

Geographical Understandings

Chapter 20

SS6G8 *The student will locate selected features of Europe.*

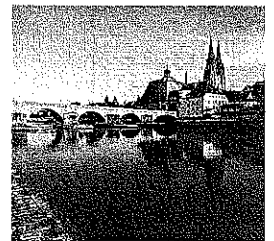
a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Danube River, Rhine River, English Channel, Mediterranean Sea, European Plain, the Alps, Pyrenees, Ural Mountains, Iberian Peninsula, and Scandinavian Peninsula.

b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the countries of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

Welcome to Europe!

Europe is a continent of varying landscapes, abundant natural resources and fascinating history! It is bordered by two oceans and contains more than a dozen seas. Physical features of Europe determine how its residents live. Learn about European geography below:

- The **Danube River** is the second longest river in Europe and an important shipping route across the continent. The Danube flows from west to east from Germany to the Black Sea. It either flows through or forms the border of ten countries.
- The **Rhine River** originates in the Swiss Alps mountain range and flows northwest to the North Sea. Throughout history, Europeans have depended on the Rhine to ship goods throughout the continent. The river has had a major influence on the history and economy of Europe.
- The **English Channel** is a narrow sea between Great Britain and France. In 1994, an underground rail tunnel called the “chunnel” was opened for transportation under the channel.



The Danube River
Photo by sepiow.com

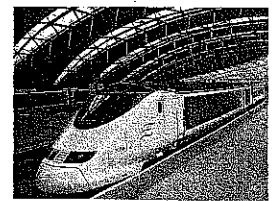


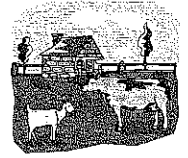
Photo by freebirdfly.com



- The **Mediterranean Sea** is the world's largest inland sea, located between Europe, Africa, and Asia. The region around it has a dry, warm climate.



- The **European Plain** is a vast, flat area stretching from France's Atlantic coast to the Ural Mountains in Russia. This region has rich farmland and some of the largest cities in Europe, like Paris, Berlin, and Moscow.



- The **Alps** are a magnificent mountain range in south-central Europe stretching from eastern France and northern Italy through Switzerland and Austria. Snowmelt from the Alps pours into many of Europe's rivers.



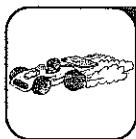
Ural Mountains
Photo by upland

- The **Pyrenees** mountain range extends along the border between France and Spain. Most of the Pyrenees are in Spain.

- The **Ural Mountains** in western Russia form the boundary between Europe and Asia.

- The **Iberian Peninsula** in southwest Europe contains Spain and Portugal. It is separated from the rest of Europe by the Pyrenees Mountains.

- The **Scandinavian Peninsula** in northern Europe is occupied by Norway and Sweden. This mountainous region is bordered on the north by the Barents Sea, a section of the Arctic Ocean.



Quick Quiz

Answer the questions below to see how much you have learned about European geography.

1. What mountain range separates Europe from Asia? _____
2. What peninsula is occupied by Spain and Portugal? _____
3. What body of water is between Europe, Africa, and Asia? _____
4. What river originating in the Alps has had a major influence on European history and economics?

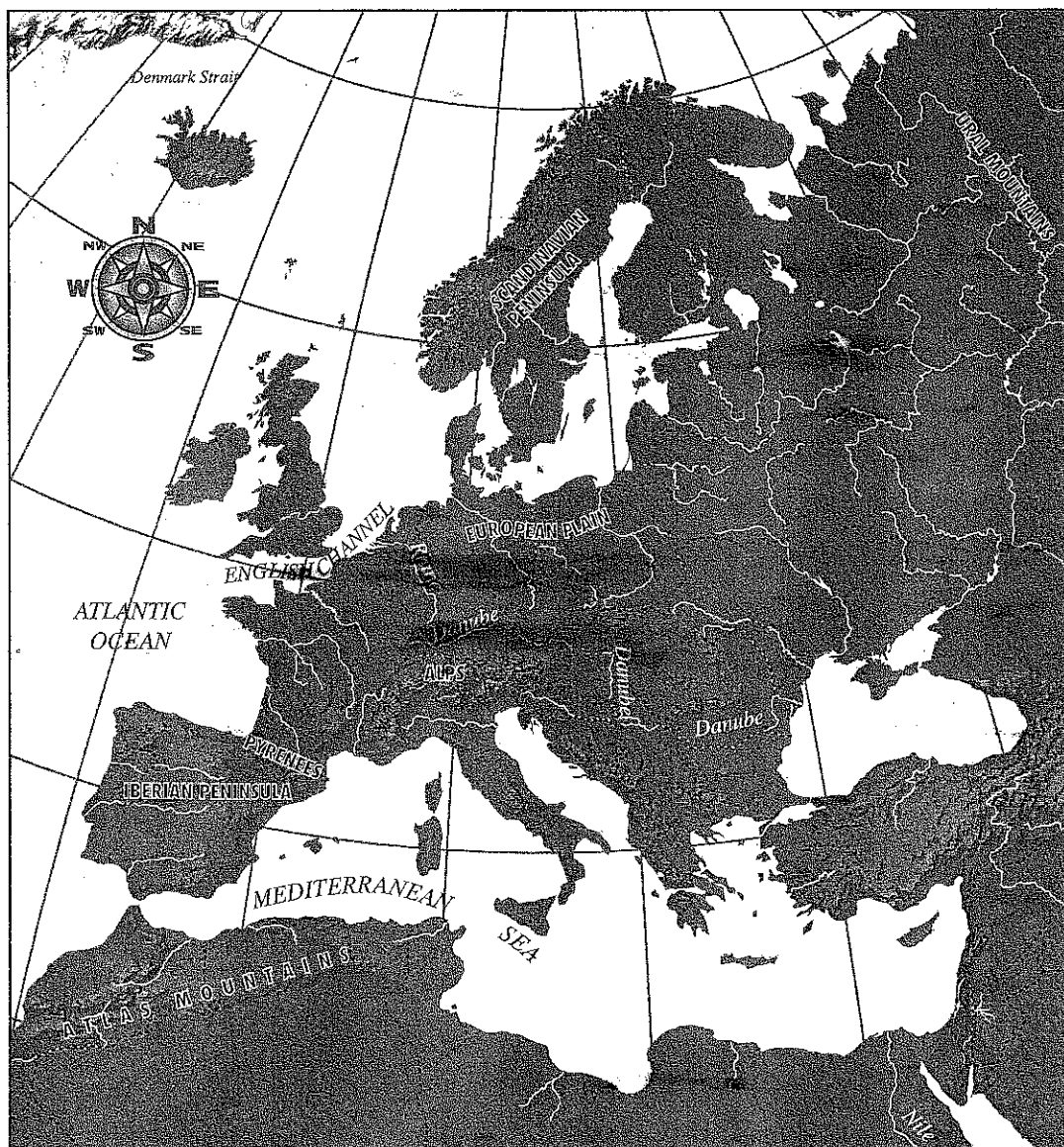
5. What mountain range separates Spain and France? _____
6. What peninsula contains Norway and Sweden? _____
7. What body of water separates England from France? _____
8. What region of rich farmland stretches across the northern part of Europe? _____



Map Skills

Look at the map of Europe with major physical features identified. Follow the directions below.

1. Trace the Danube River and the Rhine River in blue.
2. Draw a red circle around the English Channel.
3. Draw a green circle around the Mediterranean Sea.
4. Draw a brown box around the European Plain.
5. Draw a pink circle around the Alps.
6. Draw a gray rectangle around the Pyrenees.
7. Draw a black oval around the Ural Mountains.
8. Outline the Iberian Peninsula in yellow.
9. Outline the Scandinavian Peninsula in orange.





Map Skills

Draw and label the following physical features on the map of Europe below.

Danube River

Mediterranean Sea

Pyrenees Mountains

Scandinavian Peninsula

Rhine River

European Plain

Ural Mountains

English Channel

Alps Mountains

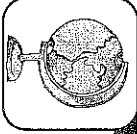
Iberian Peninsula



Make a map key and label your map. One example is given below.



Mountains



Map Skills

1. Label the following physical features on the map of the world below.

Mediterranean Sea

English Channel

European Plain

Iberian Peninsula

Scandinavian Peninsula

2. Draw and label the following items:

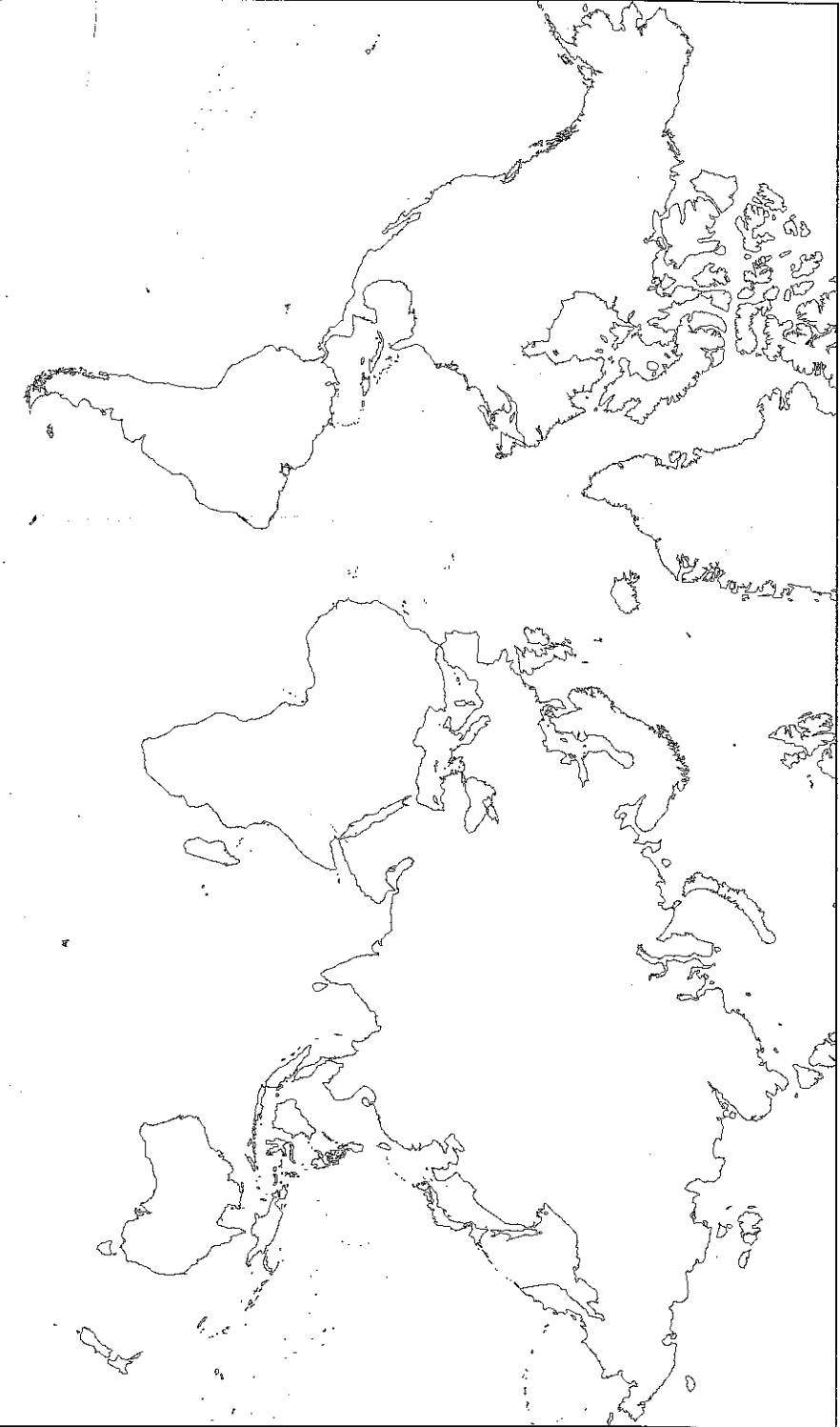
Pyrenees Mountains

Alps Mountains

Ural Mountains

Danube River

Rhine River





Map Skills

Look at the map of Europe and follow the directions below.

1. Draw a red circle around Belgium.
2. Draw a green box around France.
3. Draw a blue circle around Germany.
4. Draw a yellow oval around Italy.
5. Draw a brown circle around Poland.
6. Draw an orange rectangle around Russia.
7. Draw a red triangle around Spain.
8. Draw a red circle around Ukraine.
9. Draw a blue square around the United Kingdom.





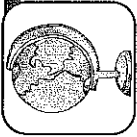
Map Skills

Label the following countries on the map of Europe below.

Belgium France Germany Italy United Kingdom
Russia Spain Ukraine Poland

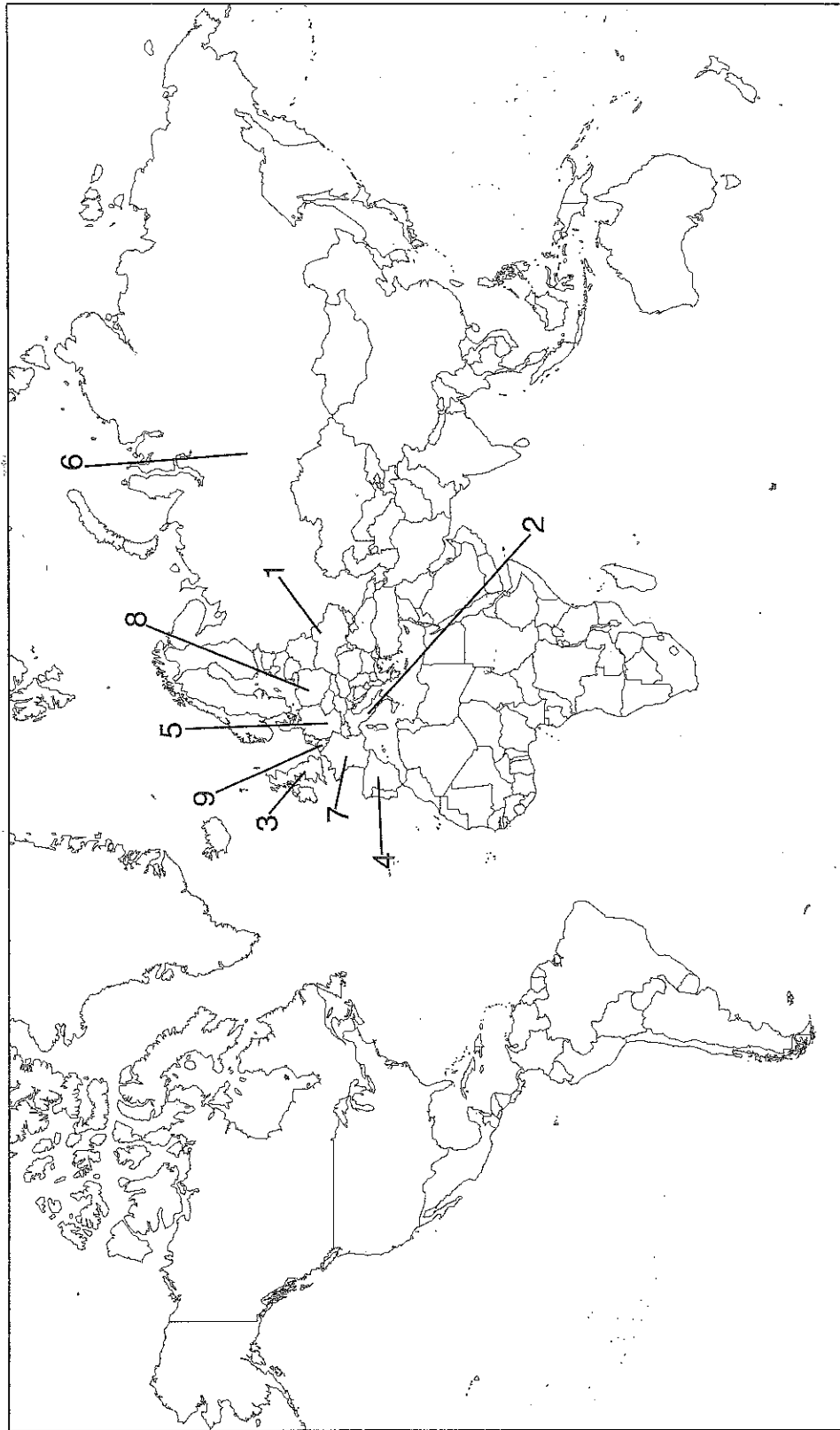


1. What is the largest country in Europe? _____
2. What country, shaped like a boot, juts out into the Mediterranean Sea? _____
3. What country is an island nation? _____
4. What countries are on the Scandinavian Peninsula? _____



Map Skills

Find the countries listed below on the world map. Write the corresponding number in the box next to each country name.



- Belgium
- Italy
- Spain

- France
- Poland
- Ukraine

- Germany
- Russia
- United Kingdom