

Geography Review ----- Study Guide (Europe)

Part I: Identify all countries and geographical features and place them on the blank maps provided. Use a current map or atlas (The world map found in your textbook is not recommended). You need to use both a political map and physical (topographical) map.

A. Countries (current boundaries)/ Islands

Iceland	Netherlands	Estonia	Slovenia
	Belgium	Latvia	Croatia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Luxembourg	Lithuania	Macedonia
	Italy	Belarus	
	Switzerland	Ukraine	Bosnia and Herzegovina
		Moldova	
Ireland	Norway		
Spain	Sweden	Czech Republic	Serbia and Montenegro (Yugoslavia)
Portugal	Finland	Slovakia	
France	Denmark	Austria	
Germany		Hungary	
Poland	Russia	Romania	Corsica
		Bulgaria	Sardinia
		Greece	Sicily
	Turkey	Albania	Crete

B. The following cities and geographical features

Mediterranean	Danube Riv.	Northern European	Istanbul
Aegean Sea	Rhine Riv.	Plain	Paris
North Sea			London
Baltic Sea	Balkan Peninsula	Strait of Gibraltar	Rome / Vatican
	Italian Pen.		Moscow
Caspian Sea	Iberian Pen.	Alps	Berlin
Black Sea	Scandinavian Pen	Pyrenees	Athens
		Carpathian Mts	
		Transylvanian Alps	

Part II : Basic Geography Review (Europe) Students are expected to be familiar with these information.

1. Most of languages spoken in Europe belong to the **Indo-European linguistic family**. Major branches of this language family include 1) **Romantic** (Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, Romanian, etc) 2) **Germanic** (German, English) and 3) **Slavic** (Russian, Polish, etc.)
2. Ireland is politically and religiously divided into Northern Ireland (part of U.K) and the Republic of Ireland. Today, **Protestants** dominate **Northern Ireland**, while **Roman Catholicism** dominates rest of Ireland.
3. This body of water east of British Isles has **the largest oil and natural gas reserve in Europe** and is called the **North Sea**.
4. The peninsula on which **Spain** and **Portugal** are located is called the **Iberian Peninsula**. From the 8th century until the end of the 15th century, the region was under **Islamic control**, with its most famous monument, the Alhambra castle. After the "Reconquesta" in 1492, the area has been a stronghold of **Catholicism**.
5. **The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg** are known as the **Low Countries** because of their low elevation, which includes areas below sea level.

6. The “**breadbasket**” of Europe is the **Northern European Plain**, which extends from Northern Germany into Russia.
7. **Rome** is the capital city of Italy. The **Vatican** (AKA the **Holy See**) is an independent country located within city of Rome and is **residence of Pope**.
8. Two islands lay west of the Italian Peninsula. The island in north, called **Corsica**, is a **French territory** (Famous French Emperor, Napoleon was from Corsica) while the island to the south, called **Sardinia**, is **Italian territory**.
9. Greece is located at the tip of **Balkan Peninsula**, which is characterized by rugged terrain. The peninsula was under control of Islamic Ottoman Empire until 19th century, and as a result, there are significant Muslim presence in this region, especially in Albania and part of Yugoslavia, called Kosovo.
10. **Yugoslavia** means “**nation of southern (=Yugo) Slavs**.” Today, Yugoslavia consists of only Serbia and Montenegro, but before its breakup in 1991-1992, the country included, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia; Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina are commonly referred to as “Bosnia”).
11. The Serbian and Croatian languages are oftentimes considered as one language, **Serbo-Croatian**. The only real difference being that Serbian uses the Cyrillic alphabet while Croatian uses the Roman alphabet. This difference stemmed from the division of the Roman Empire into Western and Eastern halves by a border known as “Diocletian’s Line. While Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion for Croatians, the Serbians are primarily Eastern Orthodox.
12. The area in which the nations of **Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark** are found is known as **Scandinavia**.
13. **Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania** became independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. These nations are known as the **Baltic nations**.
14. The **Estonian** language is closely related to **Finnish**. Both Estonian and Finnish language belong to the **Ural- Altaic** language family which include Turkish, Mongolian, Korean and Japanese.
15. **Belarus** is also known as Belorussia or “**White Russia**.”
16. **Moldova** was one of the many nations that emerged after the breakup of the USSR. Once controlled by Romania, the **Moldovan language** is virtually same as the **Romanian** language.
17. The **Danube River**, is a major river system that runs through Central and Southeastern Europe. Many important cities line its banks, including Vienna (Austria), Budapest (Hungary), and Belgrade (Serbia). The river eventually empties into the **Black Sea**.
18. Turkey is divided by the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits between the Aegean and Black Seas. These straits also separate Europe and Asia.
19. **Istanbul** is located on the Bosphorus Strait, in the European part of Turkey. Historically important, this Turkish city started as a Greek colony, called Byzantium (founded in the 7th century BCE), then renamed as **Constantinople** by the Roman Emperor Constantine, who made it his capital in 330CE. Constantinople remained the capital of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire) until it was taken by the Turks in 1453. The city was officially renamed as “Istanbul” in 1930 and is now the largest city in the Republic of Turkey.



