

# Summary: Geography and Climate

## The Geography of Europe

Europe is a peninsula. It is surrounded by water on the north, south, and west. Europe's natural landforms include smaller peninsulas, mountain ranges, and a plain.

Europe also has several rivers, including the Rhine, the Danube, and the Volga. In the past, these rivers and other waterways quickly moved people and goods long distances.

The Scandinavian Peninsula is one of Europe's small peninsulas. It is home to the countries of Sweden and Norway. Deep sea inlets called fjords are located along the coast.

Another small peninsula is the Iberian Peninsula. This peninsula is part of Western Europe. The Pyrenees Mountains separate the Iberian Peninsula from the rest of Europe. Other European mountain ranges are the Alps and the Ural Mountains. The Urals stretch along the border between Europe and Asia.

Rich farmland is found in the Great European Plain. It stretches from the coast of France to the Ural Mountains. Long ago, trade drew many settlers to this area. Today, many people live in big cities on the Great European Plain. Paris, Berlin, and Moscow are a few of these cities.

## Climate and Natural Resources

Most of Europe has a mild climate. The Gulf Stream's warm air and water flow across this area.

Chilly winds from the Arctic Circle can make Northern Europe and mountain areas very cold. But the Alps and the Pyrenees protect the south from the cold. These mountains block the winds so the Mediterranean coast stays warm.

The coast attracts many visitors who enjoy the hot, dry summers. In July, the temperature along the Mediterranean coast is usually about 80°F. Summer temperatures in the rest of Europe range from 50°F to 70°F.

Europe receives lots of rain and has good soil. Most of Europe has weather that is just right for farming. It is a world leader in crop production. Only part of the continent is too cold or too hot and dry to grow crops.

Europe is also known for its natural resources, including minerals such as coal and iron ore. Iron ore is used to make cars and other products.

### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**peninsula** *noun*, land surrounded by water on three sides

**fjord** *noun*, a deep inlet of sea between two cliffs

**plain** *noun*, a flat area of land without many trees

### After You Read

**REVIEW** Why were waterways important for the movement of people and goods? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

**REVIEW** What two factors have made Europe a world leader in crop production? Highlight the sentence that tells two factors that have made Europe a world leader in crop production.