The Knowledge

Supporting the National Curriculum

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Eastern Europe

ARDLEIGH GREEN
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5
Geography

Physical Features

Physical features are naturally occurring.
The highest mountain in Europe, Mount Elbrus in Russia (5,642 m).
The longest river in Europe is the Volga River (3,693 km).

Europe's physical features include a range of mountains, rivers, plains, coastlines and forests depending on the country.

Eastern Europe spans 70°N to 40°N latitude.

Europe's borders include the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Atlantic to the west, and the Mediterranean to the south.

Human Features

Human features are man-made.

Major cities: Moscow, Warsaw, Budapest, Prague, Bucharest, Kiev (Kyiv), Sofia, Belgrade, Riga, Vilnius, Tallinn

Castles and Palaces: Prague Castle (Czechia), Wawel Castle (Poland), Bran Castle (Romania).
Religious Buildings: St. Basil's Cathedral (Moscow)
Transport: Rail networks (Trans-Siberian Railway)

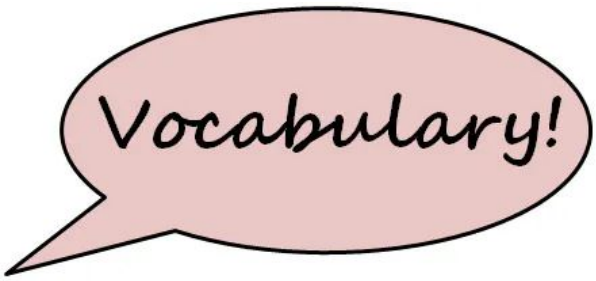
Bridges & Roads: Chain Bridge in Budapest, Danube crossings.
Ports: Odessa (Ukraine)

Key Facts

- **Location**: Eastern Europe is located in the northern hemisphere.
- **Number of countries in Europe**: There are 51 different countries in Europe.
- **Population**: There are about 742 million people living in Europe.
- **Global population share**: Around 10% of the world's population lives in Europe.
- **Largest country**: The largest country by size and population in Europe is Russia.
- **Smallest country**: The smallest country in Europe by both size and population is Vatican City.
- **Latitude range**: Eastern Europe spans latitudes from 70°N to 40°N.
- **Eastern Europe** is part of the continent of Europe and stretches between Central Europe and Asia.
- The region includes countries such as **Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)**, and parts of **Russia**.
- Eastern Europe has **a mix of landscapes**: mountains (Carpathians, Balkans), vast plains (Eastern European Plain), and long coastlines (Black Sea, Baltic Sea).
- It has **four distinct seasons**, with cold winters and warm summers in many areas.
- **Languages**: Many different languages are spoken, especially **Slavic languages** (Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, etc.), but also **Hungarian, Romanian, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian**.
- **Religions**: The main religions are Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism, and Islam in some areas (like Albania, Bosnia, and Kosovo).
- **Capital cities**: Examples include Warsaw (Poland), Budapest (Hungary), Bucharest (Romania), Sofia (Bulgaria), Kyiv (Ukraine), and Moscow (Russia, partly in Eastern Europe).

Key Vocabulary

- **Agriculture** - Land used for growing crops and keeping livestock.
- **Arable** - Land used for producing crops.
- **Climate** - The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.
- **Continent** - A large area of land divided into countries.
- **Country** - An area defined by its people, culture, language, geography and government.
- **Population** - The number of people living in an area.
- **Precipitation** - Water particles that fall from a cloud as rain, hail, sleet or snow.



What would you like to know?