

SS6G10 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution on Europe.

- a. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of the United Kingdom and Russia affect where people live and how they trade.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Location of the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (U.K.) is a country of islands off the coast of mainland Europe. It is made up of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The location of the U.K. makes it a hub for trade with other countries. Across the English Channel from the U.K. is France; west across the Irish Sea is the Republic of Ireland; east across the North Sea is the Scandinavian Peninsula. An island country with many ports and harbors, the United Kingdom at one time dominated world trade. Today, there are ten major ports along the coast. London's Heathrow Airport is the busiest airport in the world. Seven other airports can handle even the largest jets. There is so much air travel around the U.K., it ranks third in number of airports in Europe.

Location has helped the U.K. become an international banking and insurance center. Between London and Edinburgh, Scotland, the United Kingdom has more foreign bank branches than any country in the world. Businesses of all types, from clothing to computers, trade goods in the U.K. to be sold all over Europe. Its location on the Atlantic Ocean also helps it trade with the United States. The United States is the U.K.'s number one trading partner.

Climate of the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has a mild climate with rainfall throughout the year. Almost no section goes without rain for longer than three weeks. The southeastern parts of Great Britain are protected by mountains from the wind blowing in from the Atlantic, so they are the driest areas. The rest of the country often has mild, wet weather. The highlands of Scotland are the wettest. The temperature changes with the seasons. Winters are mild and wet. Snowfalls are not very deep and usually occur in the mountains. Summers are warmest in the south. The mild climate keeps ports free of ice and open for trade all year.

Warm waters and winds from the Gulf of Mexico affect the climate of the U.K. The **Gulf Stream** moves warm water along the coast of North America. It crosses the Atlantic Ocean and warms Ireland and the western coasts of England, Scotland, and Wales. Other areas of the world along the same latitude as the U.K. have cold and harsh winters. The Gulf Stream makes the winters in the U.K. much milder.

The climate is good for farming. The land is good for farming too. Much of the land is used for grazing and agriculture because of the mild climate, but less than 2 percent of the people earn their living as farmers. Most people live in urban areas where jobs are more available.

Natural Resources of the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has deposits of coal, petroleum, natural gas, and iron ore. These resources formed the backbone of the country's industry: auto production, steel manufacturing, and shipbuilding. Other resources include lead, zinc, gold, tin, limestone, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, potash, sand, and slate. Today, manufacturing is declining because these natural resources are being used up and industry is changing to cleaner forms of energy. Competition with other countries has also increased. This has led to a loss of manufacturing jobs in the U.K.

Many people who once had jobs in mining and manufacturing are being retrained for jobs in service industries. In the United Kingdom, nearly 80 percent of the people work in service industries. These include tourism, health care, education, banking, and insurance. Often people must move to more urban areas to find new jobs and must work for a much lower wage.

Fishing is profitable along the shores of the U.K. Fishermen catch crabs and other shellfish, cod, herring, and mackerel. Nearly 25 percent of the country has **arable** land (land that is suitable for growing crops). Over half of the land in the U.K. is used for farms. A large amount of arable land means the country can produce about 60 percent of its own food. Farms with sheep, beef cattle, dairy cattle, and pigs use the land to keep their businesses going.

- _____ **300. Which is a reason for the decline in manufacturing in the United Kingdom?**
- A. trade competition
 - B. not enough workers
 - C. fuels are not as clean
 - D. natural resources are close by
- _____ **301. Which accounts for most of the jobs in the United Kingdom?**
- A. tourism
 - B. farming
 - C. manufacturing
 - D. service industry
- _____ **302. Which makes the United Kingdom ideal for international banking?**
- A. airports
 - B. climate
 - C. location
 - D. natural resources
- _____ **303. Which condition helped the United Kingdom become a leader in world trade?**
- A. It is an island with a mild climate located near many other countries.
 - B. Two percent of the people are farmers, and there is a lot of arable land.
 - C. It is home to the world's busiest airport and has seven other large airports.
 - D. Urban areas are heavily populated, and most jobs are found in the urban areas.
- _____ **304. Why is it surprising that the U.K. has such a mild climate?**
- A. It is very far north.
 - B. The ocean is always warm.
 - C. People in the U.K. like snowy winters.
 - D. It is warmer in northern parts of the world.
- _____ **305. What causes the U.K. to have an unusually mild climate?**
- A. the Gulf Stream
 - B. the Scottish highlands
 - C. snowfall that is not very deep
 - D. the mountains in the southeast
- _____ **306. Which is an effect of a declining industry?**
- A. Retraining is not needed.
 - B. Many people lose their jobs.
 - C. People earn more money at new jobs.
 - D. People have an easy time finding new jobs.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF RUSSIA

Location of Russia

Russia spans two continents. It covers the eastern part of Europe, and it spans the northern part of Asia. It is so wide that a train trip from western Russia to eastern Russia would take a week. Russia shares a border with fifteen other countries including China, North Korea, Finland, Norway, Poland, and Ukraine. The eastern side of the country is bounded by the North Pacific Ocean. The northern side is bounded by the Arctic Ocean. At its closest point, Russia and the United States are only about three miles apart across the Bering Strait.

European Russia is almost landlocked. Most of the land is far from the sea or frozen over for most of the year. Murmansk and St. Petersburg are the exceptions. Murmansk is on the open ocean near Norway. The Gulf Stream keeps the port warm enough to stay open all year. Other ports on the Arctic Ocean must be cleared with icebreakers.

St. Petersburg is a port city on the Baltic Sea. St. Petersburg was home to the czars of Russia and the capital of Russia for over two hundred years. It has beautiful canals, gardens, and palaces. St. Petersburg is a major center for trade. A network of railroads surrounds St. Petersburg, bringing goods into the city for shipment around the world. It is home to over 5 million people. In the 1990s, tourism began to grow.

Climate of Russia

European Russia really only has two seasons, winter and summer. The hottest month is July and the coldest is January. The average yearly temperature of nearly all of Russia is below freezing. Many areas have soil that is permanently frozen. This ground is called *permafrost*. In the winter, railroad lines are changed to cross frozen lakes and rivers. Because of arctic winds, harsh winters are a part of Russian life. If you lived in the capital city, Moscow, you would expect to have snow on the ground in winter for four to five months. Winters are often dreary with gray skies. In summer, winds from the south bring warmer temperatures, but not much rain.

In Asian Russia, the climate is extreme. Siberia, the land furthest east, can have low temperatures of -40°F . during the long winters. Nights can be even colder. Three to four feet of snow are possible. Summers are usually mild. However, hot days in Siberia can reach over 90°F . Further north, a part of the ground stays frozen all year.

The distance from the sea influences the climate. The European Plain is the driest, but the lands bordering the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea are exceptions. They have more rainfall and warmer temperatures. The area around the Black Sea is considered subtropical, and it is a popular summer resort area. About 73 percent of the entire Russian population lives in European Russia, where the weather is harsh, but not as severe as the Asian Plains and Siberia. The climate, distance from the sea, and rugged terrain keep many of Russia's resources from being used.

Natural Resources of Russia

Russia is a land of many resources. Vast forests for lumber still are found there. However, on the European side of Russia, most of the deciduous and evergreen forests have been cleared away for cities and farms. Deposits of gold, aluminum ore, coal, and iron are found in the Ural Mountains, which border the European Plain. Russia is a leading producer and exporter of gold, minerals, metals, and machinery. Many factories that process iron and other metals are located in this region. The large cities in this area grew up around the mining industry. Today, machinery is produced in many of the factories.

The Volga River is the largest river in Europe. Over half of Russia's major cities are along the Volga. The Volga is a source of hydroelectric power for industry and a waterway to ship manufactured goods. Hydroelectric power is also a possibility on many of the rivers of Russia.

Russia's large size and cold climate make it difficult for Russians to use their resources. For example, oil and gas are natural resources of Russia. However, they are mostly in Siberia and in Asian Russia. That makes them difficult to reach.

- _____ **307. Which area of Russia is a major center for trade?**
- A. Siberia
 - B. Asian Russia
 - C. St. Petersburg
 - D. European Russia
- _____ **308. Which condition keeps Russia's natural resources from being used?**
- A. harsh climate
 - B. lack of workers
 - C. no market for them
 - D. no government funding
- _____ **309. Which statement BEST describes the way the Volga River helps manufacturing?**
- A. It provides food and water for the workers.
 - B. Workers' families ice skate and swim there.
 - C. It is used to clean machinery before it is shipped overseas.
 - D. It is used for hydroelectric power and transportation of goods.
- _____ **310. With its long northern coastline, what makes shipping in Russia so difficult?**
- A. The northern ports are blocked by ice much of the year.
 - B. Manufactured goods and people prefer to travel by train.
 - C. The Volga River is used only for hydroelectric power, not for shipping.
 - D. Cruise ships bringing tourists to St. Petersburg take up much of the harbor.

COMPARING THE UNITED KINGDOM AND RUSSIA

Russia and the United Kingdom are geographically very different. By area, Russia is the larger country, with a long coastline bordering the Arctic Ocean. Its port cities are locked by ice most of the year. The United Kingdom is an island country with a mild climate and many ports accessible all year round.

The natural resources of both countries include fossil fuels, like coal and oil. While the United Kingdom's are dwindling, much of Russia's coal and oil is untouched because of the climate and the geography of the country.

London, on the River Thames, is the capital of the United Kingdom. It is home to one of the largest financial centers in the world. International stocks are traded on the London Stock Exchange, and many foreign banks have branches there. Moscow, the capital of Russia, is its largest city. Moscow is the center for all transportation within Russia, but it is St. Petersburg, on the Baltic Sea, that is the Russian center for trade.

- _____ **311. Which natural resources are found in both Russia and the United Kingdom?**
- A. coal
 - B. gold
 - C. forests
 - D. hydroelectric power

312. Which statement BEST describes the natural resources of the United Kingdom and Russia?

- A. The United Kingdom and Russia both have gold, a valuable natural resource.
- B. The United Kingdom's coal resources are used as fuel for manufacturing, but Russia's are not.
- C. The United Kingdom and Russia both have large amounts of land and climates suitable for farming.
- D. The United Kingdom's fossil fuel resources are being used up, but much of Russia's are unused due to Russia's climate and geography.

313. How do the ports of the United Kingdom and Russia differ?

- A. The ports of the United Kingdom are open year round, and Russia's are not.
- B. Russia has no port cities, while the United Kingdom is an island with many.
- C. There is no difference in the year-round use of the ports in the United Kingdom and Russia.
- D. The ports of the United Kingdom are influenced by a mild climate, but Russia's ports are all subtropical.

314. In what way are London and St. Petersburg alike?

- A. Both are centers for trade.
- B. Both are ocean port cities.
- C. Both are capitals of their countries.
- D. Both are the largest city in the country.

SS6G10 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution on Europe.

b. Compare how the location, climate, and natural resources of Germany and Italy affect where people live and how they trade.

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF GERMANY

Location of Germany

Germany is located in north-central Europe on the European Plain. Denmark, the Baltic Sea, and the North Sea lie to the north. Poland and the Czech Republic are to the east. On the southern side lies Austria and Switzerland. To the west are France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Germany is about the size of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama combined. However, five times more people live in Germany than in these three states. Germany is one of the most densely populated parts of Europe. About 85 percent of people live in urban areas. The land is generally in three zones: Alps Mountains in the south, hilly to mountainous in the middle, plains in the north.

The Rhine River, much of which lies in Germany, is very important for trade. This river is over eight hundred miles long. The Rhine begins in the Alps of Switzerland and flows north, through Germany, to the North Sea. Many German cities lie along the Rhine. This location gives those cities an excellent way to transport goods and people.

Germany's location in the center of Europe makes it a crossroads of travel and trade. The country's excellent highway system has helped Germany take advantage of its location. Countries from Eastern Europe and Western Europe transport goods to and across Germany. The relatively flat European Plain makes transportation easier in the northern part of the country. Toward the south, the Alps make transportation more difficult. Germany has built many highways, bridges, and tunnels to improve trade

with countries to the south. Germany has eight major ports, which handle the country's exports and imports. Fourteen major airports transport goods and people all over the world.

Climate of Germany

Most of Germany has a marine climate. The waters of the Gulf Stream warm the region. That means that the warm waters of the ocean help to keep the land warm in winter. The sea also cools the land in summer. The ocean also brings moisture to the land. Precipitation provides enough moisture for the land to produce good crops. The Bavarian Alps have a climate that changes with their altitude. Some parts of the mountains are deep in snow all winter.

Eastern Germany is farther from the effects of the sea. This part of the country has longer, colder winters. Summers tend to be longer, hotter, and drier.

Natural Resources of Germany

Germany has many natural resources. Iron ore, coal, and potash are major products from mining. Uranium, which is used for nuclear fuel, is found in Germany. Nickel, natural gas, and copper are important too. Timber is a renewable resource. Much of the forests in the north has been cut to provide land for farms, villages, and towns, but there are still large amounts of timber in the south. About one-third of the land is arable (usable for crops).

Natural resources such as coal helped to build large industrial areas. These areas became large cities in Germany. Many of these are along the Rhine River. The Rhine River region is very densely populated.

_____ **315. Which describes the climate of most of Germany?**

- A. very cold winters with hot and dry summers
- B. cool summers with land deep in snow most of the winter
- C. cool winters and mild summers with good precipitation for crops
- D. hot summers and cold winters with little precipitation except for winter snow

_____ **316. Which is a natural resource of Germany?**

- A. coal
- B. gold
- C. diamonds
- D. rain forests

_____ **317. Which has about the same area as Germany?**

- A. Florida and Georgia
- B. the continental United States
- C. the southeastern United States
- D. Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina

LOCATION, CLIMATE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF ITALY

Location of Italy

Italy is a country in southern Europe. It is on a long, boot-shaped peninsula. The peninsula is surrounded on three sides by the Mediterranean Sea. The northern border of Italy is in the Alps. In this region, Italy shares a border with France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. Italy is about twice the size of the state of Georgia, but it has seven times as many people. Seven out of ten people in Italy live in urban areas. The largest urban areas are Rome, Naples, Milan, and Turin. About half of the people in Italy live in the most northern one-third of the country.

Islands and mountains affect life in Italy. The Apennine Mountains are like a backbone across Italy's length, stretching over six hundred miles. The mountains affect where people live and how they transport people and goods. Two large islands in the Mediterranean are a part of Italy. The island of Sicily is located a few miles west of the tip of "the boot" of Italy. The island of Sardinia is a bit further away. It lies about two hundred miles west of the main part of Italy.

Italy's location on the Mediterranean Sea affects trade with other countries. Italy has a long history of shipping goods to and from other countries in Europe and Asia. Merchants took advantage of Italy's location to trade goods from Africa, Asia, and Europe. Today, there are seven major airports and about one hundred smaller ones. Eight major seaports can handle the largest ships on the sea. Excellent highways, bridges, and tunnels connect Italy with their neighbors to the north.

Climate of Italy

Most of Italy has a Mediterranean climate. The Mediterranean Sea surrounding Italy keeps the temperature comfortable most of the year. Summer skies are generally clear, and rain is rare in summer. Dry summers are one of the main characteristics of this climate. Winters are usually cloudy and rainy. The sea helps keep the temperatures from getting too hot in summer and too cold in winter. The Alps block cold air moving from the north. The hot, dry air of the Sahara Desert plays a role in Italy's climate. It expands from the south sending warm dry air into Italy for much of the year.

Not all of Italy has the same kind of climate. The mountains have a climate that changes with altitude. The Alps and Apennines have snowy winters. Their temperature is usually cooler than the temperature in lower elevations. The south is drier than the north. Northern Italy has enough rain for growing crops. Southern Italy is much drier. It only gets about half as much rain as northern Italy.

Natural Resources of Italy

Italy has few mineral resources. Natural gas is the most valuable mineral resource found in Italy. It is used to help supply the country's energy needs. Marble and granite are available. These are used in the construction of buildings and artwork. Coal, mercury, zinc, and potash are other minerals found in Italy.

Arable land is important in Italy. Small farms cover much of the country. Grapes and olives are important crops. Italy is one of the world's top wine-making countries because of its excellent grape crop.

The sea is an important resource, too. The long coastline allows for more than eight hundred ports for fishing boats. About 50,000 Italians make their living as fishermen. Anchovies and sardines are two fish important to the economy. Italian fishermen also gather sponges and coral.

318. What geographic feature makes it more difficult for Italian merchants to trade with countries north of Italy?

- A. Sardinia
- B. Alps Mountains
- C. Mediterranean Sea
- D. Apennine Mountains

319. What has helped Italian merchants become successful traders?

- A. the location of the Alps, which are a defense against other countries
- B. the location on the Mediterranean Sea with access to Africa, Asia, and Europe
- C. the islands of Sicily and Sardinia, which are not far from the coast of western Italy
- D. the warm air from the Sahara Desert, which creates a warm, dry summer for most of Italy

320. Which condition is NOT a characteristic of Italy's Mediterranean climate?

- A. dry summers
- B. long, cold winters
- C. clear, blue summer skies
- D. mild temperatures all year

321. Which industry is MOST helped by Italy's arable land and good amounts of rainfall?

- A. wine making
- B. natural gas production
- C. marble and granite mines
- D. fishing fleets on the Mediterranean Sea

Use the following table to answer questions 322-325.

Comparing Italy and Germany

	Italy	Germany
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long, boot-shaped peninsula surrounded on 3 sides by the Mediterranean Sea • the Alps form the northern boundary • Apennines Mountains run from the Alps to the sea • 2 islands, Sardinia and Sicily, are part of the country • about 26% arable land • mostly coastal lowlands and river valleys, with mountains like a spine through the peninsula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in north-central Europe on European Plain • Poland to the east, France to the west, Baltic Sea to the north, Austria and Switzerland to the south • southern region, mountainous; central region, hilly and mountainous; northern region, flat plains • most important commercial waterway in Europe – Rhine River • about 34% arable land
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temperate climate with regional differences • coastal areas have mild winters and warm, dry summers • mountains have cold, wet, and snowy winters and humid subtropical summers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the west, winters are mild, summers are cool, with rainfall year round • in the east, winter are very cold, summers are very hot with long dry periods
Natural Resources	coal, mercury, zinc, potash, marble, barite, asbestos, pumice, fluorospar, feldspar, pyrite (sulfur), natural gas and crude oil reserves, fish, arable land	iron ore, coal, potash, timber, lignite, uranium, copper, natural gas, salt, nickel, arable land
Population	about 58,000,000	about 82,000,000
Area	about 116,000 square miles	about 138,000 square miles
Where People Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban: 68% • Rural: 38% • one-half of the population lives in one-third of the country – northern Italy • capital and largest city is Rome • most people live in urban areas around the major cities of Naples, Rome, Milan, and Turin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban: 85% • Rural: 15% • Berlin is the largest city and the capital • most densely populated county in European Union • huge cluster of cities in the coal fields of Western Germany near Rhine
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12+ major seaports • exports: chemicals, clothing, food, footwear, iron and steel, machinery, motor vehicles, petroleum products, textiles • major trading partners: Germany, France, U.K., and U.S. • tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exports: chemicals, food, instruments, iron and steel, machinery, motor vehicles, potash, railway, textiles • major trading partners: European Union, Switzerland, Japan, and U.S. • tourism

322. Which trading partner is shared by both countries?

- A. Japan
- B. Russia
- C. Norway
- D. United States

323. A similarity between Italy and Germany is that, in both countries, people tend to live in

- A. rural areas.
- B. urban areas.
- C. the southern region.
- D. farming communities.

324. A difference between Italy and Germany is that Germany

- A. has less arable land than Italy.
- B. is more densely populated than Italy.
- C. has a much smaller population than Italy.
- D. does not allow people to live near the Rhine River.

325. In which industries do Italy and Germany compete with each other for trade with other countries?

- A. chemicals, machinery, food
- B. potash, clothing, instruments
- C. instruments, footwear, motor vehicles
- D. tourism, petroleum, produce, iron, and steel

SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

- a. Explain the diversity of European languages as seen in a comparison of German, English, Russian, French, and Italian.

COMPARING THE LANGUAGES OF GERMAN, ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN

The continent of Europe is slightly larger than the United States in land area. However, Europe's population is more than double the population of the United States. In the United States, English is the dominant language. Other languages are spoken by immigrants and by Native Americans, but only in small numbers. Europe is much different. It is home to more than two hundred native languages. A few languages are dominant, but many more are spoken by large numbers of people.

Most European languages are in three main categories: **Germanic** languages, **Romance** languages, and **Slavic** languages. The Germanic language group has the most native speakers. European native speakers of this group live mostly in northwest and central Europe. About 20 percent of Europeans speak one of two languages—English and German—as their native language. Most Europeans learn English as a second language in their schools even if they don't speak English at home.

Another large group is the Romance languages, which includes French, Italian, and Spanish. These languages are found in the south and west of Europe. These languages come from Latin, the language of the ancient Roman Empire. The Roman alphabet is used to write both Romance and Germanic languages, although not every language has the exact same characters and punctuation. The words on this page are written using the Roman alphabet.