

Europe Shapes Lives

Trace how physical and human features influence life across Europe.

SS6G9 “Explain the impact of location, climate, natural resources, and population distribution on Europe.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about location, climate, natural resources, or population distribution, and circle words that tell how each detail affects people’s work, travel, farming, or where they live.

Features That Shape Europe

- ① Europe is a peninsula region on the western end of Eurasia. Its long coastline, many seas, and rivers connect people to one another and to nearby Africa and Asia. Ports on the Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, and North Sea have supported trade, fishing, and travel for centuries. Rivers such as the Rhine and Danube carry goods inland, so towns and cities often grew beside them. Europe’s location near these waterways has helped businesses exchange products and ideas, but mountains and seas can also make travel between some places harder.
- ② Climate also affects where people farm, work, and live. Much of western Europe has a mild, wet climate because winds from the Atlantic bring moisture and moderate temperatures. This supports farming and allows many ports to stay open in winter. Southern Europe has hot, dry summers, so farmers may grow olives, grapes, and citrus fruits, often using irrigation. In northern areas and high mountains, colder weather and shorter growing seasons limit some crops. Coal, iron ore, fertile soil, forests, and energy resources have also shaped jobs and industries in different places.
- ③ Europe’s population is not spread evenly. Dense populations are common in large cities, coastal areas, river valleys, and industrial regions, where transportation, jobs, and services are easier to find. For example, urban areas near major rivers or ports attract workers and businesses. In contrast, high mountains, far northern areas, and some rural interiors have fewer people because travel can be difficult, climates may be harsher, or fewer jobs are available. Population patterns can change as people move for work, education, safety, or a different climate.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How have Europe’s coastline, seas, and rivers helped towns and businesses?

2 Compare the climate of western Europe with the climate of southern Europe. How does each climate affect farming?

3 Name two natural resources from the passage. How can natural resources affect a place’s jobs or industries?

4 Why do high mountains, far northern areas, and some rural interiors often have fewer people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a European settlement. In 3 or 4 sentences, describe its location, climate or natural resource, and likely population pattern. Explain how at least two features affect the people or jobs there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about location, climate, natural resources, or population distribution, and circle words that tell how each detail affects people's work, travel, farming, or where they live. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How have Europe's coastline, seas, and rivers helped towns and businesses?	They have connected people to trade, fishing, travel, and the movement of goods. Towns and cities often grew beside rivers.
2	Compare the climate of western Europe with the climate of southern Europe. How does each climate affect farming?	Western Europe is often mild and wet, which supports farming. Southern Europe has hot, dry summers, so farmers grow olives, grapes, and citrus fruits, often using irrigation.
3	Name two natural resources from the passage. How can natural resources affect a place's jobs or industries?	Answers may name coal, iron ore, fertile soil, forests, or energy resources. These resources can shape the jobs and industries found in an area.
4	Why do high mountains, far northern areas, and some rural interiors often have fewer people?	Travel can be difficult, climates may be harsher, and fewer jobs may be available.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Rivergate is a town in western Europe beside a navigable river that connects to an Atlantic port. Its mild, wet climate and fertile soil support farms, while the river helps businesses move goods. Because farming, trade, and transportation offer jobs, the town is likely to have a growing, dense population.

Accept different accurate cause-and-effect explanations that use details from the passage. For Part 3, the settlement may be fictional, but it should include a plausible European setting and explain at least two impacts.