

Europe – Physical Features

Europe is the second smallest of the world's seven continents, yet it contains around 50 countries and a remarkable variety of physical landscapes. Its geography ranges from the frozen tundra of the far north to the sun-baked coastlines of the Mediterranean in the south.

The most significant mountain range in Europe is the Alps, which stretches across France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria and beyond. The highest point in the Alps is Mont Blanc at 4,808 metres. Further east, the Carpathian Mountains arc through Slovakia, Poland and Romania. In southern Europe, the Pyrenees form a natural border between France and Spain.

Europe's rivers have shaped its history and continue to be vital today. The River Volga in Russia is the longest river in Europe. The River Danube is the second longest, flowing through ten countries before draining into the Black Sea. The Rhine, Rhône and Seine are other significant rivers that flow through western Europe.

The Northern European Plain is a vast, flat area stretching from France across to Russia, containing some of the continent's most fertile farmland.

Europe also has volcanic activity. Iceland sits on a boundary between two tectonic plates, making it highly volcanic. Mount Etna in Sicily is one of the world's most active volcanoes. Europe's physical geography has greatly influenced where people choose to live.

Questions

1. How many countries does Europe contain?
2. Which mountain range forms a natural border between France and Spain?
3. What is the height of Mont Blanc?
4. Name two countries that the Carpathian Mountains pass through.
5. What is the longest river in Europe?
6. How many countries does the River Danube flow through?
7. What is the Northern European Plain known for?
8. Why is Iceland particularly volcanic?
9. Name a well-known active volcano in Sicily.
10. Why do you think the Northern European Plain might be one of the most densely populated areas of Europe?



Text C Quiz



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