

# Europe: Italy



## Physical Features

### The Alps



These are the longest mountain range in Europe and the highest in western Europe (excluding Russia). They are 1200km across and pass through 8 alpine countries (Switzerland, France, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Monaco, Italy and Liechtenstein).

### The Apennines



The Apennines range runs north to south down the centre of the country.

### River Po



The longest river in Italy is the River Po. It is approximately 670km in length and its source is the many streams found in the Alps.

## Human Features

### European Union



The E.U. is a political and economic group of 28 countries who allow free trade and commerce between member states. It was created in 1948 after World War II to help Europe become more stable.

### Colosseum



The Colosseum in Rome, built in 70 A.D., as one of many built throughout Italy during the time of the Romans. This huge amphitheatre could hold 50,000 spectators and was often the scene of chariot races, gladiator and animal battles along with executions.

### The ruins of Pompeii



A Roman town which was destroyed from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

### Leaning Tower of Pisa



The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a bell tower in Pisa, Italy. The Tower of Pisa is world famous for its prominent tilt to one side.



## Climate

There are 44 countries in Europe and 4 main climate types.

- Polar regions near the Arctic Circle such as Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia where tundra and icy glaciers are common
- Temperate climates, much like the U.K. where there is rainfall and deciduous forests (trees which lose their leaves in the winter)
- Mediterranean climates which are dry and hot and attract many tourists.
- Alpine climates which are mountainous and cold.

## Mapping and fieldwork skills:

- To use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the UK and Italy.
- To use aerial photographs to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features.
- Compare the **human** and **physical geographical** features of the **countries**.
- Research the different **climate zones** in each country.
- Observe aerial view photographs to compare **countries** and **climate zones**.
- Use the **compass points** to describe the **countries** in relation to each other.

## Key Vocabulary

amphitheatre	brick built oval stadium - Roman architecture
borders	political factors and physical (e.g. rivers, mountains and seas) affect where borders between countries are set
English Channel	a 560km stretch of sea which separates England from France - important for trade
euro	the unit of money used across most of Europe
equator	An imaginary line drawn around the middle of the earth an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole.
Iberian Peninsula	Portugal, Spain and Andorra where the region is hotter and drier than the rest of Western Europe
Mediterranean	southern areas of Europe which have mild winters and hot summers (e.g. Italy, Spain)
polar regions	northern Europe which is cold and dry all year
temperate	this middle section of Europe has cold winters and mild summers (e.g. U.K., Germany, Poland)
Russia	only Western Russia is considered inside Europe
peninsula	A piece of land which is almost completely surrounded by water

## Key Facts and Figures: Italy

Continent	Europe
Capital	Rome
Population	60.48 0million (2018)
Highest mountain	Mont Blanc, 4,810 m (the highest mountain in the Alps)
Volcanoes	Italy has three active volcanoes: Vesuvius, Stromboli and Etna
Longest river	River Po,
Largest lake	Lake Garda, 370 km <sup>2</sup>
Seas	Mediterranean, Ligurian, Adriatic, and Ionian seas
Currency	Euro

