

Geography – Modern Europe

Lesson 2

Recap of last lesson

Name 8 countries in Europe.

Name 5 bodies of water in Europe.

Topographical features

What do you think Topographical features are? Look at the pictures for a clue.



Topography describes the **physical features** of an area of land.

These features typically include **natural** formations such as mountains, rivers, lakes, and valleys.

Manmade features such as roads, dams, and cities may also be included.

Do you know of any mountains or rivers in Europe?

For our second Geography lesson we will be using atlases or Google Maps to find out about the natural topographical features of countries in Europe.

LO: To investigate topographical features in Europe.

SC:

- * I can say what a river's source is and uses are.
- * I can find the highest peak in mountain ranges.
- * I can locate European rivers and mountains using an atlas/Google maps.

Did you know any of these rivers or mountains in Europe?



Rivers – think about these questions

How big can a river be? Can rivers travel through more than one country?

Where do rivers get their water from? Where do rivers begin?

Where do rivers end?

Watch: The River Tweed from source to sea

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zmtvcdm>

Watch: Rivers and the Water Cycle

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zb39jxs>

River facts

A river is the path that water takes as it flows downhill towards the ocean.

Rivers can be long or short, wide or narrow and they often join together on their way downstream to make bigger rivers. Lots of animals live in or by rivers.

Rivers carry rainwater from hills downhill to other rivers, lakes or the ocean.

The start of a river is called the source and the end is called the mouth.

Rivers can be used for lots of good things but when there are heavy rains and the river is very full they can be dangerous; rivers do a lot of damage when they flood.

Mountains – think about these questions

What is a mountain?

How are they formed?

How long does it take a mountain to form?

Watch: Mountains

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f/articles/z4g3qp3>

Watch: An introduction to mountain ranges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z27tfg8>

Mountains facts

What are mountains?

Mountains are areas of land that are much higher than the land surrounding them. They are higher and usually steeper than a hill and are generally over 600 metres high. They are often found together in a group called a mountain range.

Some well-known mountain ranges in the four countries that make up the UK include:

the Cairngorms in Scotland

the Pennines in England

the Mourne Mountains in Northern Ireland

Snowdonia in Wales

How are mountains formed?

The highest mountain ranges are created by tectonic plates pushing together and forcing the ground up where they meet. This is how the mountains of the Himalayas in Asia were formed.

Tectonic plates are also at work under the Atlantic Ocean, but instead of forcing the ground up, the two plates in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean are actually moving apart in opposite directions. This causes lava to erupt out of the gap that is left. As it cools down, the lava creates a long line of mountains - the longest mountain range on Earth.

Other mountains - usually those that stand on their own - are created by ancient volcanoes. Ben Nevis in Scotland was once a very large active volcano. It last erupted millions of years ago and the eruption was so violent that it caved in on itself.

The highest mountains in the UK are:

Ben Nevis in Scotland (also the highest in the UK)

Scafell Pike in England

Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland

Snowdon in Wales

Task

Using an atlas, Google Maps or the information sheets (pages 2-8) , find out about 3 rivers and 3 mountain ranges in Europe.

Use page 1 to record your research. If you cannot print it out set out your work like this:

Rivers

Name:

Country(ies) it flows through:

Source:

Uses:

Mountain ranges

Name:

Country(ies) it's in:

Highest Peak:

Other information:

Plenary

In which country would you find the mountain Ben Nevis?

In which country would you find the river Seine?

Video about the Alps in Germany if you would like to watch:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/geography-ks2-a-childled-tour-of-inzell-in-bavaria-germany/zn3sgwx>