

Europe's Reading

Europe is usually described as one of the seven continents of the world.

Economically, it is one of the most important, containing a larger number of developed countries than any other continent. Culturally, it's also significant - thanks to European empires of the past like the British Empire, French Empire, and Spanish Empire, their cultures are among the most well-known and influential in the world.

So, understanding the geography of Europe is an important part of understanding the world. Geography is a study of the features of the Earth's surface and atmosphere, including human activities. In this lesson we are going to give an overview of the geography of Europe.

That is no easy task, considering that Europe includes almost 750 million people, a land area of almost 4,000,000 square miles, and a large portion of the GDP (economy) of the world. There is a lot to learn! Now we will take a quick look at each aspect of geography. Location, Physical Features, & Natural Resources
Europe is a land of variety. It contains huge rivers, tall mountains, and an astonishing length of coastline.

In Europe you will find hidden valleys covered with fertile soil, metals and gems to mine, oil in the North Sea, and hydro-power potential. Mount Elbrus Most of the mountain ranges of Europe are really part of a single range that extends from west to east. This includes the Pyrenees, the Alps, Carpathians, the Balkans, and the Caucasus.

The tallest mountains in Europe are Mount Elbrus in Russia at approximately 18,500 feet tall, and Mont Blanc in the Alps at approximately 15,800 feet tall. The two longest rivers are the Volga.

Russia and is approximately 2300 miles long, and the Danube, which runs through 10 countries including Germany and Austria, and is around 1800 miles long.

Europe also contains a coastline with lots of inlets and bays. The European Union, which does not even include all of geographical Europe has an astonishing 41,000 miles of coastline. That is significantly more coastline than Africa, even though the continent of Africa is much larger. Danube River Europe comprises many countries, with many different natural resources.

For example, Iceland and Norway have large populations of fish, as well as great hydropower and geothermal power potential. Countries of northern Europe often contain many minerals and metals, including gold, lead, silver, and zinc. Across Europe there are oil and natural gas reserves, most notably in the North Sea, and natural gas in Germany and nearby countries. Politics, Population & Culture
Politically, Europe is home to a huge number of countries: 51 in all. Those countries total 750 million people, with closer to 900 million if you include the parts of Russia and Turkey that are not in geographical Europe. It is therefore probably not surprising that the politics and culture of Europe is complex, and a topic for an entire lesson all on its own.

Exploring the Alps - A Time-Lapse Journey through the European Alps

