Four Subregions of Europe

Essential Question
How have cultural differences caused conflict among Europeans?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will compare and contrast features of Europe’s human geography.

SECTION 1
Mediterranean Europe

SECTION 2
Western Europe

SECTION 3
Northern Europe

SECTION 4
Eastern Europe

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about the history, economics, culture, and modern life of each subregion of Europe.

TAKING NOTES

hmsocialstudies.com

The Roman Republic Is Born

hmhsocialstudies.com VIDEO
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Have you ever heard the saying, “All roads lead to Rome”? The Mediterranean region was home to the two great civilizations of ancient Europe—ancient Greece and ancient Rome. The city of Rome was founded in about 753 B.C., and Rome conquered a huge empire by about A.D. 100. To aid communication and make it possible for the army to march quickly to distant locations, Rome built a large network of well-paved roads. In ancient Europe, most roads did indeed lead to Rome, enabling that city to control a vast region.

A History of Ancient Glory

Two geographic advantages helped the Mediterranean to become the region where European civilization was born. First, the mild climate made survival there easier than in other areas. So societies had time to develop complex institutions such as government. Second, the nearby Mediterranean Sea encouraged overseas trade. When different societies trade with each other, they also exchange ideas. The spread of ideas often leads to advances in knowledge.

GREECE: BIRTHPLACE OF DEMOCRACY  Beginning about 2000 B.C., people from the north moved onto the Balkan Peninsula. They built villages there. The region is mountainous, so those villages were isolated from each other and developed into separate city-states. A city-state is a political unit made up of a city and its surrounding lands.

Ancient Greece left a lasting legacy to modern civilization. The city-state of Athens developed the first democracy, a government in which the people rule. In Athens, all free adult males were citizens who had the right to serve in the law-making assembly. Athenian democracy helped inspire the U.S. system of government. And Greek science, philosophy, drama, and art helped shape modern culture.

In the 400s B.C., conflict weakened Greece. Several city-states fought a costly series of wars with Persia, an empire in southwest Asia. Then Athens fought a ruinous
war with Sparta, a rival Greek city-state. Finally, in 338 B.C., Macedonia (a kingdom to the north) conquered Greece. Beginning in 336 B.C., the Macedonian general Alexander the Great conquered Persia and part of India. His empire spread Greek culture but broke apart after his death.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE As Greece lost power, a state to the west was rising. That state, Rome, ruled most of the Italian Peninsula by 275 B.C. At the time, Rome was a republic, a government in which citizens elect representatives to rule in their name.

The Roman Empire grew by conquering territory overseas, including the Iberian and Balkan peninsulas. At home in Italy, unrest over inequalities led to decades of turmoil that caused Romans to seek strong leaders. Rome began to be ruled by an emperor, ending the republic.

One of Rome’s overseas territories was Palestine, the place where Jesus was born. Christianity spread from there across the empire, and by the late 300s, Christianity was Rome’s official religion.

By A.D. 395, the empire was too big for a single government, so it split into a western and an eastern half. The Western Roman Empire grew weak, in part because of German invaders from the north, and fell in A.D. 476. The Eastern Roman Empire lasted nearly 1,000 years longer.

Moving Toward Modern Times

After 476, the three Mediterranean peninsulas had very different histories. The Balkan Peninsula stayed part of the Eastern Roman Empire
(also called the Byzantine Empire) for nearly 1,000 years. Beginning in the 1300s, Italy saw the birth of the Renaissance, and in the 1400s, Portugal and Spain launched the Age of Exploration.

ITALIAN CITY-STATES The invaders who overran the Italian Peninsula had no tradition of strong central government. Italy eventually became divided into many small states and remained so for centuries.

In 1096, European Christians launched the Crusades, a series of wars to take the Holy Land from the Muslims. Italians earned large profits by supplying the ships that carried Crusaders to the Middle East. Italian cities such as Florence and Venice became rich from banking and foreign trade. This wealth helped them grow into powerful city-states. The Renaissance, which began in the Italian city-states, was a time of renewed interest in learning and the arts that lasted from the 14th through 16th centuries. It was inspired by classical art and writings. Renaissance ideas spread north to the rest of Europe.

But the wealth of Italy did not protect it from disease. In 1347, the bubonic plague reached Italy from Asia and in time killed millions of Europeans. (See pages 294–295.)

SPAIN’S EMPIRE In the 700s, Muslims from North Africa conquered the Iberian Peninsula. Muslims controlled parts of the Iberian Peninsula for more than 700 years. Spain’s Catholic rulers, Ferdinand and Isabella, retook Spain from the Muslims in 1492.

Also in 1492, Queen Isabella paid for Christopher Columbus’s first voyage. Portugal had already sent out many voyages of exploration. Both Spain and Portugal established colonies in the Americas and elsewhere. Their empires spread Catholicism and the Spanish and Portuguese languages throughout the world.

A Rich Cultural Legacy

Mediterranean Europe’s history shaped its culture by determining where languages are spoken and where religions are practiced today. And the people of the region take pride in the artistic legacy of the past.

ROME’S CULTURAL LEGACY Unlike many areas of Europe that Rome conquered, Greece retained its own language. Greek was, in fact, the official language of the Byzantine Empire. In contrast, Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian are Romance languages that evolved from Latin, the language of Rome.

The two halves of the Roman Empire also developed different forms of Christianity. The majority religion in Greece today is Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Roman Catholicism is strong in Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

CENTURIES OF ART This region shows many signs of its past civilizations. Greece and Italy have ancient ruins, such as the Parthenon, that reveal what classical
Economic Change

Because of the Mediterranean region’s sunny climate and historic sites, tourism has long been a large part of its economy. In other ways, the economy has been changing rapidly since World War II.

**AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY** In general, the Mediterranean nations are less industrial than those of Northern and Western Europe. For centuries, the region’s economy was based on fishing and agriculture. Fishing remains important, and olives, grapes, citrus, and wheat are still major agricultural crops.

But in the late 20th century, the region’s economy grew and changed. Today, manufacturing is increasing. The making of textiles is Portugal’s biggest industry. Spain is a leading maker of automobiles, and Italy is a major producer of clothing and shoes. Service industries, such as banking, also make up a much larger part of the economy than before.

In the 1980s, Greece, Portugal, and Spain joined the European Union (EU). This aided growth by promoting trade with other EU nations and by making financial aid from the EU available.

**ECONOMIC PROBLEMS** The region still faces economic challenges. For example, Italy’s northern region is much more developed than its southern half. The reasons for this include the following:

• The north is closer to other industrial countries of Europe, such as Germany and France.

• The south has poorer transportation systems.

• The government tried to promote growth in the south but made bad choices. It started industries that did not benefit the local people.

Another problem is that the entire Mediterranean region is poor in energy resources and relies heavily on imported petroleum. This makes the region vulnerable because trade problems or wars could halt oil supplies and prevent industries from functioning.

Modern Mediterranean Life

Mediterranean Europe saw political turmoil in the 20th century. Two dictators, Benito Mussolini in Italy...
and Francisco Franco in Spain, ruled for long periods. After Franco died in 1975, Spain set up a constitutional government. After World War II, Italy became a republic but has had dozens of governments since then. Greece has also experienced political instability.

**THE BASQUES** Spain has had an ongoing conflict with a minority group. The Basque people live in the western foothills of the Pyrenees. Their language is the only pre-Roman language still spoken in southwestern Europe. In the late 1970s, Spain granted the Basque region self-rule. But some Basques want complete independence and have used violence to fight for it. The conflict remains unresolved.

**CITY GROWTH** The transition from agriculture to manufacturing and service industries has encouraged people to move from the country to the city. Urban growth has created housing shortages, pollution, and traffic jams. The people of Mediterranean Europe want to preserve their historic cities, so they are trying to solve these problems. For example, Athens is expanding its subway system to reduce traffic and pollution. A portion of this project was completed in time for the 2004 Olympics, but work will continue until 2013.

Despite their problems, Mediterranean cities give intriguing insight into the past. In Rome and Athens, classical ruins stand near modern buildings. Florence has glorious works of Renaissance art. Granada, Spain, has Catholic cathedrals and a Muslim palace. In Section 2, you will read about Western Europe, a region that also has a rich history.
Bubonic Plague

By the 1300s, Italian merchants were growing rich from the trade in luxury goods from Asia. Then in October 1347, trading ships sailed into the port of Messina, Sicily, carrying a terrifying cargo—the disease we now call bubonic plague. Over the next four years, the plague spread along trade routes throughout Europe. An estimated 25 million Europeans died, about one-fourth to one-third of the population. In terms of its death toll, the plague (also called the Black Death) was the worst disaster Europe ever suffered.

As the plague spread through Europe, the city of Milan and areas of Poland and Bohemia remained relatively untouched. No one knows exactly why those regions were spared.

The plague originated in Asia. It moved west to Europe with rats traveling in caravans of trade goods and on trading ships.

The extent of the plague is marked on the map, which uses different colors to indicate the year each region was affected. The year 1347 is shown in yellow, 1348 in orange, 1349 in red, and 1350 in purple. Cities that were relatively unaffected are marked with a circle, and cities with repeated outbreaks are marked with a dot.

The map also shows the major cities of Europe, including London, Oxford, Bremen, Lübeck, Constantinople, Florence, Barcelona, Genoa, Siena, Pisa, Avignon, Amiens, Paris, Vienna, Venice, Rome, Milan, Liège, and Nuremberg. The Mediterranean Sea is also marked with the names of major islands such as Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Majorca, and Crete. The Black Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the North Sea are also labeled.
**Transmission of the Plague**

1. The bacterium that causes bubonic plague, *Yersinia pestis*, lives in the guts of fleas. The fleas bite rats and feed on their blood, infecting them with the disease.

2. Sometimes, an infected rat comes into contact with humans. Because the rat is dying, the fleas jump onto the humans to feed off them.

3. People catch bubonic plague from flea bites. In some, the plague enters their lungs, becoming pneumonic plague. These victims cough, sneeze, and spit up infected blood and saliva—spreading the disease more quickly.

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**GeoData**

**Preventive Measures**
In the 1300s, most doctors recommended these methods of purifying the air to prevent plague:

- Burn richly scented incense.
- Fill the house with flowers.
- Sprinkle the floors with vinegar.
- Have doctors wear a bird mask with perfume in the beak.

**Other Disastrous Epidemics**

- **1507–1518** Smallpox killed one-third to one-half of the people of Cuba, Haiti, and Puerto Rico.

- **1918–1919** About 30 million people died from an influenza outbreak that spread around the world.

- **2000** A UN report said that AIDS had killed 19 million people worldwide. Seven African countries had 20 percent of their population infected.

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**GeoActivity**

**Understanding Epidemics**
Working with a partner, use the Internet to research an epidemic on the time line below and create a presentation about it.

- Create a diagram showing the symptoms of the disease and the methods of treating it.
- Add a map of the region affected by this epidemic.
- Last, write a report explaining how the epidemic affected society.
Western Europe

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE Today, the French call Émile Durkheim the father of French sociology (the study of society). But he wasn’t always honored. During World War I, some French patriots considered him a disloyal foreigner. Why? Perhaps it was because he had a German last name and came from Lorraine, a region that had switched between French and German rule many times. France and Germany have long had a deep rivalry, based in part on cultural differences.

A History of Cultural Divisions

France and Germany are the dominant countries in Western Europe. They are the two largest countries, and their access to resources, ports, and trade routes helped them to build productive economies.

French culture is strong in France and Monaco; German culture is strong in Germany, Austria, and Liechtenstein. Switzerland and the Benelux countries of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg have their own cultures—but also have been influenced by Germany and France. Western Europe’s cultural divisions have historic roots.

ROME TO CHARLEMAGNE One cultural division, language, dates from ancient times. By 50 B.C., the Roman Empire had conquered the Celtic tribes in what is now France. French is one of the Romance languages that evolved from Latin (Rome’s language). But Rome never fully conquered the Germanic tribes that migrated into the lands east of France. Germanic languages are still spoken there. (See the chart on page 297.)

Main Ideas

• France and the Germanic countries developed very different cultures.
• These cultural differences led to conflicts that shaped the history of Western Europe.

Places & Terms

Benelux nationalism
Reformation Holocaust
feudalism Berlin Wall

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

UNIFICATION France and Germany have resolved their past conflicts and now cooperate in the European Union.

Western European History

800 Charlemagne unites much of Europe.
1347 Bubonic plague starts to sweep through Europe.
1455 First printing of Gutenberg Bible
1516 Leonardo da Vinci moves to France, bringing Renaissance ideas.
1099 Crusaders from Europe capture Jerusalem from Muslims.
1517 Martin Luther criticizes the Catholic Church. The Reformation begins.

A History of cultural Divisions

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In the late 700s, a Germanic king, Charlemagne, conquered most of the region. However, his empire began to fall apart soon after his death. Western Europe remained a region of small, competing kingdoms.

**THE REFORMATION** A religious movement created new differences. During the Renaissance (see Section 1), scholars questioned authority. Some people even began to question the Catholic Church. In 1517, Martin Luther published 95 statements that criticized church practices that he believed were wrong. That began the **Reformation**, a period when many Christians broke away from the Catholic Church and started Protestant churches. Mutual hostility led Catholics and Protestants to fight religious wars that tore Europe apart.

Today, France is mostly Catholic. The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany contain both Protestants and Catholics. In Germany, Protestants live mainly in the north and Catholics in the south of the country.

**The Rise of Nation-States**

The period between the fall of Rome and the Renaissance is called the Middle Ages. During this time, Europeans gradually developed the nation-state, an independent nation of people with a common culture.

**NATIONALISM** During the centuries after Rome fell, **feudalism** gradually developed in Europe. This was a political system in which powerful lords owned most of the land. They gave some land to nobles in exchange for military service by those nobles. Over time, strong kings gained power over feudal lords, and nationalism evolved. **Nationalism** is the belief that people should be loyal to their nation, the people with whom they share land, culture, and history.

Nationalism often causes groups to want their own countries, so it contributed to the rise of modern nation-states. France was one of the

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**Connect to the Issues**

Why might conflict result if neighboring countries adopt different religions?

**Diversity of Languages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Languages Spoken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Flemish, French, German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>German, Alemannic dialect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Luxembourgian, German, French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>French, English, Italian, Monegasque dialect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>German, French, Italian, Romansch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: The National Geographic Desk Reference, World Book
first nation-states. By the late 1600s, French kings held absolute power, which they often used to benefit themselves, not their people. In 1789, the people began a rebellion—the French Revolution. They deposed the king and formed a republic. But in a few years, an army officer named Napoleon Bonaparte seized power. In 1804, he made himself emperor. Napoleon tried to conquer all of Europe but was defeated.

The nation-states of Europe became strong rivals. From the 1600s to 1945, wars repeatedly broke out between France and Austria or between France and the German states (later Germany). Germany did not unify as a nation until 1871. It was one of many European countries affected by a new wave of nationalism in the 1800s.

Western Europe also experienced industrial growth in the 1800s. Industrialism caused European nations to set up colonies in other lands in order to gain raw materials and markets. Many European nations saw each other as rivals in the race to gain colonies. You will learn more about the effects of colonialism as you read this book.

**MODERN CONFLICTS** The nationalistic rivalry and competition for colonies among European nations helped cause World War I. The Allied Powers (including France) fought the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and their allies). The Allied Powers won and imposed harsh terms on Germany. German resentment over those terms helped cause World War II, in which Germany, led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, tried to conquer Europe. The Nazis also carried out the **Holocaust**, a program of mass murder of two-thirds of European Jews and the murder of other minorities. In 1945, the Allies defeated Germany.

After the war, Germany was split into two nations. West Germany was allied with non-Communist Europe and the United States. East Germany was allied with the Communist Soviet Union. The capital city of Berlin, located in East Germany, was also divided, cut in two by the **Berlin Wall**. In 1989, anti-Communist reforms swept Europe, and in response to protests, East Germany opened the Berlin Wall.

In 1990, the two Germanys reunited under a democratic government. In recent years, France and Germany have tried to end the rivalry that so often led to war. These two nations were leaders in the movement toward establishing the European Union. (See the Case Study on pages 326–329.)

**Economics: Diversity and Luxury**

Since the Middle Ages, Western Europe has been rich in agriculture, and in the 1800s, it was one of the first regions to industrialize. The region’s economy remains strong because it includes agriculture and manufacturing, plus high-tech and service industries.
AGRICULTURE TO HIGH-TECH  Dairy farming and livestock provide most of the agricultural income in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. These countries produce and export dairy products. In addition, France is the largest producer of agricultural products in Western Europe. Its major crops include wheat, grapes, and vegetables.

Western Europe was a leader in developing industry because it was rich in coal and iron ore. Today, the region has three of Europe’s top manufacturing nations: France, Germany, and the Netherlands. The maps above show the major industries of France and Germany.

High-tech and service industries are also very important. Electronics is a major product of the Netherlands. Germany also produces electronics, as well as scientific instruments. France has one of the world’s fastest passenger trains, the TGV (train à grande vitesse, or high-speed train), and a space program. France also relies heavily on nuclear energy. Nuclear plants produce 80 percent of its electricity.

Switzerland specializes in the service industry of banking. One reason for this is that Switzerland refuses to fight in wars, so people believe that money is safer there.

TOURISM AND LUXURY  Because of its varied scenery, mild climate, and historic sites, Western Europe is popular with tourists. Tourism is a major part of the French, Swiss, and Austrian economies.

Western Europe exports luxury goods to the world. For example, some German cars and Swiss watches are considered status symbols.
These girls are doing *wadlopen*, or mud walking. As many as 25,000 people a year take part in this popular Dutch pastime. When the tide goes out on the Waddenzee (part of the North Sea), it leaves mud flats. Mud walking can be extremely strenuous exercise; at times, the mud can reach up to a person’s thighs! The activity can also be risky. If the mud walkers don’t leave the flats before the tide returns, they are in danger of being drowned.

Another popular activity for young people in the Netherlands is ice skating. The Netherlands has an extensive network of canals that link its major rivers. During the Middle Ages, the Dutch began to skate on these frozen canals in the winter. The sport of speed skating originated in the Netherlands.

If you grew up in the Netherlands, you would pass these milestones:
- You would go to school from age 5 to age 18.
- In primary school, you would learn to swim, usually by age 9.
- You could drive at 18.
- You could vote at 18.
- You could marry at 18.

France is famous for its high-fashion clothing and gourmet foods. The Netherlands exports high-quality flower bulbs, such as colorful tulips.

**ECONOMIC PROBLEMS** One nation in the region, Germany, has had economic struggles. When Germany reunified, it faced difficulties because the West had a much higher standard of living. East Germany’s factories were outdated, and many shut down. Germany has been working to foster growth in the former East Germany—for example, by spending billions of dollars on infrastructure. Yet, in 2005, the number of jobless workers remained twice as high in the East as in the West.

**Great Music and Art**

Each Western European country has a distinct identity, shaped in part by language and religion. Even with these differences, one thing is true of the region as a whole—it has a strong artistic legacy.

**MUSIC** Germany and Austria are famous for music. Johann Sebastian Bach, who wrote music for church services, was German. So was Ludwig van Beethoven, who composed symphonies and other works. He wrote music even after going deaf. Austrian composers include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who was a child genius.

**PAINTING** France and the Netherlands have had many important painters. Jan Van Eyck was a painter from Flanders (a region now divided among France, the Netherlands, and Belgium) who perfected techniques for using oil paints. Jan Vermeer and Rembrandt were Dutch artists who painted with great realism. Major French painters include the impressionist Claude Monet and postimpressionists Paul Cézanne and Paul Gauguin, who paved the way for modern art.

**Background** Many landscape paintings of the Netherlands show its flat, low terrain. The sea is also a frequent subject.
Modern Life

Because of their strong economies, Western Europeans enjoy a high standard of living and generally can afford to buy material goods such as cars and computers. Most Western Europeans live in cities.

CITY LIFE In general, Western European cities are interesting and pleasant places to live. Most have good public transportation systems. They offer many cultural attractions: movies, concerts, art galleries, and museums. Crime rates are lower than in the United States.

As a rule, Europeans live in smaller homes than Americans do. Because of this, they often socialize in public places. Friends might meet in cafes, sitting at outdoor tables if the weather is nice. Also, most cities have many lovely parks that their citizens regularly enjoy.

One difference between Western Europe and the United States is that Europeans receive more paid vacation time. For example, Germans have about 30 vacation days a year. Vacationing Europeans often leave the city to engage in outdoor activities like biking, hiking, or skiing.

RECENT CONFLICTS In recent decades, immigration has been a source of conflict here. In the 1980s, increasing numbers of “guest workers” from Yugoslavia and Turkey came to West Germany for jobs. When the German economy declined, some angry Germans committed discrimination and even violence against immigrants. In response, millions of other Germans protested racism.

Austria has also faced tensions. Political leader Joerg Haider made controversial remarks that defended former Nazis and that immigrants found insulting. Many feared a rebirth of racist politics, so in 2000 Haider had to resign as party head—yet he remained a force in Austrian public life.

In Section 3, you will read about Northern Europe, a region that includes the Nordic countries, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.
Northern Europe

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE In World War II, Germany perfected a new military tactic, the blitzkrieg. Using a massive force of dive-bombers, tanks, and artillery, the German army rapidly surprised, attacked, and defeated a foe before it could mount a defense. Germany used blitzkriegs to invade Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, and France. But Germany couldn’t launch a swift land attack against the United Kingdom on the island of Great Britain. Germany tried to destroy Britain by first bombing it from the air, but such a campaign took time, so Britain was able to fight back. In time, Britain and its allies won the war. Throughout its history, Britain’s status as an island has been a geographic advantage.

A History of Seafaring Conquerors

Today, Northern Europe consists of the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Nordic countries. The Nordic countries are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. The history of this region has been a history of using the sea and of conquest.

EARLY CONQUERORS In ancient times, waves of migrating people settled Northern Europe. Each new group tended to push the previous residents out of its way. As a result, the earlier groups ended up living at the tips or along the coasts of Northern Europe’s peninsulas and islands. For example, the Sami, descendants of one of the earliest migrating groups, now live in far northern Scandinavia and Finland.

Ancient Britain was invaded by many peoples, including the Celts. Rome conquered southern Britain by about A.D. 80. In the 400s, Germanic tribes invaded, driving out the Romans and pushing the Celts north and west.

Beginning about 795, a group of seafaring warriors from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden terrorized Europe. These Norsemen, or Vikings, sailed in long ships to coastal towns and conducted hit-and-run raids. They conquered parts of Britain and sailed to Iceland, Greenland, and even North America. They also had a settlement in Normandy (a part of France named for the Norsemen) and moved into Russia.

In 1066, William the Conqueror of Normandy conquered England (the largest kingdom in Britain) and began to rule it. The Normans spoke French, and over time the English language acquired many words of French origin.

Main Ideas

- The United Kingdom and the Nordic countries have seafaring histories that often led to conquest.
- The region played a role in developing representative government and industry.

Places & Terms

Nordic countries Silicon Glen parliament euro

Connect to the Issues

UNIFICATION Some nations in Northern Europe have held back from full participation in the European Union.

MOVEMENT This helmet is from Sutton Hoo, an Anglo-Saxon burial site in England. The Anglo-Saxons began invading England in the 400s.
**DREAMS OF EMPIRE** Denmark, Sweden, and Norway each became a kingdom during the 900s. Sweden was a strong power in the 1600s, but no Nordic country ever became a major empire.

In contrast, Great Britain built an empire that strongly affected the rest of the world. First, the English set out to control the British Isles. Over time, England won control of its neighbors, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland. In 1801, the nation became known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

Britain drew on its geographic advantages to grow in strength. As you read earlier, Britain’s status as an island helped protect it. After 1066, no outside power ever successfully invaded Britain. In addition, the British people had much experience as sailors. This helped them to build a strong navy and to develop overseas trade.

Drawing on its economic and naval strength, Great Britain built a global empire. By the 1800s, it had colonies in the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. A popular saying declared, “The sun never sets on the British Empire.” One consequence of the empire is that the English language and British culture spread worldwide.

**Moving into the Modern Age**

Great Britain played a role in shaping our modern world in two ways. It helped to develop representative government. Also, the industrial revolution started in Britain and spread to other countries.

**REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT** Britain’s government is a monarchy that also has a parliament. A **parliament** is a representative lawmaking body whose members are elected or appointed. (In some cases, they inherit the position.) Over the centuries, English rulers lost power to the English Parliament, so a more representative government evolved. For example, in 1215 nobles forced the king to sign the Magna Carta. That

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**Geographic Thinking**

**Seeing Patterns**

Why would a strong navy be helpful in building an empire?

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**Advances in Representative Government**

- **Parliament**
  - 930: Iceland established the *Althing*, called the world’s oldest parliament. The English Parliament began in the late 1200s.

- **Magna Carta**
  - 1215: The Magna Carta granted English nobles certain rights. Over time, it inspired other people to demand their rights.

- **English Bill of Rights**
  - 1689: The Bill of Rights established free elections and gave the English Parliament power over the monarchy.

- **Female Representation**
  - Late 1990s: The Nordic countries had a high percentage of women in their parliaments, ranging from 25 to 43 percent.
document inspired such political ideas as trial by jury and no taxation without representation. Those ideas later spread to the United States, Canada, and various British colonies.

The Nordic countries also developed representative government. Iceland’s parliament, which has been meeting since 930, is the oldest parliament in the world.

**INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION** As you read in Chapter 12, deposits of iron ore and coal helped Britain to be the first nation to industrialize. Industry used coal as fuel and iron to make machinery. The growth of industry motivated Britain’s empire building. Britain imported raw materials from its colonies and sold finished goods to those colonies.

In the 1800s, the industrial revolution spread from Britain to other countries, especially Belgium, France, Germany, and the United States. Of the Nordic countries, Sweden developed the most industry.

**SINCE 1900** In the 20th century, the Nordic countries did not heavily involve themselves in other nations’ affairs. But Great Britain played a major role in both world wars, fighting as one of the victorious Allies.

After World War II, the British Empire underwent major change as nearly all of its colonies gained independence. Since then, some former colonies, such as Nigeria, have had ethnic conflicts. Many of the conflicts arose because the British had set the boundaries of their colonies without regard to where rival ethnic groups lived. (See the Case Study in Unit 6, on pages 468–471.)
THE IRISH QUESTION  The British still face a problem that has roots in the past. Protestant English rulers strengthened their hold on Catholic Ireland by seizing Irish land and giving it to Scottish and English Protestants. That left many Irish in poverty. In the 1840s, potato crops failed and caused famine. Over a million Irish fled to other lands.

Many Irish called for independence, and in 1921, Britain divided Ireland into two states. The Republic of Ireland gained independence in 1921. Northern Ireland, which had a Protestant majority, remained part of the United Kingdom. Since then, religious conflict and anti-British violence have plagued Northern Ireland.

Economics: Diversity and Change

Today, Northern Europe has a highly developed and varied economy. Manufacturing and traditional economic activities such as fishing and forestry remain important. As is true in all developed countries, the service and information economies are growing.

INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES  Sweden and the United Kingdom have many types of manufacturing in common. For example, both nations have strong motor vehicle and aerospace industries. Both also produce paper products, food products, and pharmaceuticals.

Northern Europe’s economy benefits from its many natural resources. Sweden exports timber. Iceland relies heavily on its fishing industry, and Norway earns a large portion of its income from North Sea oil.

HIGH-TECH  Technology is swiftly changing the economy of Northern Europe. For example, the production of computer software and hardware has been a major part of Ireland’s economy since the 1970s. In the 1990s, the section of Scotland between Glasgow and Edinburgh became known as Silicon Glen, because it had so many high-tech companies, which use silicon computer chips. However, from 2000 to 2006, many of those companies moved their plants to Eastern Europe to lower costs. Scotland’s economy now depends on service industries.

UNION OR INDEPENDENCE?  Most nations of this region joined the European Union (EU), but Norway has chosen not to do so. Even in nations belonging to the European Union, people have mixed feelings about the EU policy that they should adopt a common currency called the euro. In September 2000, Denmark voted against adopting the euro. Economics professor Jesper Jespersen agreed with that decision. He said, “I believe Denmark should retain its own currency . . . [because] our economy is in many ways independent of the eurozone [the region using the euro].” (See the Case Study on pages 326–329 for more about the EU.)
Cultural Similarities and Modern Art

Throughout most of history, Northern Europe has not been culturally diverse. Even today, the Nordic nations have populations that consist mostly of one ethnic group. In recent years, however, the United Kingdom, particularly its capital London, has grown more diverse. That is partially due to immigration from former colonies, such as India. By the year 2005, more than 1.8 million of London’s 7.2 million residents belonged to an ethnic minority.

SIMILAR LANGUAGES AND RELIGIONS The language map on page 267 shows the effect of historic migrations into this region. Most people of Northern Europe speak a Germanic language. When Germanic tribes migrated to the Scandinavian Peninsula and the British Isles, they pushed the previous inhabitants north and west. Today, the Sami language is spoken in the far north. Celtic languages such as Welsh, Irish Gaelic, and Scottish Gaelic survive on the northern and western edges of the British Isles.

The Reformation, which began in nearby Germany in the 1500s, swept through Northern Europe. Several different Protestant churches took root there. Most of the region is still Protestant. Only Ireland kept Catholicism as its main faith.

MODERN CULTURE AND LITERATURE The Nordic countries have influenced many modern cultures. The Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen is sometimes called the father of modern drama. Ingmar Bergman, a Swedish director, influenced movies with his intensely personal films. Both men raised psychological issues in their work that remain important in modern life.

Great Britain and Ireland have had their strongest artistic influence on world literature. Many people consider William Shakespeare the greatest playwright of all time. Nearly 400 years after his death, his works are still performed on stage and also adapted for movies. The English poet William Wordsworth popularized the use of everyday speech in poetry. English novelists of the 1800s, such as Charlotte Brontë, influenced later novels. The Irish novelist James Joyce shaped modern fiction by exploring techniques to portray human thought.

Life in Northern Europe

In Northern Europe, most people live in cities and have a high standard of living. One aspect that distinguishes Northern Europe from most other regions is that its women have made great strides toward political equality. In the late 1990s, women made up 25 percent of the parliament in Iceland, 36 percent in Norway, 37 percent in Finland and Denmark, and 43 percent in Sweden.

SOCIAL WELFARE Overall, the governments of Northern Europe take great responsibility for the welfare of their people. This is especially true
of the Nordic countries, which provide many welfare services for their citizens. For example, Finland, Norway, and Sweden give families a yearly allowance to help raise their children. The Nordic governments help fund national health insurance programs. Britain also has a national health insurance program. To pay for the programs, the people in those countries have very high taxes.

DISTINCTIVE CUSTOMS Some social customs of Northern Europe have gained worldwide fame. For example, the British are known for afternoon tea, a small meal of sandwiches, breads, cakes, and tea. Swedes developed the smorgasbord. It is a large assortment of hot and cold dishes served buffet style. Finns are famous for their sauna, in which people sit in a hot room to work up a sweat that cleans the skin’s pores. Afterward, they plunge into a cold bath or icy lake.

LEISURE Even though the Nordic countries have some of the coldest climates in Europe, outdoor sports remain popular there. Some of the sports in the winter Olympics developed in Norway and the other Nordic countries. They include cross-country skiing and ski jumping. Many British enjoy horseback riding, horse jumping, and fox hunting. These traditionally were pastimes for the wealthy upper classes on their large country estates. In addition, the British developed two sports that are unique. Rugby is a form of football, and cricket is played with a ball, a bat, and wickets. Spread by British colonialism, cricket is played around the world.

In Section 4, you will read about Eastern Europe, a region that continues to be torn apart by ethnic conflicts.
Surfing, shown here off the coast of Australia, dates back to prehistoric times. It may have originated when Polynesian sailors of the Pacific Islands needed to reach land from large canoes floating offshore.

Skiing originated as a means of travel in northern Europe, and ski jumping probably evolved in hilly Norway. In 1924, ski jumping became an Olympic sport. Competitors are judged not only on how far they jump but also on the technique they use.

Over time, humans have found ways to enjoy even the most forbidding climates and terrains. Some popular sports evolved from activities that people used to overcome geographic challenges, such as mountains or snowy climates. Other sports were created to take advantage of special geographic features, such as recurring winds or waves. On these two pages, you will learn about geographically inspired sports from around the world.
Acapulco, Mexico, is famous for its cliff diving. This dangerous sport often involves diving from heights nearly three times higher than those used in Olympic platform diving. Cliff divers have been killed by hitting their heads on rocks.

The Iditarod Sled Dog Race is held in Alaska. Susan Butcher, shown here, was the first person to have won it three years in a row. The Inuit people first used sled dogs to travel across snow-covered terrain; racing evolved later.
Eastern Europe

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE Eastern Europe has many plains that allow invaders to move from east to west and vice versa. In World War II, Germany invaded the Communist Soviet Union, killing millions. After the war, the Soviet Union decided to protect itself from invasion by setting up a political barrier. So it established Communist governments in the nations of Eastern Europe, which lay between the Soviet Union and its enemies to the west. Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin wanted Eastern Europe to “have governments whose relations to the Soviet Union are loyal.” For decades, the Soviet Union crushed political reform and free trade in Eastern Europe. The region is still recovering.

History of a Cultural Crossroads

Eastern Europe’s location between Asia and the rest of Europe shaped its history. Many groups migrated into the region, creating great diversity. Strong empires ruled parts of Eastern Europe, delaying the rise of independent nation-states there. Today the region includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Serbia.

CULTURES MEET Eastern Europe is a cultural crossroads, or a place where various cultures cross paths. Since ancient times, people moving between Europe and Asia—traders, nomads, migrants, and armies—have passed through this region. Because the region is an important crossroads, many world powers have tried to control it.

Main Ideas

- Eastern Europe has great cultural diversity because many ethnic groups have settled there.
- Many empires have controlled parts of the region, leaving it with little experience of self-rule.

Places & Terms

cultural crossroads
balkanization
satellite nation
market economy
folk art
anti-Semitism

Connect to the Issues

CONFLICT Nationalism and ethnic differences have fueled conflicts that have torn apart the Balkans in recent times.

Eastern European History, 1389–2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1389</td>
<td>The Ottoman Empire defeats the Serbs at the Battle of Kosovo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1566</td>
<td>Suleiman I, the Ottoman ruler, dies during a siege in Hungary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1686</td>
<td>The Austrians drive the Ottomans out of Hungary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Hungary demands equal status with Austria. The empire becomes Austria-Hungary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONFLICT AMONG EMPIRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1618</td>
<td>Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) revolts against its Austrian ruler, starting the Thirty Years’ War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>The Russian ruler Catherine the Great divides Poland among Russia, Prussia, and Austria.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Empires and Kingdoms  By about A.D. 100, ancient Rome held the Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria, Romania, and parts of Hungary. After the Roman Empire was split, the Byzantine Empire held onto those lands for centuries. In the 1300s and 1400s, the Ottoman Empire of Turkey (see Unit 7) gradually took over the southern part of Eastern Europe.

Various Slavic groups moved into Eastern Europe from the 400s through the 600s. Several kingdoms, such as Poland in the north and Serbia on the Balkan Peninsula, formed. In the late 800s, a non-Slavic group called the Magyars swept into what is now Hungary and in time established a kingdom. The Ottomans later conquered it.

Beginning in the 1400s, the nation of Austria became a great power. Austria drove the Ottomans out of Hungary and took control of that state. In the late 1700s, Austria, Prussia (a German state), and Russia divided up Poland among themselves. Poland ceased to exist.

Turmoil in the 20th Century

Responding to centuries of foreign rule, most ethnic groups in Eastern Europe fiercely guarded their identities. Many wanted their own nation-states, even though few had a history of self-rule. These characteristics sparked many conflicts in Eastern Europe during the 20th century. 

War After War  By 1908, the Balkan nations of Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia had broken free from the Ottoman Empire. In 1912, Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia went to war against the Ottomans, who lost most of their remaining European territory. In 1913, the Balkan countries fought over who should own that territory. Their actions led to a new word, balkanization. The term refers to the process of a region breaking up into small, mutually hostile units.

The Slavic nation of Serbia also wanted to free the Slavs in Austria-Hungary. In 1914, a Serb assassinated an Austrian noble, sparking World War I. Austria-Hungary and Serbia each pulled their allies into the conflict until most of Europe was involved. After the war, Austria and Hungary split apart. Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia gained independence. The Ottoman Empire ended and was replaced by the nation of Turkey.
In 1939, Germany seized Poland, starting World War II. Near the end of that war, the Soviet Union advanced through Eastern Europe as part of an Allied strategy to crush Germany from two sides. The Soviet Union later refused to withdraw from Eastern Europe until it had set up Communist governments there. Eastern Europe became a region of satellite nations—nations dominated by another country.

**RECENT CHANGES** The Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe for four decades. But by the late 1980s, the Soviet Union had severe economic problems, and a new leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, was making reforms. As one reform, he gave Eastern Europe more freedom.

The impact was dramatic. Eastern Europeans demanded political and economic reforms. In 1989, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Romania ended Communist control of their governments and held free elections. In 1990, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia followed suit.

Instability followed. The old governments had taught people to be loyal only to the Communist Party. After those governments fell, people

**MOVEMENT** In 1989, the desire for democracy swept Eastern Europe. Country after country saw demonstrations like this one in Budapest, Hungary.
returned to ethnic loyalties. That was especially true in Yugoslavia, a nation consisting of six republics. In the early 1990s, four of the six Yugoslav republics voted to become separate states. Serbia objected, leading to civil war. (See Chapter 14 for details.) In contrast, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Developing the Economy

Because of its fertile plains, Eastern Europe has traditionally been a farming region. After 1948, the Soviet Union promoted industry there.

**INDUSTRY** Under communism, the government owned all factories and told them what to produce. This system was inefficient because industries had little motive to please customers or to cut costs. Often, there were shortages of goods. Eastern European nations traded with the Soviet Union and each other, so they didn’t keep up with the technology of other nations. As a result, they had difficulty selling goods to nations outside Eastern Europe. And their outdated factories created heavy pollution.

After 1989, most of Eastern Europe began to move toward a market economy, in which industries make the goods consumers want to buy. Many factories in Eastern Europe became privately owned instead of state owned. The changes caused problems, such as inflation, the closing of factories, and unemployment. Since then, however, many factories have cut their costs and improved production. As a result, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland have all grown economically.

**LINGERING PROBLEMS** Some Eastern European nations have had trouble making economic progress—for many different reasons.

- Albania’s economic growth is slowed by old equipment, a lack of raw materials, and a shortage of educated workers.
- Few of Romania’s citizens have money to invest in business. In addition, the Romanian government still owns some industries. Foreigners don’t want to invest their money in those industries.
- The civil wars of the 1990s damaged Yugoslavia and its former republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Equipment and buildings were destroyed; workers were killed or left the country.

In general, it will take years for Eastern Europe to overcome the damage caused, in part, by decades of Communist control.

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Graphs**

1. **SEEING PATTERNS** Which of these four countries have seen economic improvement since 1990? Explain.

2. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** In terms of per capita GDP, which country has the best standard of living? Explain.

**Per Capita GDP in Eastern Europe**

![Graph showing per capita GDP in Eastern Europe from 1990 to 2005 for Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland.](http://www.ggdc.net)
A Patchwork Culture

Because Eastern Europe contains a variety of ethnic groups, the region as a whole is a patchwork of different languages and religions.

**Cultural Diversity** The map on page 267 shows the languages of Eastern Europe. The number of languages makes it difficult to unify the region. In some places, the national language is most closely related to a language spoken in a different region. For example, Hungarian is related to Finnish, and Romanian is related to Italian, French, and Spanish. Neither are related to the Slavic languages of the countries around them. This pattern was created by long-ago migrations.

Similarly, many different religions can be found in Eastern Europe. The Roman Empire introduced Catholicism, and after Rome fell, the Byzantine Empire spread Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Some countries also have a Protestant minority. And under the Ottoman Empire, some Eastern Europeans converted to Islam.

The region also has a small Jewish minority. Jews once made up a much higher percentage of Eastern Europeans, but in the Holocaust, Nazi Germany killed 6 million Jews. About half of them were from Poland. After World War II, many surviving Jews migrated to Israel.

**Folk Art** Religious belief, rural customs, and Byzantine art have all influenced Eastern European folk art. In general, folk art is produced by rural people with traditional lifestyles instead of by professional artists. Eastern European folk artists create items such as pottery, woodcarving, and embroidered traditional costumes.

Many Eastern European ethnic groups also have their own folk music. This music influenced the region’s classical musicians. Frédéric Chopin based some of his piano music on Polish dances. Anton Dvořák wove Czech folk music into his compositions.

Moving Toward Modern Life

Since their Communist governments fell, many Eastern Europeans have expressed a longing for more economic growth and political freedom. These goals provide the region with some major challenges.

**Less Urban Development** Eastern Europe has several large cities, such as Prague in the Czech Republic. More than 1,000 years old, Prague is one of Europe’s most interesting cities, with quaint buildings, a rich history of music and culture, and thriving industries.

In general, though, Eastern Europe is much less urban than the rest of Europe. For example, the percentage of city dwellers is only 40 percent in Bosnia and Herzegovina and only 37 percent in Albania.

As Eastern Europe develops more industry, its cities will grow. That will have both positive and negative effects. Cities are often places of culture, learning, and modern technology. But urban growth creates problems such as pollution, traffic jams, and housing shortages.

**Conflict** As you read earlier, many Eastern Europeans have fierce loyalties to their own ethnic groups. One result of that has been conflict. For example, many Serbs hate Croats (KROH•ATS) because they believe the Croats betrayed them in World War II by working with the Nazis.
Eastern European minority groups have often faced discrimination. Throughout history, Jews have suffered from anti-Semitism, which is discrimination against Jewish people. Another minority that experiences prejudice is the Romany, or Gypsy, people who are scattered across Eastern Europe. Traditionally, the Romany have moved from place to place. Because of this, other groups often look down on them.

DEMOCRACY To obtain true democracy, Eastern Europeans need to overcome old hatreds and work together. They also need to accept democratic ideals such as the rule of law—which means that government officials must obey the law. The dictators that ruled Eastern Europe in the past did not do so. But in recent years, Eastern Europeans have often held their leaders accountable. For example, in 2000, the Yugoslav people forced a dictator to accept election results that turned him out of office. You will read about this event in Chapter 14, along with other major issues of European life today.

Crossing the Vltava River in Prague is the famous 650-year-old Charles Bridge. The bridge is now reserved for pedestrians. Why do you think cars are banned from this bridge?

EXPLORING LOCAL GEOGRAPHY Like Eastern Europe, most places in the United States have been controlled by various cultural groups or nations over time. Research the history of your area and create a time line, like the one on pages 310-311, listing changes in control.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. city-state
2. republic
3. Benelux
4. nationalism
5. Berlin Wall
6. Nordic countries
7. euro
8. cultural crossroads
9. balkanization
10. satellite nation

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

11. Which of the terms above are the names of regions?
12. Would a supporter of nationalism want to adopt the euro? Explain.
13. Which of the terms above have to do with conflict?
14. In which part of Europe did the countries become satellite nations of the Soviet Union?
15. How does the geographic theme of movement relate to a cultural crossroads?
16. Which ancient civilization was organized into city-states and which was a republic?
17. In what part of Europe is Benelux found?
18. What is the origin of the term balkanization?
19. Which of the terms above can also be applied to the United States? Explain.
20. Which two major peninsulas are found in the Nordic countries?

Main Ideas

Mediterranean Europe (pp. 289–295)

1. What legacy did ancient Athens leave for modern governments?
2. What effect did the empires of Spain and Portugal have on the rest of the world?
3. Why does Spain have a conflict with the Basque people?

Western Europe (pp. 296–301)

4. How did the Reformation create new cultural divisions?
5. How did nationalism lead to conflicts?
6. For what artistic legacy are Germany and Austria famous?

Northern Europe (pp. 302–309)

7. Who were the Vikings, and what did they do?
8. What geographic advantages helped Great Britain build its empire?

Eastern Europe (pp. 310–315)

9. Why did independent nation-states develop later in Eastern Europe than in Western Europe?
10. What problems existed in the Eastern European economy under Communist rule?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
   Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

   a. What similarities exist between the ways the Roman Empire and the British Empire influenced other regions of the world?
   b. In what ways are Eastern Europe and Northern Europe different?

2. Geographic Themes
   a. LOCATION Do you think the location of France and Germany relative to the rest of Europe is a geographic advantage or disadvantage? Explain.
   b. MOVEMENT What geographic reason might account for the fact that Spain and Great Britain colonized much of the Americas?

3. Identifying Themes
   Explain which countries were the first to develop industry and which developed industry later. If you identify those countries on a map, what spatial patterns do you see? Which geographic themes relate to your answer?

4. Seeing Patterns
   How did ancient migrations affect the pattern of where certain languages are spoken in Europe today? Give examples.

5. Making Inferences
   Millions of Europeans have migrated to other parts of the world. What are some geographic factors that you think might have encouraged this?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

A Divided Germany
   Use the map to answer the following questions.
   1. PLACE How did the size of West Germany compare with that of East Germany?
   2. LOCATION In which of the two countries was the city of Berlin located?
   3. LOCATION Which of the two Germanys was closer to the Soviet Union?

GeoActivity
   West Germany was divided into several zones after World War II. Use a history book or historical atlas to learn which three countries controlled those zones. Create a historical map showing the zones.

MULTIMEDIA ACTIVITY
   Use the links at hmhsocialstudies.com to do research about the population of a single society in Europe. Look for such information as age distribution, religions, ethnic or minority groups, and literacy rates.

   Constructing a Population Pyramid Use the information you have gathered to construct a population pyramid describing the population characteristics of the European society you have chosen.
The Acropolis of Athens symbolizes the city and represents the architectural and artistic legacy of ancient Greece. *Acropolis* means “highest city” in Greek, and there are many such sites in Greece. Historically, an acropolis provided shelter and defense against a city’s enemies. The Acropolis of Athens—the best known of them all—contained temples, monuments, and artwork dedicated to the Greek gods. Archaeological evidence indicates that the Acropolis was an important place to inhabitants from much earlier eras. However, the structures that we see today on the site were largely conceived by the statesman Pericles during the Golden Age of Athens in the 5th century B.C.

Explore the Acropolis of ancient Greece and learn about the legacy of Greek civilization. You can find a wealth of information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more at [hhhsocialstudies.com](http://hhhsocialstudies.com).
The Parthenon
Watch the video to see what the Parthenon, one of the most important temples on the Acropolis, might have looked like after it was completed.

The Persian Wars
Watch the video to find out how Athens emerged as the principal Greek city-state at the conclusion of the Persian Wars.

The Goddess Athena
Watch the video to learn how, according to Greek mythology, Athena became the protector of Athens.

Legacy of Greece
Watch the video to analyze The School of Athens, a painting by the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael, which pays tribute to the legacy of ancient Greece in philosophy and science.