As you read this chapter, list the differences among European peoples and the similarities that bind them into one cultural region. Which of these differences and similarities might affect Europe’s future?

Chapter Overview  Visit the Glencoe World Geography Web site at tx.geography.glencoe.com and click on Chapter Overviews—Chapter 12 to preview information about the cultural geography of the region.
Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know
Recent conflicts in Europe’s Balkan Peninsula frequently make newspaper headlines. How do these conflicts affect everyday life for people in the region today?

Read to Find Out
• How does the physical geography of Europe influence its population density and distribution?
• What effects have industrialization and urbanization had on Europe’s people?
• How have recent patterns of migration influenced the region’s cultures?

Terms to Know
• ethnic group
• ethnic cleansing
• refugee
• urbanization

Places to Locate
• Sweden
• Belgium
• Bosnia-Herzegovina
• Kosovo
• Germany
• Vatican City
• United Kingdom
• France
• Czech Republic
• Poland
• Paris
• London
• Naples

Population Patterns

A Geographic View

Search for a New Life

In a world of shifting demographics—where the poor, the dispossessed, and the war-ravaged are on the move—Western Europe has become the migrant’s preferred destination. . . . There are nearly 20 million legal immigrants there—plus an estimated two million illegal aliens. . . . In 1992 more than 750,000 political asylum seekers crowded into Europe, more than half of them into Germany. Almost all become economic wards [dependents] of their adopted nations.

—Peter Ross Range, “Europe Faces an Immigrant Tide,” National Geographic, May 1993

Europe is home to more than 40 countries, whose peoples belong to many different cultural groups and speak a variety of languages. This diversity stems from centuries of migration, cultural diffusion, conflict, and changing borders. In this section you will learn about Europe’s peoples, their ethnic characteristics, and where they live.

Ethnic Diversity

Europe’s diverse population reflects a long history of migrations throughout the continent. Most Europeans are descended from various Indo-European and Mediterranean peoples who settled the continent centuries ago. Europe’s population today also includes more recent immigrants from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean area who arrived during the past 100 years. Many of these immigrants have come from areas of the world once ruled by European countries.
Ethnic Groups

Today Europe is home to more than 160 separate ethnic groups—groups of people with a shared ancestry, language, customs, and, often, religion. Some European countries have one major ethnic group. In Sweden, for example, 89 percent of the population are Swedes, descendants of Germanic and other groups that settled the peninsula of Scandinavia centuries ago. They share a common culture, the Swedish language, and a Lutheran religious heritage.

In other countries the population consists of two or more major ethnic groups. For example, Belgium has two leading ethnic groups—the Flemings and the Walloons. The Flemings make up about 56 percent of Belgium’s population and the Walloons about 32 percent. The Flemings, closely related to the Dutch, are descended from Germanic groups who invaded the area of present-day Belgium during the A.D. 400s. The Walloons trace their ancestry to the Celts who lived in the area during the Germanic invasions. Flemings and Walloons are both Roman Catholic, but language differences have often led to bitter relations between them. Both groups, however, have been able to keep their disputes from endangering Belgium’s national unity.

Ethnic Tensions

Tensions among some European ethnic groups have led to armed conflict. The Balkan Peninsula has long been a shatterbelt, a region caught between external and internal rivalries. In the 1990s, the Balkans was a battleground among Serbs, Croats, Bosnian Muslims, and Kosovar Albanians. Following World War II, these and other Balkan peoples had belonged to a communist-ruled land called Yugoslavia. For a time, hatreds were muted. But after the communist system’s fall in the early 1990s, ethnic tensions erupted, resulting in Yugoslavia’s breakup into separate independent republics.

Within some of the new republics, ethnic hatreds were serious enough to spark the worst fighting in Europe since World War II. The republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina (BAHZ•nee•uh HERT•seh•gaw•vee•nah) and the Serb-ruled territory of Kosovo (KAW•saw•vaw) were centers of the most brutal warfare. Following a policy called ethnic cleansing, Serb leaders expelled or killed rival ethnic groups in these areas. As a result, many people became refugees—people who flee to a foreign country for safety. International peacemaking efforts, however, enabled many of these refugees to later return to their homes.

Sources of Unity

Although division and conflict have characterized much of Europe’s history, Europeans in recent years have been working toward greater unity. Their efforts at cooperation rest on common attitudes and values. For example, most Europeans value the importance of the past and the cultural achievements of their ancestors. They also take pride in their families, which they place at the center of their social lives.

Despite having varying forms of government, the peoples of Europe generally share a commitment to
democracy and free markets. Their sense of individualism, however, is combined with the belief that government should regulate economies and provide for social welfare. These similarities make it easier for residents to think of themselves as Europeans as well as members of ethnic or national groups.

**Population Characteristics**

Europe is smaller in land area than any other continent except Australia. Yet it is the third most populous continent, after Asia and Africa. In the year 2001, Europe’s population (excluding Russia) was about 583 million. **Germany**, with 82.2 million people, is Europe’s largest country in population, and **Vatican City** is the smallest, with only 1,000 people.

**Population Density**

Europe’s large numbers of people are crowded into a relatively small space. In fact, Europe’s population density is greater than that of any other continent except Asia. If Europe’s population were distributed evenly throughout the continent, the average population density would be 255 people per square mile (98 people per sq. km). In Europe, however, as in other continents, the population is not distributed evenly. Most of Europe has far less than the average population density. The region’s highly industrialized urban centers, however, are among the world’s most densely populated areas.

**Population Distribution**

As in other parts of the world, Europe’s population distribution is closely related to its physical geography. Compare the population density map on page 262 with the physical map on page 260. Notice that mountainous areas and cold northern areas in Europe are less populated than plains areas. In fact, the parts of Europe with average or higher than average population densities share one or more of the following features: favorable climates, plains, fertile soil, mineral resources, and inland waterways. One of the most densely populated parts of Europe extends from the **United Kingdom** into **France** and across the fertile North European Plain into the **Czech Republic** and **Poland**. Another densely populated area extends from southeastern France into northern Italy. In addition to having rich farmland, these regions contain densely populated, industrial cities.

**Urbanization**

Beginning in the late 1700s, the Industrial Revolution transformed Europe from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrial society. Rural villagers moved in large numbers to urban areas
and became factory workers. This concentration of populations in towns and cities is known as urbanization. The growth of industries and cities began first in western Europe during the late 1700s. Later, after World War II, this process spread to eastern Europe.

Today about 75 percent of Europeans live in cities. Paris and London rank among the world’s largest urban areas. Other European cities with large populations include Rome, Italy; Madrid, Spain; Berlin, Germany; Stockholm, Sweden; Budapest, Hungary; Athens, Greece; and Kiev, Ukraine.

**Urban Features**

Europe’s largest cities, like cities everywhere, face the challenges of overcrowding and pollution. In spite of these problems, European cities provide a unique combination of old and new ways of life. Landmarks that date back hundreds of years stand near fast-food restaurants and shopping malls. Naples, Italy, is one city that reflects this coming together of past and present in modern Europe:

> “One morning I went on a . . . walk through . . . the historic center of Naples. Here the grid plan remains from the original Greek settlement, with laundry-festooned streets barely the width of an average driveway. Lack of space has never presented any serious problem to the Neapolitan. . . . At any given moment there will be at least one car on the street, along with two motorbikes (coming from opposite directions), three girls walking arm in arm, and a family with a baby carriage, all of whom unaccountably manage to avoid collision.”

**Economics**

**Population Movements**

Population movements have been a constant aspect of European life. During the 1800s and early 1900s, many Europeans migrated to the Americas and parts of Africa and the South Pacific region. Since the mid-1900s, far fewer Europeans have permanently left the region, but large numbers of foreigners have migrated to Europe.

When western Europe’s economy boomed during the 1950s and 1960s, labor shortages developed. Many European countries invited guest workers from other countries to fill available jobs. Soon guest workers and immigrants began arriving, seeking the social and economic opportunities that western Europe had to offer. In France, for example, immigrants came from North African countries newly independent from France. In Germany guest workers from Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan countries of southeastern Europe filled industrial jobs. The United Kingdom also saw
increased immigration from countries in South Asia and the Caribbean areas that had once been British but were now independent.

By the time Europe’s economy had slowed in the 1970s, many guest workers had moved their families and established homes in host countries. Tensions rose as the immigrants and local residents competed for jobs, housing, and social services. As a result, many immigrants felt unwelcome in their new countries. Since the 1970s, European governments have tried to limit further immigration while protecting the rights of their immigrant communities.

Despite its growing immigrant populations and abundant resources, Europe’s overall population is shrinking. Italy and Germany, for example, have the world’s lowest birthrates. Experts predict that Italy’s population will fall from 57.8 million today to about 41 million by 2050. In addition, older people are making up a larger percentage of Europe’s population.

Europe’s population continues to change even as it maintains and honors its historic traditions. In the next section you will learn how Europe’s physical geography affected the settlement of its peoples and their cultural and economic development.

A Village in Ruins

During the 1990s ethnic violence uprooted many people in the Balkan Peninsula.

Movement What major European country has hosted Balkan migrants since the 1950s?
CAN YOU IMAGINE waking in the night to the sounds of soldiers and gunfire? Quickly you grab a few belongings and flee with your family from your home. This scenario may sound far-fetched, but if you lived on the Balkan Peninsula, it might be more believable. There, many people have been forced from their homes during the last decade. The peninsula has long been a region of instability and conflict. But since the breakup of the former Yugoslavia in 1991–1992, long-held resentments among various ethnic groups have erupted into full-scale wars.

A New Nation Emerges
The Balkan Peninsula lies in southeast Europe, between the Black and Adriatic Seas. Towering mountain ranges—the Carpathian and Dinaric—dominate the area. Long ago, Slavic peoples moved south into the region from what are now southern Poland and Russia. Slavic groups established independent states—Croatia, founded by the Croats; Serbia, founded by the Serbs; and Slovenia, founded by the Slovenes. Foreign nations ruled these lands for centuries. The Ottomans, who were based in what is now

Families flee Rača, Yugoslavia, when fighting erupts in their village. Minority ethnic groups throughout the region have been forced to leave their homes.
Turkey, controlled much of the region and gave the peninsula its name—Balkan, or “mountains.”

The Ottoman Turks were defeated in the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913, ending their 500-year reign. Following their departure, a movement to unite the Slavs into one country gained strength. In 1918 the Slavs formed the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. It was later renamed Yugoslavia, “Land of the South Slavs.”

During World War II, Nazi Germany’s occupation of Yugoslavia divided the country. Throughout the war, an underground group headed by Croatian Josip Broz, who was code-named Tito, worked against Germany. At war’s end, Yugoslavia emerged as a Communist country with Tito as its leader. It consisted of six republics—Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Macedonia.

The Nation Splinters
Tito ruled Yugoslavia with an iron hand and succeeded in holding the ethnically mixed republics together. One of his challenges was to prevent Serbia, the largest of the republics, from dominating the central government. To dilute Serb power, Tito gave greater autonomy to two provinces within Serbia—Kosovo and Vojvodina.

Yugoslavia’s economy began to crumble in the 1970s. When Tito died in 1980, the country began to fracture along ethnic lines. In 1991 Serbia’s president, Slobodan Milosevic, tried to assert Serb leadership over the republics. Slovenia, Macedonia, and Croatia declared independence. Fighting erupted in Croatia between Serbs and non-Serbs. When Bosnia and Herzegovina tried to secede, civil war broke out. By 1992 only two of the six republics—Serbia and Montenegro—remained united. They make up present-day Yugoslavia.

Looking Ahead
The hostilities are far from over. Minority ethnic groups throughout the region may be tomorrow’s targets. How do the historic and geographic roots of the area shed light on the conflict?
Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know

Europe, a relatively small continent, is home to a great variety of ethnic groups. How do you think being exposed to many different cultures has affected the way Europeans live?

Read to Find Out

• What contributions did early Europeans make to world culture?
• In what ways has Europe’s geography shaped its history?
• What were the effects of world wars and economic and political revolutions in Europe?

Terms to Know

• city-state
• Middle Ages
• feudalism
• Crusades
• Renaissance
• Reformation
• Enlightenment
• industrial capitalism
• communism
• reparations
• Holocaust
• Cold War
• European Union

Places to Locate

• Greece
• Rome
• Athens
• Italy
• Constantinople
• Spain
• Portugal

History and Government

A Geographic View

Layers of Culture

Bosnia and Herzegovina spreads across the gnarled reaches of the Dinaric Alps, a region possessed of enough bracing mountain beauty, enterprise, and gusto to have landed the 1984 Winter Olympics at its capital, Sarajevo. Even in this rugged corner of the Balkan Peninsula, the wash of empires—Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian—deposited layer upon layer of culture.

—Priit J. Vesilind, “In Focus: Bosnia,” National Geographic, June 1996

The layering of cultures in the Balkans area is typical of Europe as a whole. Throughout the region, buildings, monuments, and local customs reflect the different periods of Europe’s long history and the peoples that dominated its stage at these times. Through empire-building, immigration, and trade, Europe’s cultures also have influenced other parts of the world. In this section you will learn about the contributions Europeans have made in learning, the arts, and technology.

The Rise of Europe

Physical geography in part has shaped Europe’s history. The physical map on page 260 shows that several large bodies of water touch Europe. This closeness to the sea enabled Europeans to move beyond their own borders to other parts of the world. In addition, European mountain ranges contained passes and so did not severely
hinder contacts within the region as did mountain ranges in other parts of the world. Also, Europe’s river-crossed fertile plains encouraged peaceful settlement as well as invasions and conflicts.

**Early Peoples**

Fossils found by archaeologists suggest that early humans lived in Europe more than a million years ago. Prehistoric Europeans moved from place to place in search of food. By about 6000 B.C., farming spread from Southwest Asia to southeastern Europe and then to all but the densely forested areas in the northern part of the continent. With the introduction of farming, early Europeans settled in agricultural villages, some of which later developed into Europe’s first cities.

**Ancient Greece and Rome**

Two civilizations in the Mediterranean world laid the foundations of European—and Western—civilization. The first was ancient Greece, which reached its peak during the 400s and 300s B.C. The second civilization, whose capital was Rome, ruled a vast empire that reached its height of power between 27 B.C. and A.D. 180.

Greece’s mountainous landscape and its closeness to the sea influenced the ancient Greeks to form separate communities called city-states. Each city-state was independent, but was linked to other city-states by Greek language and culture. Fleeing overpopulated areas and desiring new wealth, Greek merchants and sailors eventually colonized many parts of the Mediterranean coast.

The ancient Greeks laid the foundations of European government and culture. The city-state of Athens introduced the Western idea of democracy. Although women and enslaved persons could not vote, more people had a voice in Athens’ government than in any earlier civilization. Greek art, literature, drama, and philosophy as well as mathematics and medicine also left a lasting impression on the Western world.

In Italy around 500 B.C., another Mediterranean people, the Romans, founded a republic. From the city of Rome, Roman armies went forth to conquer an empire that spanned much of Europe, some of Southwest Asia, and North Africa. The Romans imitated Greek art and literature, and borrowed from Greek science and architecture.

Roman developments in government, law, and engineering, however, influenced other cultures. Throughout the Roman Empire, for example, engineers built a vast network of roads, bridges, and aqueducts—artificial channels for carrying water.

**A Christian Europe**

In the late A.D. 300s, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire and, later, one of the world’s major religions. Although united in name, the empire came to be ruled by two emperors, one in the eastern half and the other in the western half. Eventually the two parts developed into eastern and western Europe, each with its own political, cultural, and religious traditions. During the 400s, Germanic groups from the north overthrew Roman rule in the western half and founded...
**Unit 4**

Ages. Cities and towns in western Europe were home to Jewish communities that made contributions to European society. Many Christians, however, saw the Jews as outsiders and persecuted or discriminated against them. Expelled from much of western Europe, many Jews settled in eastern Europe, where they developed new communities based on their religious traditions.

Another influence on Christian Europe was Islam, a religion based on belief in one God and the preachings of Muhammad, a prophet who lived in Southwest Asia during the 600s. Within a century of Muhammad’s death, Islam had spread from Southwest Asia through North Africa and into Spain. Muslims, the followers of Islam, developed a culture in Spain that passed on to Europeans many achievements in science, mathematics, and medicine.

**Expansion of Europe**

Beginning in the 1000s, western European armies fought the Crusades—a series of brutal religious wars—to win Palestine, the birthplace of Christianity, from Muslim rule. Europeans failed to win permanent control of the area but did extend trade routes to the eastern Mediterranean world. Spices and other products that came with increased trade sparked the interest of the small number of educated Europeans in other parts of the world. Beginning in the 1300s, the Renaissance (reh•nuh•SAHNTS)—a 300-year period of discovery and learning—brought about great advances in European civilization.
The Renaissance

During the Renaissance, educated Europeans developed a new interest in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. They stressed the importance of people and their place in this world. Writers described human feelings, and artists created life-like paintings and sculptures. In addition to religious structures, architects designed buildings, such as palaces and villas, for private use. The Renaissance also led to scientific advances. For example, the invention of movable type in printing spread new ideas more quickly and easily.

The increased production of books and pamphlets aided a religious movement called the Reformation, which lessened the power of the Roman Catholic Church and led to the beginnings of Protestantism. By the mid-1500s, Protestant churches were dominant in northern Europe, but Roman Catholicism retained its hold on the southern, central, and northeastern parts of the region. Religious wars soon engulfed Europe, and European monarchs were able to strengthen their power over nobles and church leaders.

European Explorations

During the Middle Ages, Europe lagged behind the Chinese and Muslim empires in economic development. In the 1400s, however, western Europe began to emerge as a significant force in world affairs. At that time seafarers from Portugal developed new trade routes around Africa to Asia. Spanish rulers financed the Italian-born explorer Christopher Columbus, who reached the Americas in the late 1400s. England, France, and the Netherlands also sent out expeditions of explorers. These voyages resulted in conquests of foreign lands, often destroying the cultures already thriving there. Trade with colonies in the Americas, Asia, and Africa brought great wealth and power to western Europe.

A Changing Europe

During the late 1600s and early 1700s, many educated Europeans emphasized the importance of reason and began to question long-standing traditions and values. This movement, known as the Enlightenment, was followed by political and economic revolutions that swept the entire region.

Revolutions

At this time Europeans wanting a voice in government began political revolutions. In the late 1600s, the English Parliament, or lawmaking body, passed a Bill of Rights that limited the power of the monarch. The French Revolution in the late 1700s overthrew France’s monarchy and spread the ideals of democracy. The 1800s saw many uprisings throughout the rest of Europe that challenged the power of monarchs and nobles. By 1900 most European countries had constitutions that limited rulers’ powers and guaranteed at least some political rights to citizens.

During this time of political change, the Industrial Revolution began in England and rapidly spread to other countries. Power-driven machinery and new methods of production transformed life in Europe. Industrial cities and improved transportation and communication developed. These sweeping changes led to the rise of industrial capitalism, an economic system in which business leaders used profits to
expand their companies. Under this system, new social groups emerged: a middle class of merchants and factory owners, and a working class of factory laborers. Although the middle class prospered, factory workers at first were poorly paid and lived in crowded, unhealthy conditions.

These social problems led in the mid-1800s to the birth of communism—a philosophy that called for a society based on economic equality in which the workers would control the factories and industrial production. By the end of the 1800s, various European governments began passing laws to improve conditions for workers in the workplace and to expand education, housing, and health care.

**Conflict and Division**

In the first half of the 1900s, two world wars resulted in major changes in Europe. Rivalries among European powers for colonies and economic power led to World War I, which lasted from 1914 to 1918. An American journalist, Richard Harding Davis, described the German invasion of Belgium in these words:

“... For three days and three nights the column of gray, with fifty thousand bayonets and fifty thousand lances, with gray transport wagons, gray ammunition carts, gray ambulances, gray cannons, like a river of steel cut Brussels in two.”

quoted in John N. Chettle, “When War Called, Davis Answered,” Smithsonian, April 2000

As a result of World War I, monarchies collapsed in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia, and several central and eastern European countries won independence. The Versailles peace treaty in 1919 found Germany guilty of starting the war and demanded that Germany make reparations, or payment for damages.

The large number of unresolved political problems from World War I and a worldwide economic depression enabled dictators Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler to gain control of Italy and Germany, respectively. Following aggressive territorial expansion by these two countries, World War II broke out in 1939. By the time this conflict ended in 1945, most of Europe and much of the rest of the world were involved. A major horror of World War II in Europe was the Holocaust, the mass killing of more than 6 million European Jews and others by Germany’s Nazi leaders.

World War II left Europe ruined and divided. Most of eastern Europe came under communist control of the Soviet Union, and most of western Europe backed democracy and received economic and military support from the United States. This division of Europe brought about the Cold War, a power struggle between the communist world, led by the Soviet Union, and the noncommunist world, led by the United States. A divided Germany—communist East Germany and democratic West Germany—became the “hot point” of the Cold War in Europe.

**History**

**The Cold War in Europe**

At the end of World War II, the victorious Allies, including the United States, the Soviet Union, the
United Kingdom, and France, divided Germany into four zones. By 1949 the three western zones of Germany were combined into West Germany, with Bonn as its capital. The eastern zone, occupied by the Soviets, became East Germany with East Berlin as its capital. Throughout the decade following the division, many East Germans fled to the West to escape communism. In the 1960s, East Germany built the Berlin Wall and other barriers to stop this movement of people.

During the Cold War era, most western European democracies became more productive and economically secure than they had been before World War II. In contrast, communist governments in eastern Europe allowed people little voice in government or the economy. Although eastern European communist countries pushed for industrial growth, their economies and standards of living lagged behind those of western Europe.

A New Era for Europe

From the 1950s to the 1980s, revolts against communist rule periodically swept eastern Europe. In Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania, and Bulgaria, citizens demanded freedom and a better way of life. In the early 1980s, Polish workers founded Solidarity, the first free labor union in the communist world. In 1989, public demonstrations—and the refusal of reform-minded Soviet leaders to intervene—
Checking for Understanding

1. Define city-state, Middle Ages, feudalism, Crusades, Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment, industrial capitalism, communism, reparations, Holocaust, Cold War, European Union.

2. Main Ideas Create a section outline like the one below. Fill in headings from this section, and add supporting details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European History and Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. The Rise of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Early peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Prehistoric Europeans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Ancient Greece and Rome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical Thinking

3. Identifying Cause and Effect How did the rise of communism and working-class movements affect the lives of workers in the 1800s?

4. Drawing Conclusions How were the countries of eastern Europe affected by World War I? By World War II?

5. Predicting Consequences How might an organization such as the European Union encourage unity among the various European countries? Provide examples to support your answer.

6. Region Study the map of the Roman Empire on page 295. Compare it with the map of Europe 2001 on page 299. Which areas of Europe were not conquered by the Romans?

Analyzing Maps

7. Causes of Political Change Study the maps of Europe in 1955 and in 2001 on page 299. Choose one area whose boundaries changed between 1955 and 2001, and write a paragraph explaining the causes and effects of these changes.

swiftly led to the fall of eastern Europe’s communist governments. Dramatic changes followed. The infamous Berlin Wall came down, and in 1990, the two parts of Germany reunited. Three years later, Czechoslovakia split into two separate countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Throughout much of eastern Europe during the 1990s, free elections installed democratic leaders, who encouraged the rise of market economies.

Changes also occurred in western Europe. During the 1950s, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany banded closer together economically and politically. By the 1990s this growing movement toward unity had led to the European Union (EU), an organization whose goal was a united Europe in which goods, services, and workers could move freely among member countries. The Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, set goals for a central bank and a common currency. Launched in 1999, that currency, the euro, replaced national currencies, such as the Italian lira and the German mark, in 2002. Currently comprising 15 member countries, the European Union plans to expand its membership to include eastern European countries. In the next section, you will learn about the variety of cultures and lifestyles that are found today in the new Europe.
Guide to Reading

Consider What You Know
The cultures of Europe have had a profound influence on the rest of the world. How many European artworks—paintings, sculptures, literary works, musical compositions, or works of architecture—can you list? Can you name the artist who created each work, and the country where the artist worked or lived?

Read to Find Out
• How has religion influenced the cultural development of Europe?
• Why has European art and culture been so influential throughout the world?
• How do European governments meet the educational and health-care needs of their peoples?

Terms to Know
• dialect
• language family
• Good Friday
• Peace Agreement
• romanticism
• realism
• impressionist
• welfare state

Places to Locate
• Switzerland
• Northern Ireland
• the Netherlands
• Ukraine

Cultures and Lifestyles

A Geographic View

Denmark’s Two Seasons
Life in Denmark is divided into two parts, the Golden Summer and the Great Murk, which extends from late fall to mid-spring. The months of youth and beauty [are] when the sky is light until almost 11 p.m. and Danes take to the beaches, eat in their gardens, soak up the sun, feel sleek and smart. . . . [T]he other months [are] when they go to and from work in the dark and the rain and just try to keep putting one foot in front of the other and not get too glum.


In Denmark, as in other countries of Europe, people have developed distinct ways of life in response to their physical environment. At the same time that Europe becomes more united politically and economically, its peoples struggle to maintain their separate cultural identities. In this section you will learn about the cultural characteristics that both unite and divide Europeans as well as impact their everyday lives.

Expressions of Culture
Like people in other regions, Europeans express their values through language, religion, and the arts. A study of European languages, religions, and art forms reveals the rich diversity of culture in Europe today.
Languages

In Europe there are about 50 different languages and more than 100 dialects, or local forms of languages. At times dialects are so different that even people speaking the same language have difficulty understanding one another. For example, a dialect of English called Orkney is spoken in the Orkney Islands off Scotland’s northern coast:

“The Orkney dialect] combines Old Norse words with many unique or archaic English expressions in a way that leaves outsiders—

known as ‘eens fae off,’ literally ‘ones from off’—hopelessly befuddled. [An Orkney resident observes:] “When someone says to you, ‘We hid a quey caff yistreen’ (We had a female calf last night), you know you are on the fringes of the English-speaking world.”


Almost all of Europe’s languages and dialects, however, belong to the Indo-European language

MAP STUDY

Europe: Languages

Indo-European
- Germanic
- Romance
- Slavic
- Baltic
- Greek
- Albanian
- Celtic

Uralic
- Finnish
- Sami
- Ugric

Basque
- Basque

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

Geography Skills for Life

1. Interpreting Maps What Celtic languages do Europeans speak?

2. Applying Geography Skills In what countries of Europe are Romance languages predominant?
A language family is a group of related languages that developed from an earlier language. The Indo-European family has several major branches in Europe. Most people in eastern Europe speak Slavic languages—including Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Slovak, Ukrainian, Belorussian, and Serbo-Croatian—or Baltic languages, such as Latvian and Lithuanian. In northern Europe, most people speak Germanic languages—German, Dutch, English, Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian. The Romance languages, which come from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire, are widely spoken in southern Europe. They include Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Romanian. Other Indo-European branches are Greek, Albanian, and the Celtic languages. Two European language groups are not Indo-European—the Uralic languages (Finnish, Estonian, and Hungarian) and Basque, one of the world’s few languages that is not related to any other.

Many European countries have one or more official languages, those that are recognized by the government, and a smaller number of the other languages. For example, Romanian is the official language of Romania, but Hungarian and German are also spoken there. Switzerland has three official languages—German, French, and Italian. A fourth language—Romansch, closely related to Latin—is spoken by a small number of Swiss.

Religion

Religion—primarily Christianity—has deeply shaped European values, societies, and cultures. Today many Europeans are not practicing members of a religious body, but they still maintain cultural links to the faiths of their ancestors, especially in celebrating religious holidays. Although many European countries have a largely Christian heritage, others are Muslim or have a diversity of faiths.

### Europe: Religions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Number of Followers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>286,124,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox</td>
<td>134,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>86,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Christian*</td>
<td>26,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>17,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>1,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other religions</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonreligious</td>
<td>26,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*mainly Anglican (Church of England)

**Sources:** World Almanac, 2001; Britannica Book of the Year, 2000

**GRAPH STUDY**

1. **Interpreting Graphs** How does the percentage of Europeans who are Roman Catholic compare with the percentage of those who are Protestant? Eastern Orthodox?

2. **Applying Geography Skills** Why do you think religion has both united and divided Europeans throughout their history? Provide examples to support your answer.
Most of Europe’s Christians are Roman Catholics, who live in southern Europe, parts of western Europe, and the northern part of eastern Europe. Protestants, who generally belong to the Anglican, Lutheran, and Reformed churches, are dominant in northern and northwestern Europe. Eastern Orthodox churches are strongest in the southern part of eastern Europe. Many Muslims live in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Bulgaria. Jewish communities are found in all major European cities.

Religious leaders, such as Pope John Paul II, head of the Roman Catholic Church, inspired religious believers in eastern Europe in the struggle against communist controls. With the fall of communism and its antireligious policies, religious freedom came to eastern Europeans during the 1990s.

Although religion unites some Europeans, it divides others. For years, hostility between Catholics and Protestants led to conflict in Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom. Roman Catholics there wanted to become part of the largely Catholic Republic of Ireland, and Protestants favored keeping ties with the mostly Protestant United Kingdom. In 1998 the Good Friday Peace Agreement paved the way for Protestant and Roman Catholic communities to share political power. Though hopes for peace run high, the political situation in Northern Ireland remains unstable.

Religious and ethnic differences were at the heart of conflict in the Balkan Peninsula. During the early 1990s, Roman Catholic Croats, Eastern Orthodox Serbs, and Muslim Bosniaks fought over land and political power in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Later in the decade, Eastern Orthodox Serbs fought the Albanian Muslim majority in the Serb province of Kosovo.

The Arts

As a result of Europe’s global influence in the 1800s and 1900s, European art forms have spread around the world and influenced other cultures. The arts of Europe reflect its history as well as the ideas and values of its people.

Europe’s temples and churches show the close relationship of religion and architecture. The
Parthenon in Athens and the Pantheon in Rome are examples of temples built by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The Roman Catholic cathedral in Córdoba, Spain, once was a mosque built by North African Muslims who brought Islam to Spain. The Church of the Holy Apostles in Salonica, Greece, is an example of Byzantine art that reflects Eastern Orthodox spirituality. Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris is an example of the Gothic architecture that flourished in Roman Catholic western Europe from the mid-1100s to the 1400s.

During the 1500s and 1600s, European artists and writers began to work with everyday subjects as well as religious themes. The paintings of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarotti influenced generations of artists. England’s William Shakespeare wrote numerous plays, and Spain’s Miguel de Cervantes penned Don Quixote, a classic novel about a landowner who imagines himself a knight called to perform heroic deeds.

In the 1600s and 1700s, new music forms, such as opera and the symphony, emerged in Europe. In the 1800s artists such as French painter Eugène Delacroix, British writer Sir Walter Scott, and German composer Ludwig van Beethoven reflected the style of romanticism, which focused on the emotions, stirring historical events, and the exotic. During the mid-1800s, realism—an artistic style that focused on accurately depicting the details of everyday life—became prominent. Later in the century, a group of French painters called impressionists moved outdoors from their studios to capture immediate experiences, or “impressions,” of the natural world.

During the 1900s, European artists and writers explored a variety of new forms and styles. Abstract painting and sculpture, which emphasized form and color over realistic content, became dominant. An important European artist who influenced modern art was the Spanish painter Pablo Picasso. In architecture, Germany’s Bauhaus school of design emphasized clean geometric forms and the use of glass and concrete.

Quality of Life

Today western Europe, with its heritage of industrial and urban growth, generally enjoys a higher standard of living than southern and eastern Europe. Many eastern European countries especially struggle with problems inherited from the communist past or are rebuilding economies damaged by recent warfare or internal unrest. The...
gap in the quality of life among various parts of Europe poses an obstacle to full European unity.

**Education**

Respect for education is a traditional European value. The quality of education in Europe, whose people are among the world’s best educated, is linked to economic performance. Countries with a high standard of living can afford to improve schools and provide specialized training for students. With the exception of war-torn Balkan countries, European countries have literacy rates above 90 percent.

The number of years of required schooling varies from country to country. For example, in Portugal children must attend school for only 6 years, but the United Kingdom requires 12 years. Many European school systems provide preparation for either college or vocational training.

**Economics**

**State-Sponsored Human Services**

Some European countries, such as Sweden and the United Kingdom, offer complete social welfare programs to their citizens. These countries, known as welfare states, have tax-supported programs for higher education, health care, and social security. The government of Sweden is Europe’s most wide-ranging provider of human services. For example, each Swedish family receives an allowance for every child under 16 years of age and for secondary or university students. Also, single parents with low incomes can obtain allowances for family vacations.

Funding social programs is expensive for European governments. Many countries, such as Sweden and France, have spent large portions of their national budgets to provide social services. In recent years European governments have had to tighten their budgets and limit human services to citizens most in need. This cutback has met with opposition from trade unions and voters.

**Lifestyles**

Cultural and economic differences have produced a variety of lifestyles in Europe. These differences, however, have lessened as industrialization, urbanization, and technological advances have brought a common culture to many places.
Home Life

Extended families often shared homes and economic resources in Europe before the Industrial Revolution. As the number of Europeans moving to the cities increased, this traditional pattern changed. Today women in most European countries have entered the workforce, families are more mobile, and government agencies tend to many social concerns once handled by families. Still, family life remains important in Europe. In many European cultures, life revolves around the extended family. Even when young people move away from home, they often maintain close family ties.

Sports and Recreation

Soccer is a major sport in Europe, and many countries have professional soccer teams. Rugby football is a popular team sport, especially in the United Kingdom, France, and Ireland. Many Europeans play tennis for recreation, and the British tennis tournament at Wimbledon is a major international championship.

Some European sports evolved in response to a country’s climate, landscape, or culture. In Spain, soccer’s popularity only recently surpassed that of bullfighting. In the Netherlands, the Elfstedentocht, or Eleven Cities Tour, is a Dutch ice-skating marathon along frozen rivers and canals. Winter sports, such as downhill skiing in the Alpine regions, cross-country skiing in Scandinavia, and ice-skating in Ukraine (yoo•KRAYN), have made European athletes famous in the Winter Olympics.

Celebrations

Europeans celebrate many of the same religious holidays observed in other parts of the world, although their celebrations are marked by distinctive traditions. Greeks celebrate Easter with a feast of roast lamb, and Ukrainians share intricately decorated eggs called pysanky. European Jews make potato pancakes called latkes to eat during the eight-day festival of religious freedom known as Hanukkah. Muslim families gather for family feasting at the end of Ramadan, a month-long period of fasting during daylight hours.

European Roman Catholics celebrate local festivals in honor of patron saints. Many festivals blend Christian symbolism with customs that date back to pre-Christian times.

Other European holidays mark the change of seasons or patriotic events. In the British Isles, for example, Yule logs and mistletoe decorate homes at the winter solstice. On July 14 the French celebrate Bastille Day to commemorate the storming of the Bastille prison in 1789 and the start of the French Revolution. Countries such as Denmark and the Netherlands celebrate the birthdays of their reigning monarchs as national holidays. Celebrations help Europe’s peoples maintain their cultural heritages even as they move toward greater unity.
Reading a Political Map

Lines on a map that indicate counties, states, and countries are called political boundaries because they divide areas controlled by different governments. A political map illustrates these divisions.

Learning the Skill

Unlike physical maps, which remain fairly constant over time, political maps change as political relationships shift. By comparing political maps from different historical periods, you can observe changes in political relationships over time.

On political maps of large areas, lines indicate boundaries between countries, or national boundaries. Political maps may also include cities, counties, or provinces. A map key can show the symbols for national boundaries, national capitals, and state or provincial capitals.

To interpret a political map:

• Read the map’s title to identify the geographic area.
• Note the time period the map reflects.
• Identify the countries or other political units named on the map.
• Use the information from the map to make generalizations about the history, government, and political geography of the region.

Practicing the Skill

Use the political map of present-day Scandinavia to answer the following questions.

1. Which Scandinavian capital lies farthest south?

2. Which Scandinavian countries have port cities on the Baltic Sea?

3. Which Scandinavian country owns the Faroe Islands? Which country owns Jan Mayen Island?

4. Which Scandinavian country probably has the strongest historical and cultural ties to Germany? Explain your answer.

Scandinavia: Political

Use an encyclopedia or the Internet to find a political map showing Scandinavia in the mid-1600s. Write a paragraph comparing this map to the present-day political map.

The Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2 provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.
SECTION 1

**Population Patterns** (pp. 287–291)

**Terms to Know**
- ethnic group
- ethnic cleansing
- refugee
- urbanization

**Key Points**
- Europe’s cultures and ethnic groups are diverse.
- Physical features, climate, and resources have affected the region’s population density and distribution.
- Industrialization, urbanization, and patterns of migration have helped define Europe as a region.

**Organizing Your Notes**
Create a table like the one below. Fill in details about each aspect of Europe’s population patterns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Diversity</th>
<th>Population Characteristics</th>
<th>Urbanization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

SECTION 2

**History and Government** (pp. 294–300)

**Terms to Know**
- city-state
- Middle Ages
- feudalism
- Crusades
- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Enlightenment
- industrial capitalism
- communism
- reparations
- Holocaust
- Cold War
- European Union

**Key Points**
- The contributions of Greek and Roman civilizations have influenced much of European history.
- During the Middle Ages, Christianity played a major role in shaping European societies.
- Trade, colonization, and immigration spread European cultures to other continents.
- After World War II, the Cold War divided communist-controlled eastern Europe from noncommunist western Europe.
- The European Union was formed to promote economic unity and stability among European countries.

**Organizing Your Notes**
Create a time line that shows key dates in European history. The time line below has been started for you.

**IMPORTANT DATES IN EUROPEAN HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 B.C.</td>
<td>Romans found a republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 400s</td>
<td>Germanic groups overrun Roman Empire in western Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SECTION 3

**Cultures and Lifestyles** (pp. 301–307)

**Terms to Know**
- dialect
- language family
- Good Friday Peace Agreement
- romanticism
- realism
- impressionist
- welfare state

**Key Points**
- Most of Europe’s various languages belong to one language family.
- Religion has influenced European values and has sometimes contributed to conflicts.
- Because of colonialism, European art and culture have profoundly influenced the Western world.
- Eastern and western European countries have differences in standards of living.
- Some European governments provide comprehensive social services to their citizens.

**Organizing Your Notes**
Create a table like the one below to help you organize your notes for this section. Give examples of each aspect of European culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Culture</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reviewing Key Terms

On a sheet of paper, classify each of the lettered terms below into the following categories. (Some key terms may apply to more than one category.)

- **European Peoples**
- **Art and Ways of Life**
- **Historical Development**

- a. romanticism
- b. ethnic cleansing
- c. city-states
- d. Middle Ages
- e. feudalism
- f. Renaissance
- g. urbanization
- h. reparations
- i. welfare state
- j. European Union
- k. Reformation
- l. refugees
- m. realism
- n. Cold War

Reviewing Facts

**SECTION 1**

1. From which world regions have many of Europe’s more recent immigrants arrived?
2. Which parts of Europe are the most densely populated?
3. What has contributed to the rapid rise of urbanization in Europe?

**SECTION 2**

4. What civilizations shaped early Europe?
5. What important revolutions changed Europe in the 1700s and 1800s?

**SECTION 3**

6. What political changes swept through Europe during the second half of the twentieth century?
7. What language family includes most of the European languages? Give examples.
8. Name the religion that most Europeans practice. What are its three major branches?

Critical Thinking

1. **Drawing Conclusions** How did Europe’s Christians relate to Jews and Muslims during the Middle Ages?
2. **Predicting Consequences** How might the European Union affect the social services provided by European governments?
3. **Identifying Cause and Effect** Create a diagram that shows factors that led to conflicts in Northern Ireland. Then describe what has been done to resolve them.

Locating Places

**Europe: Political Geography**

Match the letters on the map with these capitals of European countries. Write your answers on a sheet of paper.

- A. Lisbon
- B. Belgrade
- C. Kiev
- D. Sarajevo
- E. London
- F. Rome
- G. Paris
- H. Vienna
- I. Berlin
- J. Oslo
- K. Brussels
- L. Warsaw

ASSESSMENT & ACTIVITIES
Using the Regional Atlas
Refer to the Regional Atlas on pages 260–263.

1. Human-Environment Interaction  Compare the population density map and the economic activity map. Describe the population patterns in manufacturing areas.

2. Location  What capitals are located on the North European Plain? What are the advantages of this location?

Thinking Like a Geographer
Use your textbook, library sources, and the Internet to answer the following: How did Europe’s culture spread overseas? How did physical geography affect Europe’s expansion?

Problem-Solving Activity
Contemporary Issues Case Study  Membership in the European Union offers many benefits but also many challenges. Choose one EU member country, and research the issues that were raised before it joined the EU. Then analyze the situation in the country today, highlighting the benefits and difficulties of EU membership. Present your findings as a case study.

GeoJournal
Expository Writing  Using the information you logged in your GeoJournal, explain in a paragraph how two groups of Europeans are attempting to overcome the cultural differences that exist between them.

Technology Activity
Using the Internet for Research
Search the Internet for the Web sites of European museums, such as the Louvre in Paris, France, and the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. Look for information about European architecture, sculpture, paintings, or historical artifacts. Choose one work that expresses the spirit of a particular European country or historical period, and explain your choice to the class. Provide photographs or illustrations of the work you chose.

Self-Check Quiz  Visit the Glencoe World Geography Web site at tx.gograph.glencoe.com and click on Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 12 to prepare for the Chapter Test.

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1. Study the locations of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. How might the locations of these three countries affect their role in world trade?

A  They are smaller.
B  They are landlocked.
C  They are communist.
D  They have many resources.

Notice that the question asks you to base your answer on location. Three of the choices deal with resources, form of government, and size. Choice B, however, focuses on the countries’ locations away from seas, which would influence their role in world trade.