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2nd smallest continent

- LOTS AND LOTS of people (515 million people)
 - Europe = 273 people per square mile
 - U.S.A. = 95 people per square mile
- LOTS AND LOTS of languages
- LOTS AND LOTS of culture-types

Why? Europe's landforms play a **HUGE** role in this.

PENINSULAS and ISLANDS

Europe is ONE LARGE peninsula (surrounded by water on three sides).
Contains many smaller peninsulas...called the "Peninsula of peninsulas"

Since Europe is *ONE LARGE* peninsula, most places are no more than 300 miles from a large body of water (ocean or sea).

NORTHERN PENINSULAS

Scandinavian Peninsula

Countries: Norway, Sweden, & Finland

- Shows a lot of evidence of past glaciers – scoured away the rich, fertile soil...left thin, rocky soil (hard to farm)
- Fjords – steep, U-shaped valleys that connect to open water.
 - This water filled in the valley once the glaciers melted away.
 - Deep water, good harbors for fishing boats.

Jutland Peninsula – directly across from Scandinavian Peninsula

Countries: Denmark, a sliver of Germany

- Finger-like extension of a large fertile plain that stretches across northern Europe.

SOUTHERN PENINSULAS

Iberian Peninsula

Countries: Spain & Portugal

- Pyrenees Mountains blocks the peninsula from the rest of Europe

Italian Peninsula

Country: Italy

- Shaped like a boot and extends into Mediterranean Sea
- 4,700 miles of coastline

Balkan Peninsula

Countries: Greece ((Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Serbia))

- Bordered by Mediterranean, Adriatic, & Aegean Seas
- Mountainous area, so transportation is difficult

ISLANDS

Lots of 'em!

Large nations as islands

- Great Britain
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Greenland

Smaller islands

- Corsica (France)
- Sardinia (Italy)
- Sicily (Italy)
- Crete (Greece)

MOUNTAINS and UPLANDS

These can be viewed as walls because they separate lots of groups of people.

Hard for the movement of people, goods, and ideas.

MOUNTAIN CHAINS

The Alps – most famous

Countries: France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria

- They cut Italy off from the rest of Europe.

The Pyrenees Mountains

Countries: Spain, France, Andorra

- They restrict movement between Spain, Portugal, and France.

The Apennine Mountains

Country: Italy

- Divides the Italian Peninsula between east & west

The Balkan Mountains

Countries: Greece ((Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Serbia))

- Blocked them off from the rest of Europe
- Travel between the countries in the mountain region is difficult, so these countries have tended to isolate themselves.
 - EX: Large Muslim population still exists from past Muslim invasions.

UPLANDS

Uplands are hills or very low mountains. Some are very high plateaus too.

These used to be ancient high mountains, but have been eroded over hundreds of millions of years.

- Meseta – large, central plateau in Spain
- Massif Central – low mountains in France take up almost 20% of the land

RIVERS: EUROPE'S LINKS

Rivers = Water highways: BIG for the movement of people, goods, and ideas!

- Flow from the interior of Europe out to the sea/ocean
- Many are big enough for ships = great for the manufacturing industries and trading
- Allowed interior cultures to get to the sea/ocean for exploration & trade

Big rivers:

- Rhine (820 miles)
- Danube (1,771 miles)

FERTILE PLAINS: EUROPE'S BOUNTY

Northern European Plain = one of the most fertile places in the world (p. 263)

- Mostly flat

Pros: very fertile so lots of food can grow there

Cons: since it's flat, it has allowed invaders to easily get into Europe through Asia

RESOURCES SHAPE EUROPE'S ECONOMY

Two major natural resources: **COAL & IRON**

- These are necessary for manufacturing

Energy

Oil & natural gas in the North Sea between the U.K. and Scandinavia.

Agricultural Land

- 33% of Europe's land can be farmed
- World average is only 11%
- Europe is VERY well off with its ability to feed its people.

RESOURCES SHAPE PEOPLE'S LIVES

Resources determine...

...the types of food people eat.

...the jobs the people hold.

...the types of homes they live in.

...the types of culture they have.

Examples:

1. Ireland doesn't have energy sources. So, they cut peat (partially decayed plants that compact together) from large areas and burn it for fuel.
2. Poland has lots of coal, so people have mined coal for centuries as a fuel source.