

Southern Europe

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Southern Europe's physical features include rugged mountains and narrow coastal plains.
2. The region's climate and resources support such industries as agriculture, fishing, and tourism.

Key Terms and Places

Mediterranean Sea sea that borders Southern Europe

Pyrenees mountain range separating Spain and France

Apennines mountain range running along the whole Italian Peninsula

Alps Europe's highest mountains, located in northern Italy

Mediterranean climate type of climate found across Southern Europe, with warm, sunny days and mild nights for most of the year

Section Summary

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Southern Europe is composed of three peninsulas—the Iberian, the Italian, and the Balkan—and some large islands. All of the peninsulas have coastlines on the **Mediterranean Sea**.

These peninsulas are largely covered with rugged mountains. The **Pyrenees** form a boundary between Spain and France. The **Apennines** run along the Italian Peninsula. The **Alps**—Europe's highest mountains—are in northern Italy. The Pindus Mountains cover much of Greece. The region also has coastal plains and river valleys, where most of the farming is done and where most of the people live. Crete, which is south of Greece, and Sicily, at the southern tip of Italy, are two of the larger islands in the region.

In addition to the Mediterranean Sea, the Adriatic, Aegean, and Ionian seas are important to Southern Europe. They give the people food and an easy way to travel around the region. The Po and the Tagus are two important rivers in Southern

What are the three peninsulas of southern Europe?

Circle the four mountain ranges in southern Europe.

Section 1, *continued*

Europe. The Po flows across northern Italy. The Tagus, the region's longest river, flows across the Iberian Peninsula.

CLIMATE AND RESOURCES

The climate in southern Europe is called a **Mediterranean climate**. The climate is warm and sunny in the summer and mild and rainy in the winter. Southern Europe's climate is one of its most valuable resources. It supports the growing of many crops, and it attracts tourists.

The seas are another important resource in Southern Europe. Many of the region's cities are ports, shipping goods all over the world. In addition, the seas support profitable fishing industries.

What are the characteristics of a Mediterranean climate?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Analyzing Explain how southern Europe's climate supports the region's economy.

Southern Europe

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Italian history can be divided into three periods: ancient Rome, the Renaissance, and unified Italy.
2. Religion and local traditions have helped shape Italy's culture.
3. Italy today has two distinct economic regions—northern Italy and southern Italy.

Key Terms and Places

pope the spiritual head of the Roman Catholic Church

Vatican City an independent state within the city of Rome

Sicily an island at Italy's southern tip

Naples largest city in southern Italy and an important port

Milan major industrial city in northern Italy and a fashion center

Rome the capital of Italy

Section Summary

HISTORY

Ancient Rome grew from a tiny village in 700 BC to an empire that stretched from Britain in the northwest to the Persian Gulf. Ancient Rome's achievements in art, architecture, literature, law, and government still influence the world today. When the Roman Empire collapsed in the AD 400s, cities in Italy formed their own states. Later they became centers of trade. Merchants became rich and started supporting artists. The merchants' support of the arts helped lead to a period of great creativity in Europe called the Renaissance. During this time, artists and writers created some of the greatest works of art and literature in the world.

Italy remained divided until the mid-1800s when a rise in nationalism, or strong patriotic feelings for a country, led to a fight for unification. Italy was officially unified in 1861. In the 1920s Italy became a dictatorship under Benito Mussolini. This lasted until Italy's defeat in World War II, after which Italy became a democracy.

Underline important contributions of the Romans.

What helped lead to the Renaissance?

Section 3, continued

CULTURE

The Roman Catholic Church has historically been the strongest influence on Italian culture. The **pope**, who is the spiritual head of the Roman Catholic Church, lives in **Vatican City**, which is an independent state located within Rome. Religious holidays and festivals are major events.

Local traditions have also influenced Italian culture. For example, variations in Italian food are based on local preferences and products. Other traditions reflect Italy's past. Italians have long been trendsetters in contemporary art forms, including painting, composing, fashion, and film.

Underline three influences on Italian culture.

ITALY TODAY

Southern Italy is poorer than northern Italy. It has less industry and relies on agriculture and tourism for its survival. Farming is especially important in **Sicily**, an island at the southern tip of Italy. **Naples** is the largest city in southern Italy and a busy port.

Northern Italy has a strong economy, including major industrial centers, the most productive farmland, and the most popular tourist destinations. **Milan** is a major industrial center and a worldwide center for fashion design. Turin and Genoa are also industrial centers. Florence, Pisa, and Venice are popular tourist destinations. **Rome**, Italy's capital, is located between northern Italy and southern Italy.

Why is the economy of northern Italy strong?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Analyzing and Evaluating Identify three important periods in Italy's history, and explain why each one is important to Italy today.

Southern Europe

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Throughout their histories, Spain and Portugal have been part of many large and powerful empires.
2. The cultures of Spain and Portugal reflect their long histories.
3. Having been both rich and poor in the past, Spain and Portugal today have growing economies.

Key Terms and Places

Iberia westernmost peninsula in Europe

parliamentary monarchy form of government in which a king rules with the help of an elected parliament.

Madrid capital of Spain

Barcelona center of industry, culture, and tourism in Spain

Lisbon large city in Portugal and important industrial center

Section Summary

HISTORY

Spain and Portugal lie on the Iberian Peninsula, or **Iberia**. Both countries have been part of large, powerful empires. Coastal areas of what is now Spain were first ruled by Phoenicians from the eastern Mediterranean. Later the Greeks established colonies there. A few centuries later, Iberia became part of the Roman Empire. After the fall of Rome, they were conquered by the Moors—Muslims from north Africa. For about 600 years, much of the Iberian Peninsula was under Muslim rule.

Eventually the Christian kingdoms of Spain and Portugal banded together to drive out the Muslims. Both countries went on to establish empires of their own in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Both countries became rich and powerful until the 1800s, when most of their colonies broke away and became independent.

What foreign powers have ruled Spain and Portugal?

Where did Spain and Portugal establish colonies?

Section 4, continued

CULTURE

Many dialects of Spanish and Portuguese are spoken in various parts of Iberia. In addition, Catalan, which is similar to Spanish, is spoken in eastern Spain.

Galician, which is more closely related to Portuguese, is spoken in northwest Spain. The Basques of the Pyrenees have their own language and customs, unlike those of the rest of Spain. In both Spain and Portugal the people are mainly Roman Catholic.

Music is important to both countries. The Portuguese are famous for sad folk songs called fados. The Spanish are famous for a style of song and dance called flamenco. Much of the peninsula's art and architecture reflect its Muslim past. The round arches and elaborate tilework on many buildings were influenced by Muslim design.

Circle the group in Spain that has its own language and customs.

What Muslim influences can be seen on buildings in Iberia?

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TODAY

With the gold and silver found in their colonies, Spain and Portugal were once the richest countries in Europe. When other countries started building industrial economies, Spain and Portugal continued to rely on their colonies. When their colonies broke away, the income they had depended on was lost. Today the economies of Spain and Portugal are growing rapidly, but they remain poorer than many countries in Europe.

Spain is governed by a **parliamentary monarchy**—a king rules with the help of an elected parliament. **Madrid**—the capital—and **Barcelona** are centers of industry, culture, and tourism.

Portugal is a republic whose leaders are elected. The economy is based on industries in **Lisbon** and other large cities. In rural areas farmers grow many crops but are most famous for grapes and cork.

Underline the definition of a parliamentary monarchy.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Comparing and Contrasting Compare and contrast Spain and Portugal. Then explain which country you would choose to visit first and why.

West-Central Europe

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. The physical features of West-Central Europe include plains, uplands, mountains, rivers, and seas.
2. West-Central Europe's mild climate and resources support agriculture, energy production, and tourism.

Key Terms and Places

Northern European Plain broad coastal plain that stretches from the Atlantic coast into Eastern Europe

North Sea large body of water to the north of the region

English Channel narrow waterway to the north of the region that separates West-Central Europe from the United Kingdom

Danube River one of the major rivers of the region

Rhine River one of the major rivers of the region

navigable river river that is deep and wide enough for ships to use

Section Summary

PHYSICAL FEATURES

West-Central Europe has three major types of landforms: plains, uplands, and mountains. Most of the **Northern European Plain** is flat or rolling, but in the Netherlands the plains drop below sea level. The plain has the region's best farmland and largest cities. The Central Uplands are in the middle of the region. This area has many rounded hills, small plateaus, and valleys. In France, the uplands include the Massif Central, a plateau region and the Jura Mountains. Coal fields in the Central Uplands have helped to make it a major mining and industrial area. The area has some fertile soil, but is mostly too rocky for farming.

The region has two high mountain ranges. The Alps and Pyrenees form the alpine mountain system. The Alps are the highest mountains in Europe.

Circle the three major landform types in West-Central Europe.

Underline the names of three mountain ranges in West-central Europe.

Section 1, *continued*

Water is an important part of the region's physical geography. The Mediterranean Sea borders France to the south. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the west and the **North Sea** and the **English Channel** lie to the north. The **Danube** and the **Rhine** rivers are important waterways for trade and travel. Several of the region's rivers are **navigable**. These rivers and a system of canals link the region's interior to the seas.

Circle two important rivers in the region.

CLIMATE AND RESOURCES

Most of West-Central Europe has a marine west coast climate. This is a mild climate with colder winters. In the Alps and other higher elevation areas, the climate is colder and wetter. In contrast, southern France has a warm Mediterranean climate with dry, hot summers and mild, wet winters.

Why is a mild climate a valuable resource for the region?

The mild climate is a valuable resource. Mild temperatures, ample rainfall, and rich soil have made the region's farmlands very productive. Farmers grow grapes, grains, and vegetables. In the Alps and the uplands, farmers raise livestock.

Energy resources are not evenly divided. France has iron ore and coal. Germany has coal, and the Netherlands has natural gas. Fast-flowing alpine rivers provide hydroelectric power. Even so, many countries have to import fuel. The Alps are another important resource. Tourists come to the mountains for the scenery and to ski and hike.

Circle the energy resources of France. Underline the energy resources of Germany and the Netherlands.

In what way are the Alps an important resource for the region?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Evaluating Information How have landforms and bodies of water affected activities in the region? Give support for your answer.

West-Central Europe

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. After a history of division and two world wars, Germany is now a unified country.
2. German culture, known for its contributions to music, literature, and science, is growing more diverse.
3. Germany today has Europe's largest economy, but eastern Germany faces challenges.
4. The Alpine Countries reflect German culture and have strong economies based on tourism and services.

Key Terms and Places

Berlin capital of Germany that divided East Germany and West Germany

chancellor prime minister elected by Parliament who runs the government

Vienna Austria's capital and largest city

cantons districts of Switzerland's federal republic

Bern capital of Switzerland

Section Summary

HISTORY OF GERMANY

The land that is now Germany was a loose association of small states for hundreds of years. In 1871 Prussia united them to create Germany, which grew into a world power. In the 1900s Germany lost two world wars. After its defeat in World War II, Germany was divided into West Germany and East Germany. West Germany kept control of western **Berlin** and Communists took eastern Berlin. They built the Berlin Wall to stop East Germans from escaping. In 1989 democracy movements swept Eastern Europe and communism collapsed. In 1990 East and West Germany were reunited.

Why did Communist leaders build the Berlin Wall?

What events helped East and West Germany reunite?

CULTURE OF GERMANY

Most people in Germany are ethnic Germans who speak German. Germany also has immigrants from Turkey, Italy, and Eastern Europe. Most people

Section 3, continued

are either Protestant or Catholic. In the formerly Communist East Germany some have no religious ties. Germans have made important contributions to classical music, literature, chemistry, engineering, medicine, and physics.

In what ways do Germans differ in their religious beliefs?

GERMANY TODAY

Today Germany is a leading European power. A parliament with a **chancellor** governs the nation. Berlin is the largest city. Germany is Europe's largest economy, exporting many products including cars. Its economy is based mainly on industries such as chemicals, engineering, and steel, but agriculture is also still important. The reuniting of East and West Germany slowed economic growth. East German's economy continues to lag.

What economic activities have Germany Europe's strongest economy?

THE ALPINE COUNTRIES

Austria and Switzerland are the Alpine Countries. Both were once part of the Holy Roman Empire, are landlocked, influenced by German culture, and prosperous. Austria once led the powerful Habsburg Empire that ruled much of Europe. After World War I the empire collapsed. Today Austria is a modern, industrialized nation. **Vienna** is a center of music and fine arts. Austria has a strong economy with little unemployment. Service industries and tourism are important.

What do the Alpine Countries have in common?

Switzerland has been independent since the 1600s. It is a federal republic made up of 26 **cantons**. It is neutral and not a member of the EU or NATO. The Swiss speak several languages including German and French. Its capital is **Bern**. The country is known for its banks, watches and other precision devices, chocolate, and cheese.

Circle important industries in the Alpine Countries.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences How have the Alpine Countries used their human resources to become prosperous? Give support for your answer.

Aristotle

384 BC–322 BC



HOW HE AFFECTED THE WORLD Aristotle was one of the most influential philosophers in history. His ideas about science and logic transformed Western thought.



As you read the biography below, think about how Aristotle's ideas affect the modern world.

Aristotle lived during a time when there was no state-of-the-art scientific equipment to view cells or send man into outer space. Yet, Aristotle used his observations of the world to write **treatises** that continue to contribute to the arts and sciences today. Aristotle was born in northern Greece as a son of a doctor for the royal family of **Macedonia**. He is believed to have been schooled in medicine and was sent to Athens to study philosophy under **Plato** at about the age of seventeen. Aristotle was considered a brilliant student and when Plato died, he began traveling and studying on his own.

In 338 BC Aristotle was invited to Macedonia to tutor King Philip II's heir and son, who later became known as Alexander the Great. When Alexander ascended the throne, Aristotle returned to Athens and set up his own school known as the Lyceum.

Upon the death of Alexander the Great, anti-Macedonian feelings broke out in Athens. Aristotle feared for his life and was forced to flee due to his strong Macedonian connections. He died soon after on the Greek island of Euboea.

Aristotle originated the formal study of logic. During his lifetime, he wrote on nearly all areas of science, from **astronomy** to **zoology**. He determined



VOCABULARY

treatise a written argument using a particular method

Macedonia an ancient kingdom of northern Greece that became part of a larger empire under Philip II and Alexander the Great

Plato an ancient Greek philosopher

astronomy the science of objects and matter in outer space

zoology the study of animals

surpassed exceeded or improved upon

that all objects, including organisms, are made up of matter—or their composed material—but that in reality, they are given a form, or their potential shape.

Aristotle developed the study of the weather as well as the classification of animals. He is the reason animals have two-part scientific names: the genus, or category of animals, and the species, which describe their characteristics.

Aristotle's writings have been translated into dozens of languages and have been studied and admired by philosophers and thinkers throughout history. His writings about nature were adopted by Jews, Christians, and Muslims as consistent with their ideas about faith. His ideas about government influenced Thomas Jefferson, the author of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Although many of Aristotle's theories of science have been **surpassed**, his treatises and philosophies continue to be a leading field of study and debate today.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. Recall Why did Aristotle leave Athens upon the death of Alexander the Great?

2. Analyzing Information What were Aristotle's most significant achievements?

ACTIVITY

Aristotle's writings were based on first-hand observations. Choose an object (living or non-living) and observe it closely. Write a treatise of your own.