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| Europe: Natural Resources 3-2 cha |
| Location, climate, and natural resources are facts of nature that shape the culture and history of a country. These factors can be *managed* by people, but people can’t really *control* them.  |
| location | Location is where something is. The location of a country is where it is on the surface of the earth. Is it on the ocean, or land-locked with no ocean access? Is it near the equator, or near a pole? Is it a lonely island, or is it surrounded by neighbors? Is it in a desert, or in a rainforest? |
| climate | Climate is the general pattern of temperature, wind, and precipitation in an area. (Weather is the climate on a particular day.) Climate is determined by latitude: a country near the equator in the tropics will be sunny and hot. Climate is influenced by landforms: high mountains are cold and snowy. |
| natural resources | Natural resources are gifts from nature. Minerals deep under the ground are iron, gold, zinc, diamonds. Rivers, lakes, and oceans can provide food, transportation, and energy. Oil and coal under the ground are expensive, desirable energy sources. Soil for farming is a natural resource; so are forests. People can manage natural resources, but we cannot create them.  |
| population distribution | *Population* comes from the Latin word for *people*. Distribution is how spread-out or clumped-together people are. Do most people in a country live in cities, or is everybody scattered in small villages and farmland? |
| comparativeadvantage | A 6’8” basketball player has an advantage when compared to a 5’2” player. So the tall player has a comparative advantage. An island has a comparative advantage over a desert when it comes to fishing. The desert has a comparative advantage in sand. A country should produce the things it has a comparative advantage in. |
| United Kingdom | The United Kingdom is an island off the northwest coast of Europe. Warm air blowing from the Atlantic Ocean brings mild temperatures with plenty of rain. Mountains in the western part of the country contain large amounts of coal and iron, and the soil is good for farming. Over 80% of the population lives in cities; 8 million people live in the capital, London. |
| Russia | Most of Russia is big, cold, and empty. It is the largest country in the world in size, and it makes the northern edge of Europe and Asia. It is extremely cold; the average yearly temperature is below freezing. Over 60% of the Russian land is frozen solid all year. Russia has huge forests and farmland in the European Plain. Most Russians (75%) live in the European west side. |
| Germany | Germany is in the northern center of the European Plain. On the northern Atlantic Ocean coast, the temperatures are mildly cool and warm; in the southern region near the Alps, high mountains create cold and snow. Germany has coal in the mountains and farming on the Plain; these products can be shipped anywhere. Around 75% of Germans live in cities. |
| Italy | Italy is a peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea in southern Europe. It is covered in small mountains. Northern Italy extends into the Alps and is snowy in the winter. The rest of Italy is sunny and warm all year. The hills of Italy do not have minerals or fuels, just small farms growing grapes and olives. Fish in the sea are a resource. Most people (75%) live in cities. |
| Europe: Natural Resources N\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3-2 D \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cha |
| country | location | climate | natural resources | population distribution |
|  |  |  |  | 80% live in cities |
|  | northern center of European Plain |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | fish |  |
|  |  | average national temperature is below freezing |  |  |

Russia is the largest country in the world. Under the land of Russia are huge amounts of oil, coal, iron ore, nickel, and other minerals. Russia hasn’t been able to turn these resources into economic benefits yet. Why not? What **do you think**?

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| Italy has a comparative advantage over Germany in producing delicious grapes from its rocky, hilly soil. Yet Germany’s economy is much more successful. Why **do you think** that is? |
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| The United Kingdom once had a massive empire that included colonies all over the world. Germany was a larger country, but it did not have such a big empire. Why **do you think** that was? |
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Think about the European Plain, over 2000 miles of excellent farmland from the Pyrenees to the Ural Mountains. How **do you think** this landform give northern Europe a comparative advantage?

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