

**Week 1: Where is Europe?**

- Europe is one of the seven continents of the world.
- Around 739 million people lived in Europe in 2010. This makes it the third most populated continent.
- 11 per cent of the world’s population lives in Europe. It is the world’s second smallest continent, with only 10 per cent of the world’s land area. This means it has a high population density compared to other continents.
- There are about 50 countries in Europe – with Russia and Turkey being partly in Europe and partly in Asia. Iceland and Norway to the north have very different environments to the warmer areas of Cyprus and Greece to the far south of the continent.

**Week 2: The countries of Europe**

Learn the location of different countries on the map



**Week 3: Landscapes of Europe**

Across Europe, it is possible to find many diverse and unusual landscapes. Three examples are:

**Iceland**

- Iceland is located on the mid-Atlantic ridge.
- Many tectonic features can be found here.
- Iceland’s northern latitude means the climate is cold and there are many glaciers.

**The Alps**

- The Alps is one of Europe’s highest mountain ranges.
- They stretch through areas of France, Italy, Austria and Switzerland.
- They are around 4000m above sea level.

**The Mediterranean**

- Lies between Europe and Africa and twelve European countries have a Mediterranean coastline.
- These countries have hot, dry summers.
- Many areas grow olive trees and citrus fruits, and vineyards are also common.

**Week 4: Population in Europe**

Many countries in Europe have an ageing population (eg. Germany, Italy, Spain, France and the UK). *This means the average age of the population is increasing.*

The reasons for this are:

- The fertility rate is declining. This means that people are having fewer children than before.
- Life expectancy is increasing because of improvements in health care and food.

Impacts of this are:

- Greater pressure on funding the state pension
- Increasing demands on the NHS as the elderly tend to require more NHS services
- More demand for suitable housing for the elderly

**Week 5: Politics in Europe**

The European Union (EU) is a group of countries that work together to help encourage economic prosperity and solidarity between member states. The hope is that by working as a group, other countries will listen to it.

The EU:

- encourage countries to live in safety and not threaten war
- The EU allows free movement of people between its member states.
- Uses the Euro (€). The **Euro** is a form of currency. Many EU members use it because it helps to make trade easier between member states. The group of countries that use the Euro are called the ‘**Eurozone**’.

**Week 6: Hazards in Europe**

Europe has its share of natural disasters:

**Iceland’s Eyjafjallajokull volcano**

In April 2010 the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland erupted.

- the eruption started on 20 March
- A 500 metre fissure opened up
- The eruption happened underneath an ice sheet
- Dissolved gases in the molten rock along with steam generated from the melting ice caused a large column of volcanic ash

Effects of the eruption within Europe:

- travel was severely disrupted as many flights were cancelled between 14 and 21 April 2010
- businesses lost trade
- air operators lost millions of pounds each day

