

The Geography of Europe

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The Geography of Europe

- Main Idea (Objective):



- Geography influenced where medieval Europeans settled to live as well as what they could do.

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- Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



- If you wanted to go sledding or swimming where would you go? Your answer would depend greatly on the geography of the area in which you live.

The Geography of Europe

- The Roman Empire had united all the land surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

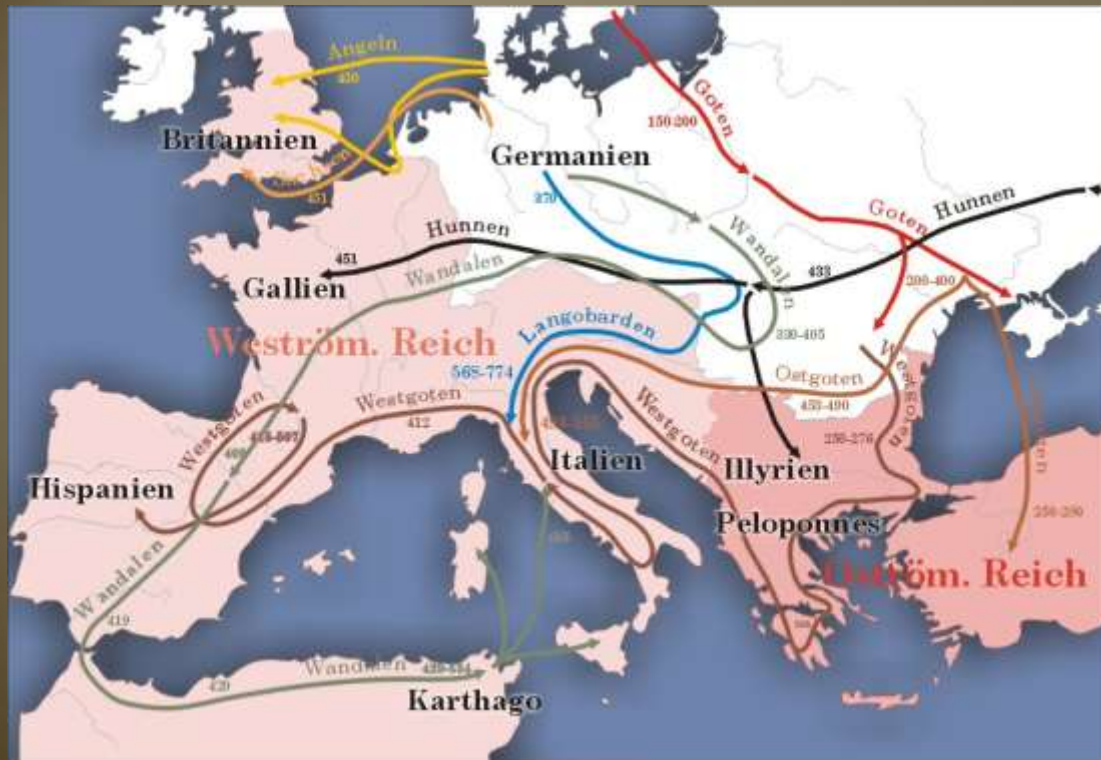


- The last Roman emperor in the west fell from power in 476 C.E.

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- Western Europe was divided into many kingdoms as wave after wave of Germanic invaders swept through the southern and western areas of Europe.



- These Germanic invaders conquered vast areas of the small continent.

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- Now that Rome no longer united people, Europe's geography began to play a more important role in shaping events.



- Europe is a continent, but at the same time also a very large peninsula, made up of many smaller peninsula's.

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- As a result, most of Europe lies within 300 miles of an Ocean or Sea.



- This encouraged trade amongst countries and helped Europe's economy grow.

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- Rivers also played an important role in Europe.



- The Rhine, Danube, Vistula, Volga, Seine and Po Rivers made it easy to travel into the interior of Europe and also encouraged people to work together.

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- The seas and rivers provided safety as well as opportunities for trade.



- The English Channel, for instance, separated Britain and Ireland from the rest of Europe.

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- As a result the people of the United Kingdom and Ireland were sheltered from the many wars fought on Europe's mainland.



- They were able to develop their own distinct ways of life.

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- Within Europe, wide rivers like the Rhine also kept people separated and enabled different cultures to develop.

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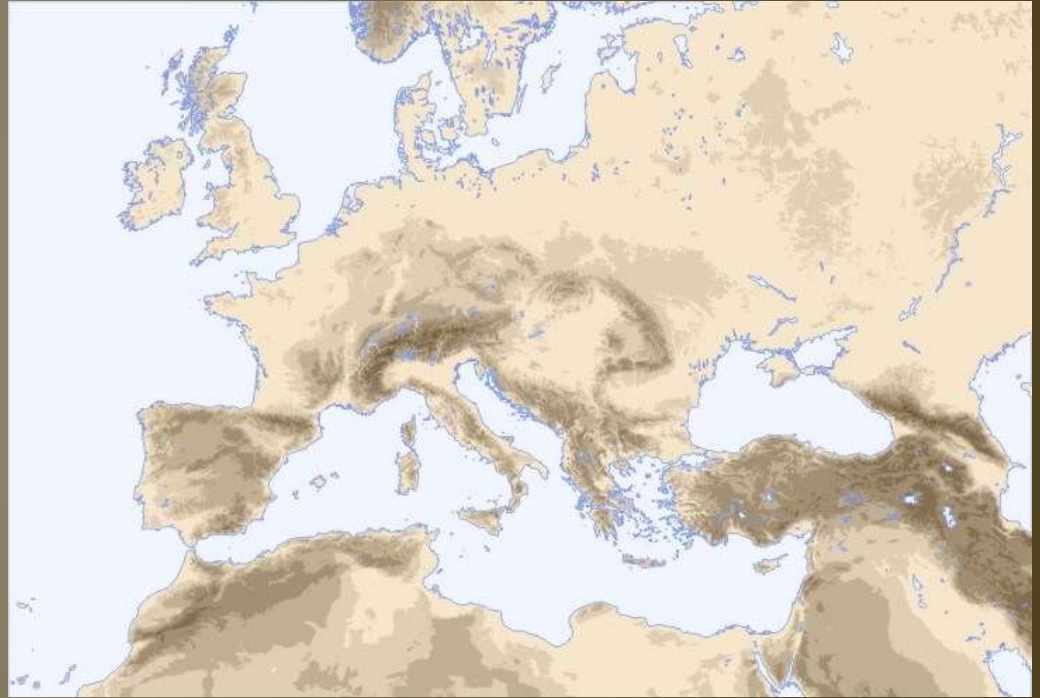
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- Europe also has grand mountain ranges.



- In the east, the Carpathian Mountains cut off what is now Ukraine and Russia from southeast Europe.

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- In the middle, the Alps separated Italy from central Europe.



- To the southwest, the Pyrenees Mountains isolated Spain and Portugal.

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- The mountains, like the rivers, made it difficult for one group to rule all of Europe and encouraged development of independent countries, cultures and languages.

History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



- History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle

History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



- Perched high above the village of Hohenschwangau in Bavaria, Germany, stands what may be the most fairytale of them all, Neuschwanstein Castle.

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History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle

- Commissioned by Ludwig II of Bavaria for more than 1.3 million German Marks.



- Today people visit this remarkable site annually...and also served as the inspiration for Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle.

History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle

- You can see the resemblance in the sky-high towers and distracting height.



- Other similarities can be seen inside the castle.

History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



- Cinderella's Castle at Disney World and Sleeping Beauty's Castle in Disney Land are modeled after Bavaria's Neuschwanstein Castle.

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History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



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History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



- Each of the Disney Castles were also inspired by several other castles, including Fontainebleau and Versailles, but with Neuschwanstein's dainty turrets and romantic views, it's easy to see how one castle could take the credit for such iconic masterpieces.

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History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



- While today castles are generally used as elaborate mansions or tourist attractions, the original purpose of castles was, of course, to provide a defensive fortification against attack rather than a vast home that a prince could give his princess.

History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle



- Older castles are typically blocky-looking, with thick curtain walls and rectangular, crenelated towers.

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History Mystery Time: Neuschwanstein Castle

- There had to be as few openings as possible in case of attack, so windows were kept at a minimum.



- With only practical furnishings and a few tapestries for decoration, it wasn't exactly something out of Cinderella.

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- Map Time!!!

MEDIEVAL EUROPE, c. 950 – 1300



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———— Circles of Louis IX and Conrad IV (1212-1225)
 ———— Circles of Richard I, Philip II (1189-1217) and
 Frederick II (1212-1250)
 Scale 1:20,000,000