

## Europe, Russia, and the Independent Republics

### Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- how geography and history have shaped Western Europe
- about cultural, scientific, and political revolutions in Europe
- about World Wars I and II, and how they changed Europe
- about the breakup of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe's independence
- about political, geographical, and cultural features of the United Kingdom, Sweden, France, Germany, and Poland

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

### Talk About It

Chapter 12: Europe: War and Change

**Alliances.** Discuss the purpose of an alliance and why one might be formed.

Chapter 13: Modern Europe

**Gaining independence.** Ask your child what freedoms and responsibilities he or she would like to have as he or she gets older and becomes more independent. Why is independence a challenge?

Chapter 14: Europe Today

**Cultural diversity.** European countries have diverse cultures. Discuss your family's heritage, and ask your child how your family is unique.

### Make It

**Family Flag.** Each nation has a flag that contains symbols and colors that hold special meaning. Work with your child to design a family flag.

### Read to Learn More About It

*Daily Life in Ancient and Modern Rome* by Joan D. Barghusen. The author chronicles what it was like to live in Rome from ancient to modern times.

*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. This Newbery Award-winning book is the story of a Danish girl and her family who help to smuggle Jews to safety during World War II.



#### Technology

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