



# MCGRAW-HILL EUROPE

Chapter 11 Physical Geography  
Pages 332 to 341

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Countries of Western Europe
  - UK, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Monaco, and Liechtenstein
- Benelux Countries
  - Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg
- Northern European Plain
  - France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and most of Germany
  - Glaciers left behind very fertile soil
  - Fertile soil was good for building cities

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Mountains
  - 2 mountain ranges
    - Pyrenees and the Alps
    - Both divide the cooler climates of the north from the warm, dry climates of the Mediterranean region.
- Pyrenees
  - Form a natural barrier between France and Spain
  - Stretching 270 miles
  - Pico de Aneto
    - Tallest mountain in Pyrenees at 11,169 feet
- Alps
  - Stretch 750 miles across France Switzerland, Austria, and Germany
  - Mont Blanc is the Alps tallest mountain at 15,771 feet

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- North Sea
  - Is part of the Atlantic Ocean but shallower
  - Separates Britain from the rest of Europe
  - It is a Rich fishing ground for the Netherlands and the UK
  - Important water way for trade
  - It has large oil and natural gas reserves

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- North Sea & The Netherlands
  - 25% of the country is below sea level
  - To adapt the Dutch have built **dikes**
    - Walls or barriers to hold back the water.
    - The Dutch call the land they reclaim from the sea **polders**
      - Land is used for farming and settlement
      - Can be dangerous if dikes break.
- British Isles
  - Also called the Atlantic Archipelago
  - Made up of the islands of Britain and Ireland
  - Great Britain also known as United Kingdom
    - Has 4 parts: England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland
  - Ireland is also called Eire

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- English Channel
  - Part of the Atlantic that separates Southern England from Northern France
  - Busy sea route connecting the North Sea with the Atlantic
  - The Chunnel is a tunnel that allows high speed trains to go under the English Channel and connect Britain to mainland Europe

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Rivers

- Determined the location of:
  - **Cities**
    - Such as London, Paris, and Hamburg
  - **Provide transportation routes**
    - For goods and people
  - **Form political borders**
  - By linking canals they provide **transportation networks** deep into the continent
  - **Provide water**
    - Farming and electric power

- Thames River

- 205 miles long
- Flows through London
- It becomes an **ESTUARY** toward the end
  - Where the sea connects to the lower end of a river

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Rhine River

- Busiest waterway in Europe
- Begins in the Swiss Alps and empties into the North Sea
- Connects industrial areas to the port of Rotterdam.
- Makes up part of the boundary between France and Germany
- Runs through the most populated region of Europe

- Danube River

- Only major river in Europe that flows West to East
- Eastern Europe's most important waterway
- Empties into the Black Sea



# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Climate

- Western Europe is located at northern latitudes, but it has a milder climate than other places at the same latitudes.
  - Why?
    - Location near the Atlantic Ocean
    - Warm winds off the ocean are the primary factor that shapes the region's climate
  - **Westerlies** – strong winds that travel from west to east blowing a constant stream of warm air from the sea to the land
  - Why are winds warm? Gulf Stream moves warm tropical water up from the Equator to the coast of Europe. Also known as the North Atlantic Current.

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Natural Resources

- Energy Sources
  - Coal – used to fuel machines invented during the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, but in modern Europe it is declining in use.
  - Peat – Used for heat, large masses of vegetable matter decay in the poorly drained soil.
  - Oil and natural gas
    - United Kingdom and Norway are leading producers from the North Sea
  - Hydroelectricity

# WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- Rich Soil
  - Northern European Plain has the richest soils in Europe.
    - It contains humus, which is decomposed plant and animal material that makes soils rich and fertile and great for growing crops and raising livestock.
  - France devotes more surface area to agriculture than any other country in the region.
  - Deciduous –
  - Coniferous --