and turmoil. Protestants of the region generally favor remaining part of the United Kingdom, while the Catholics generally favor becoming part of the Republic of Ireland.



**The Republic of Ireland** became recognized as separate from Great Britain in 1920 and as an independent nation in 1949. It occupies five-sixths of the island of Ireland. Dublin is its capital. Agriculture is the nation's leading industry. In addition to crops, the Irish raise sheep, beef cattle, and horses. Ireland also has important manufacturing centers.



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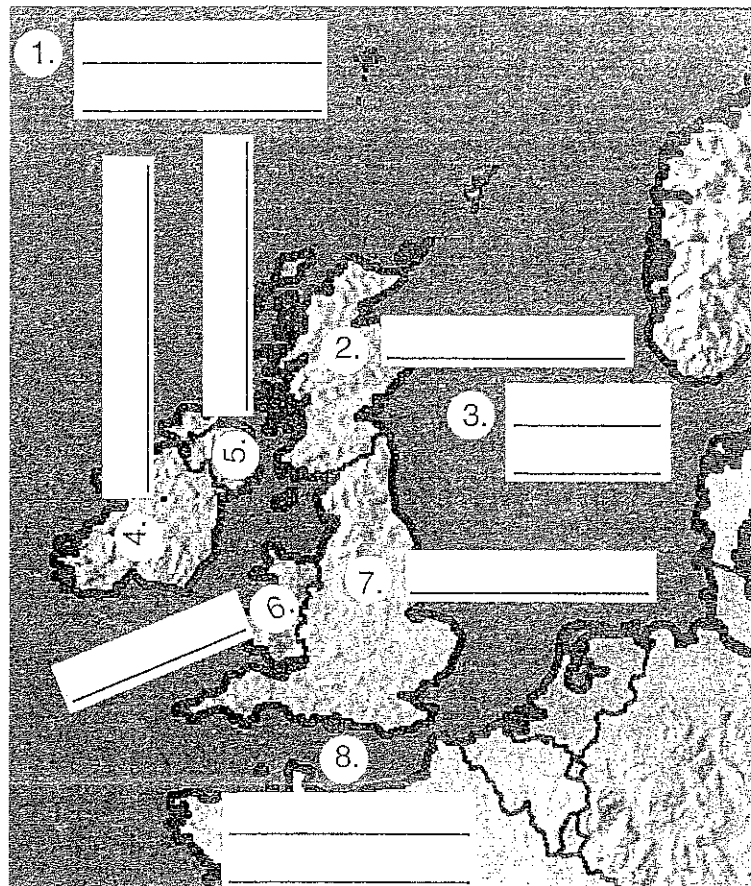
## Questions for Consideration

1. What are the two major political units of the British Isles?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the capital of the United Kingdom?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What unit of the UK borders on the west of England?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What part of the island of Ireland remains under British control?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In what year did the Republic of Ireland separate from Great Britain?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Map Project

On the map, label the following:

- |           |                     |
|-----------|---------------------|
| England   | Northern Ireland    |
| Scotland  | Republic of Ireland |
| Wales     | Atlantic Ocean      |
| North Sea | English Channel     |

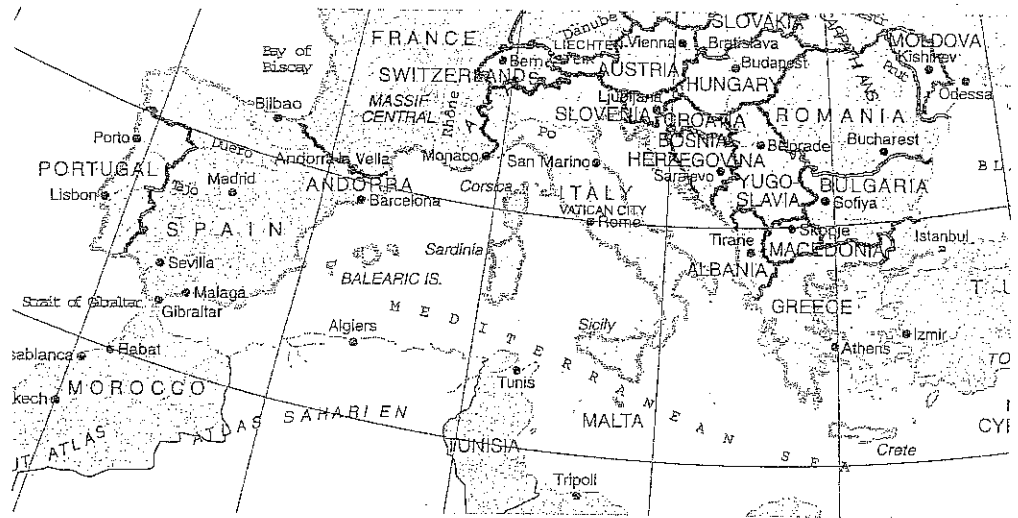


#### DID YOU KNOW?

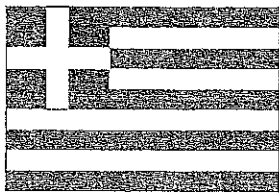
In 1993, a tunnel connecting England and France opened. Known as "the chunnel," it is the world's longest underwater tunnel.

## Southern Europe

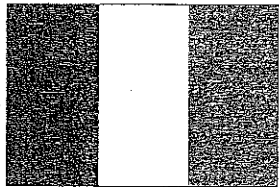
Southern Europe is often referred to as Mediterranean Europe. The countries of southern Europe include Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. Except for Portugal, all the countries of the region border the Mediterranean Sea, and they all share the warm and dry Mediterranean climate.



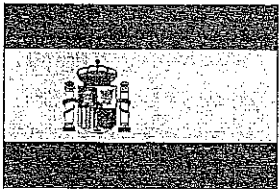
All the southern European countries occupy peninsulas. Spain and Portugal are on the Iberian Peninsula. Both Italy and Greece occupy individual peninsulas.



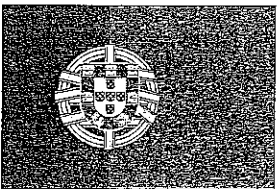
**Greece** is mountainous and includes many islands. Crete is the largest of the Greek Islands; however, very little land is able to be farmed. Greek farmers raise wheat, corn, and cotton. Major exports include citrus fruits, figs, grapes, and olives. Athens is the capital of Greece and is also the center of its commercial and cultural industries. With its many ancient sites, Greece has a major tourist industry.



**Italy** is located on a peninsula that is shaped much like a boot. It also includes the large islands of Sardinia and Sicily. In ancient times, Rome, Italy's capital, was the center of Western Civilization. Italy is still a major force in Europe's culture and economy. Agriculture is a major industry in Italy, but manufacturing in the southern regions is increasing in importance. Grapes grown for winemaking, textiles, food processing, machinery manufacturing, and tourism are Italy's main industries.



**Spain** occupies most of the Iberian Peninsula. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. On the north, the Pyrenees Mountains separate it from France and the tiny country of Andorra. For years, Spain's major industry was agriculture. Wheat and barley are the major crops. Recently, however, manufacturing has surpassed agriculture in economic importance. Motor vehicles, textiles, paper, iron, and steel are major exports.



**Portugal** was once a major world power. Today, it is one of Europe's smallest and least-developed nations. It shares the Iberian Peninsula with Spain. Major crops are grains, olives, and potatoes. Winemaking, textiles, leather goods, cork products, and ceramics are Portugal's major industries.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for Consideration

1. What are the two main aspects of the Mediterranean climate?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the name of the peninsula shared by Spain and Portugal?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the capital of Greece?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the capital of Italy?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are Spain's major crops?

\_\_\_\_\_

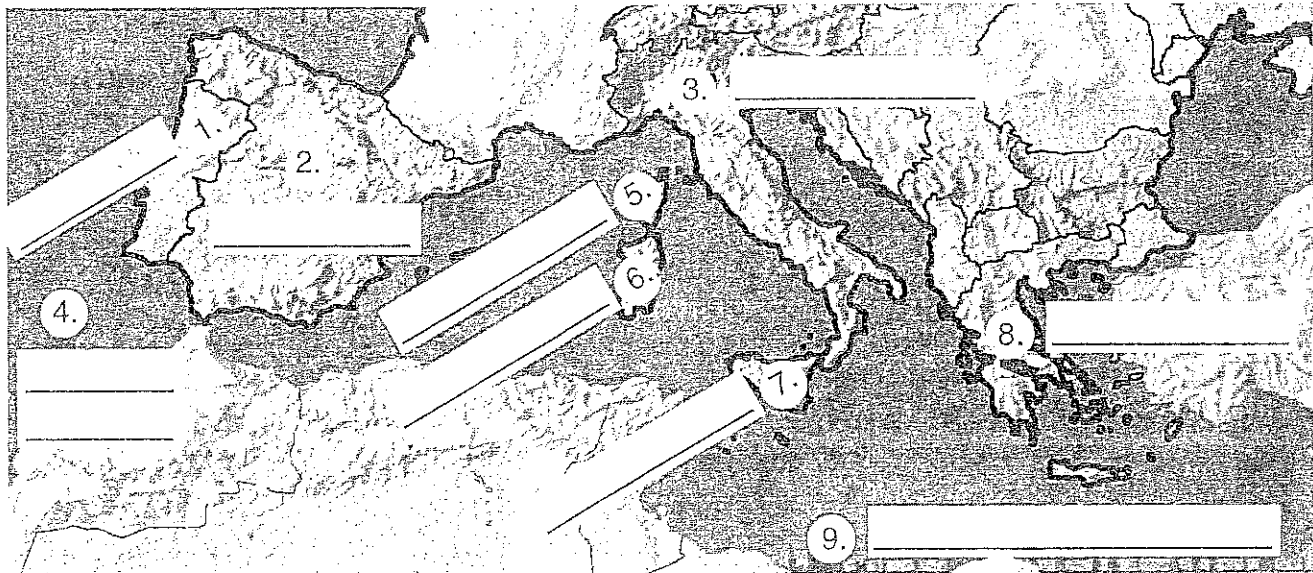
### Map Project

On the map, label the following:

- |                |                   |          |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Atlantic Ocean | Mediterranean Sea | Portugal |
| Corsica        | Sardinia          | Greece   |
| Sicily         | Italy             | Spain    |

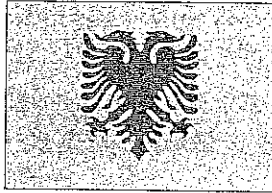
**DID YOU KNOW?**

Portugal is the world's leader in cork production. Cork is taken from the bark of the cork oak tree.



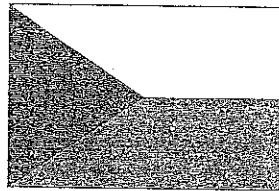
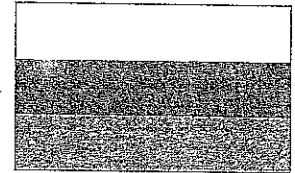
## Eastern Europe

The nations of Eastern Europe are less developed than the rest of the continent. They tend to have stronger ties to the former Soviet Union than they do to the rest of Europe.



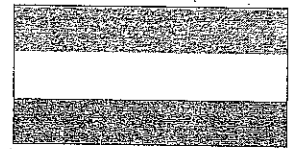
**Albania** is a mountainous country. It has emphasized its isolation and is almost self-sufficient. It is mostly an agricultural country. Major crops include wheat, corn, and potatoes. Large herds of sheep and cattle are also raised.

**Bulgaria** is mountainous and has few resources. It produces grains, fruit, and tobacco. Iron, steel, and textiles are becoming more important to its economy. Bulgaria is closely tied to Russia. It has been the site of much ethnic conflict.

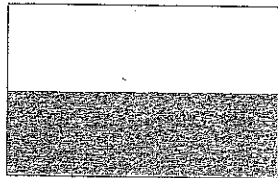


**The Czech Republic** was formed when Czechoslovakia was divided into two countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, on January 1, 1993. The Republic consists of the former provinces of Bohemia and Moravia. Prague, the capital, is also its largest city, with a population of over one million. Major industries include engineering, agriculture, electronics, chemicals, iron, and steel.

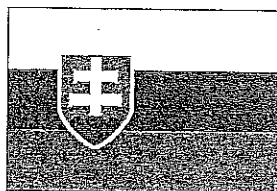
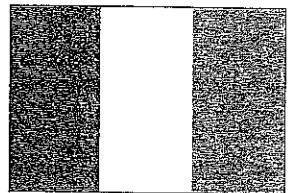
**Hungary** has a mild climate and fertile soil, which made agriculture the major industry until the last few years. Major crops include wheat, corn, and potatoes. Farmers also raise large numbers of pigs and cattle. Recently, industries such as mining, chemicals, and electronics have dominated the economy. Budapest is Hungary's capital and largest city.



**Poland** is one of the largest of the Eastern European countries. Its capital, Warsaw, is a major industrial center. Major industries include iron and steel, textiles, and machine manufacturing. Under communism, agriculture became less important to Poland's economy, but it has increased in importance in the last few years. Major crops include wheat, rye, potatoes, and dairy products. Poland's communist rule ended in 1989, and free elections were held in 1991.

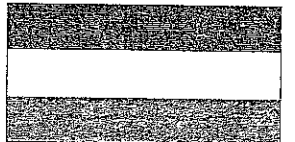


**Romania** has a varied landscape. Its major industry is agriculture. Major crops include corn, grapes, sugar beets, and wheat. Oil, iron, and steel have recently become an important part of Romania's economy. Romania is the home of the legendary Count Dracula.



**Slovakia** had been a province of Czechoslovakia until the division of the country. It is smaller than the Czech Republic, and has less than half of the population. It also has much less industry than the Czech Republic. The Carpathian Mountains cover almost one-fourth of the nation.

**Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)** has many ethnic groups. Belgrade is its capital. Fruit, corn, wheat, and potatoes are its major crops. Recently, it has become more industrial, producing chemicals, textiles, and machinery. In 1991, the provinces of **Bosnia-Herzegovina**, **Croatia**, **Macedonia**, and **Slovenia** broke away from Yugoslavia to become independent countries.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions for Consideration

1. Tobacco is a major crop of which Eastern European country?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Prague is the capital of which country?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the capital of Poland?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What country, according to legend, was the home of Count Dracula?

\_\_\_\_\_

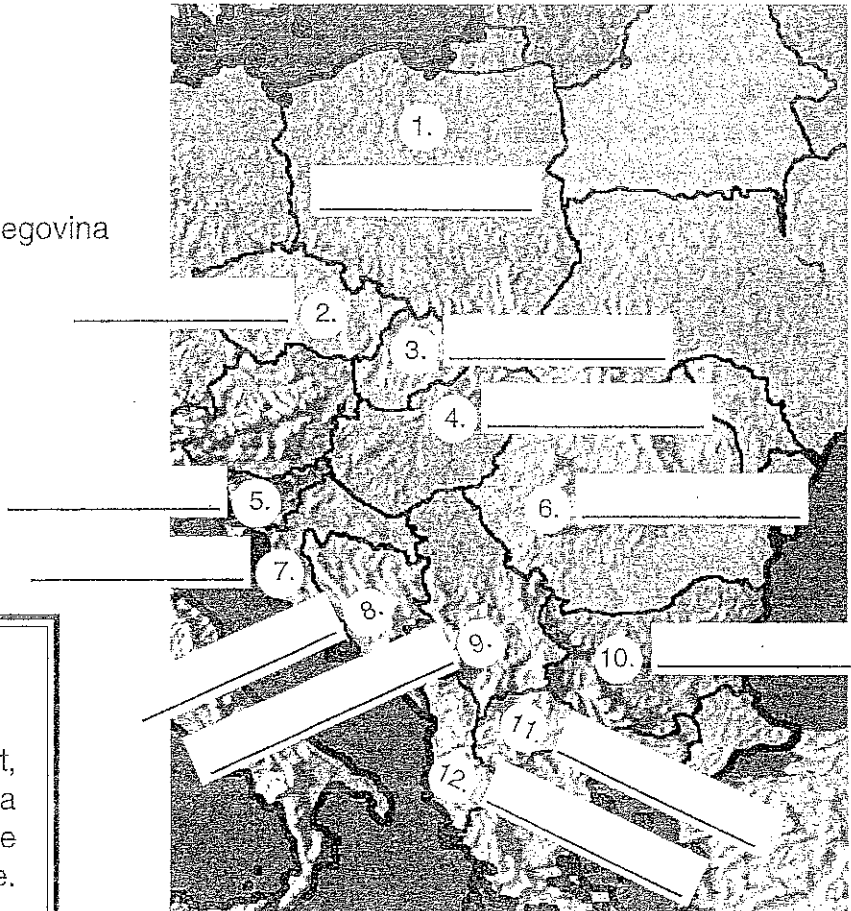
5. What country had four former provinces become independent nations?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Map Project

On the map, label the following:

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Albania        | Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| Bulgaria       | Croatia            |
| Czech Republic | Hungary            |
| Macedonia      | Poland             |
| Romania        | Slovakia           |
| Slovenia       | Yugoslavia         |

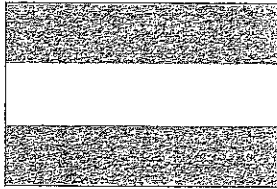


### DID YOU KNOW?

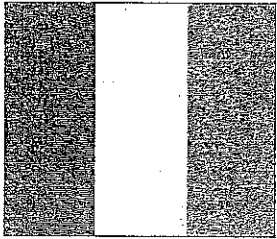
Hungary's capital, Budapest, was originally two cities, Buda on the west side of the Danube River and Pest on the east side.

## Western Europe

Western Europe is noted for its major industrial and commercial centers and high standards of living. It is also famous for its great cities, which are cultural centers.

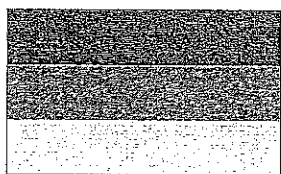
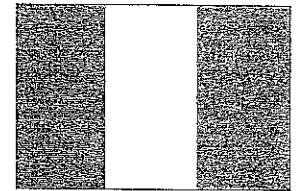


**Austria** has long been a link between the eastern and western parts of Europe. Both the Alps mountain range and the Danube River are part of the nation. Austria's capital, Vienna, has long been a cultural center. Tourism is one of its major industries.



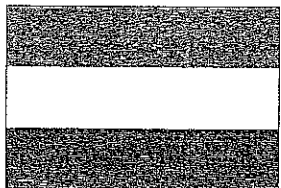
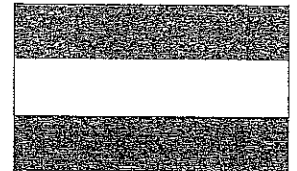
**Belgium** is a highly industrialized nation. Major industries include metals, coal, textiles, and chemicals. It also is noted for fine pianos, cutlery, and chocolate. Agriculture is a small part of the economy, but Belgium is almost self-sufficient. It has two major ethnic groups: the Flemish in the north and the Walloons in the south.

**France** is the oldest and largest nation in Western Europe. It has borders on the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, and the North Sea. Its capital, Paris, is one of the world's most important cities. France is highly industrialized. Major industries include high-quality automobiles, equipment, and textiles. It is also famous for its cheeses and wines.



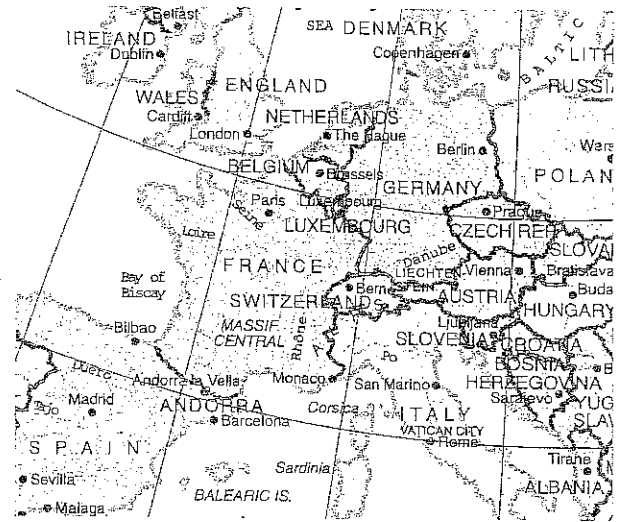
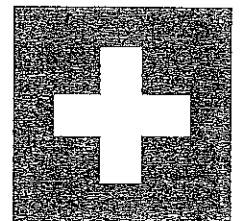
**Germany** was not united as a country until 1871. It was divided into two countries after World War II and reunited in 1990. Western Germany has been a leading producer of quality manufactured goods. Steel, ships, vehicles, and machinery are major exports. Major agricultural products include grains, potatoes, sugar beets, and livestock.

**Luxembourg** contains only 965 square miles. It is densely populated and highly industrialized. It must rely on a great deal of trade. Steel has long been a major industry. Newer industries include rubber and chemical products. German is its major language, with French used for government affairs.



**The Netherlands** are famous for land reclaimed from the sea. More than 40 percent of the current land was at one time under the North Sea. Dikes were built and then the land behind the dikes was drained. Windmills were used to pump out the water. Cheese, flowers (especially tulips), and meat are major exports.

**Switzerland** is famous for its Alps. The mountains cover much of the country. The mountains and its land-locked location have helped Switzerland remain a neutral nation (avoiding war) through most of its history. It is noted for manufacturing fine precision equipment, especially electronics, cameras, and watches.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for Consideration

1. What is the capital of France?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What Western European country is known for fine chocolate?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What country was united in 1871 and reunited in 1990?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What country is known for its land reclaimed from the sea?

\_\_\_\_\_

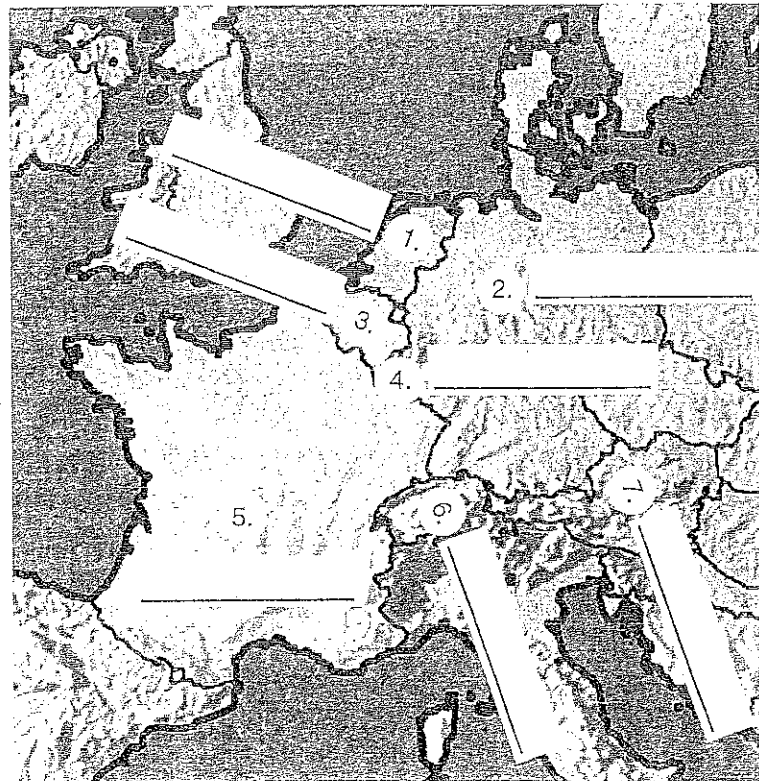
5. What country has remained neutral through most of its history?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Map Project

On the map, label the following:

- Austria
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Austria's capital, Vienna, is known as "the musical capital of the world." Composers Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Strauss all lived and worked there.