EUROPE:
NORTHERN REGION

CFE 3241V

OPEN CAPTIONED
ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA
1993
Grade Levels: 6-10
20 minutes
DESCRIPTION

Identifies Europe’s northern region: Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway, and Sweden), the Baltic Republics (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), Iceland, and Finland. Discusses in depth Scandinavia’s diverse geography, cultures, industries, climates, and natural resources. The people live harmoniously with the challenges of their harsh environment. This region’s long democratic traditions and high standard of living set an example for the rest of Europe.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

• To present an overview of northern Europe’s geography and people.
• To portray the harmony of Scandinavian people among themselves and with nature.
• To illustrate the dairy, fishing, mining, and timber industries of northern Europe.
• To contrast the role climate plays in the different parts of Scandinavia.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Using a map of northern Europe, point out the countries the video will outline.
3. Using a world map, discuss the location of northern Europe. Predict what scenes might be shown.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause after references to grams or kilos and convert information to standard measurements.
3. Pause after the video refers to Nordkapp above the Arctic Circle. Record information about the midnight sun.
AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Which countries in northern Europe have monarchies?
   a. Discuss whether they are active in their governments.
   b. Compare with other monarchies in the world.
2. Find the names of the two largest lakes in Sweden. Determine how they might be significant to Sweden’s geography.
3. In which part of Finland do people mostly live?
   a. Is this the most preferable area? Why?
   b. Why does Finland have a milder climate than most other regions that lie as far north?
4. How is Copenhagen different from other European cities?
5. Define the following words and name their country of origin: smorgasbord, sauna, ombudsman.
6. Define archipelago and fjord. Find examples of each, specific to the Scandinavian countries.
7. If only 3 percent of Norway’s land can be used agriculturally, where do the people likely obtain their food?

Applications and Activities

1. On a map of northern Europe, locate the Faroe Islands. Discuss their history. Speculate on the people’s sustenance there.
2. Research the following questions and write brief summaries of the information:
   a. Which religions are practiced in northern Europe?
   b. How did Iceland get its name?
   c. What is the history of the Balkan countries?
   d. Who was Hans Christian Andersen?
   e. Who was Leif Ericson? How is his life important to Norway’s history?
f. What are Denmark’s folk high schools like? How are their schools different than those in the United States?

3. Write a synopsis about the midnight sun in far northern Europe where daylight occurs a full month in June, darkness a full month in December.
   a. Create a personal diary of a northern European’s activities and experiences in mid-June and mid-December.
   b. Research, then using a globe and pointer, demonstrate why this phenomenon occurs.
   c. Does the midnight sun occur in Antarctica? How is it different than the Arctic Circle?
   d. Present information on the Midsommar Festival in Sweden. Determine why this is one of their most popular activities as a country.

4. Using papier-mâché, create a topographical map of northern Europe.
   a. Include major mountains, rivers and lakes, remembering to keep heights and distances in proportion.
   b. Paint borders to differentiate countries.

5. Investigate the process of making furniture in Scandinavia. Determine what type of wood is typically used. Discuss what is unique about the designs.

6. Prepare a short skit joining Scandinavia’s past with its present.
   a. Include a Viking ship docking along the coast of Norway and its sailors stepping foot on land in the present year.
   b. Paint a large city backdrop for the opening scene.
   c. Present the play to an audience.

7. Imagine two cousins writing letters about participating in the Vassaloppet, the ski marathon in Sweden. Describe their experiences in an essay.
8. List past Nobel Prize winners. Make a summary chart and include these ideas:
   a. What is the most common field of award?
   b. How many Americans have won Nobel prizes?
   c. What is the average age of Nobel Prize winners?
   d. How many men and how many women have won this prize?
   e. If personally winning a Nobel Prize, what would it be for?

9. Research the formation and use of family names in Iceland.
   a. Rewrite the names of family and friends.
   b. Keep the first name the same; add to the last names -son for males and -dottir for females.
   c. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having no common family names in Iceland.

WEBSITES
Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (http://www.cfv.org).
CAPTION SCRIPT

Following are the captions as they appear on the video. Teachers are encouraged to read the script prior to viewing the video for pertinent vocabulary, to discover language patterns within the captions, or to determine content for introduction or review. Enlarged copies may be given to students as a language exercise.

(male narrator)
Of all the continents of the earth,

Europe is the second smallest.

It's smaller than Asia...

smaller than Africa...

smaller than either

North or South America.

and just a little bigger than Australia.

The northern region of Europe

is a land of harsh beauty...

its people toughened by the rugged climate.

Their natural resources are few,

but the people use them with amazing resourcefulness and have developed a culture like no other in Europe.

The North is home to Laplanders,

who herd reindeer,

just as their ancestors have for centuries,

as well as home to thriving industries.

It encompasses small settlements located within the polar circle...

and some of the greatest cities of Europe.

The countries of Europe's northern region are Denmark, Norway, and Sweden--collectively known as Scandinavia--as well as Finland, the island country of Iceland, and the three small Baltic countries of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia.

Except for Denmark, the Scandinavian countries are separated from the rest of Europe.
by the sea.
The sea is only a few kilometers wide at Oresund—
the strait which connects the Baltic Sea with the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.
Large ferryboats carry passengers and cargo, completing Europe's network of roads and railways.
Weather conditions can be severe in winter.
The Baltic Sea freezes, and icebreakers often must open passage for ships.
But on the west coast of Norway, important ports, such as Troms and Narvik, stay open all year-round.
This is due to the influence of the Gulf Stream, which makes the climate of western Scandinavia much warmer than its eastern section.
The coast of Finland is broken into thousands of islands, creating a unique archipelago.
The northernmost tip of the European continent is Nordkapp, well above the Arctic Circle.
In summer, the sun never sets here.
Many people come to observe the midnight sun.
Among the physical features one can find throughout Scandinavia are granite rocks with moss and lichens, the mixed forests, and bodies of salt and fresh water.
The inland is rich with freshwater lakes, where many species of wildlife thrive, such as these wild geese.
Here in southern Norway, crops such as barley, oats, potatoes, and wheat are grown.
However, only 3% of Norwegian land can be used for crops.
The Scandinavians make the most of their rugged climate and are great lovers of outdoor activities.
Vassaloppet, Europe's oldest and biggest ski marathon, brings over 12,000 participants.
to central Sweden each year.

Borders still formally exist within Scandinavia,
but nobody has to show a passport while traveling between the Scandinavian countries.

Long before Europe began its attempts to unite, these countries created a common region.
Most people live along the coast and in the southern part of the region.
The inland—for instance, here in central Sweden—is only sparsely inhabited.
Isolated farmhouses can be found in the north.
This farm is in central Finland.

It produces both for the family's subsistence and for the market.
The forest is Scandinavia's most important natural resource.
The lumber produces high-quality wood.

This is because the trees up north grow more slowly than in warmer regions.

and the wood has a high density.

Wood is the foundation of one of Scandinavia's most important industries: the fabrication of furniture and other household goods.
The high standards of Scandinavian furniture design are known the world over.
Rovaniemi is a city on the Arctic Circle. During the winters, the people here go for months at a time without seeing the sun rise.

This farm is in central Finland. Here in Sweden, and all over Scandinavia, people rejoice at the return of the long daylight and the short nights of summer. It is a traditional celebration in which everybody participates— even the very young.
The indigenous inhabitants of the north are the Lapps—
distant kin of North American Inuit.

In winter, they feed their reindeer dry lichens.

In spring, they travel north.

Let's listen to a reindeer herdsman.

(man) Every job has its good side and bad side.

In reindeer farming, you're your own boss and you spend time in the wilderness.

Everywhere in Sweden, the feeding grounds are getting smaller.

The towns are crowding out the reindeer areas.

This is reindeer farming's biggest threat.

I start early in the morning, while the snow is frozen hard enough for the reindeer to walk.

(narrator) The landscape is very different in the south, especially in Denmark, where high-yield agriculture is typical.

This is a Danish milk farm.

(man) Hello.

My name is Henrik Hovman, and I'm the manager of this farm.

We have about 180 red Danish cows.

They're standing here.

And they're the most important thing on this farm.

It's the cows.

Each cow produces about 8,000 kilos of milk in each year, on average.

And for the Danish farmer, the milk production is very important so that we can sell cheese and milk for consumers all over Denmark and around the world.

(narrator) Danish dairy products are a part of a food industry that represents an important branch
of the Danish national economy.

The fishing industry is of critical importance throughout all of northern Europe.

Traditionally, the Scandinavians, living in close contact with the sea, are great lovers of all seafood.

The Scandinavian countries have fully modernized fishing fleets.

Nevertheless, the natural catch varies each year, which has led the Scandinavians to develop fish farms for artificial sea fish production, such as this salmon farm on the Baltic coast of Sweden.

My name is Jan-Erik Pallin, ocean farmer of salmon in Sweden.

You have two different kinds of farmers--

the one who produces the small fish that I buy when the fish is one year old

and weighs about 100 grams.

I farm it from 100 grams up to 3.5 kilo.

That takes about two years.

It is very important in farming that you try to keep the natural way, the same way that it lives naturally.

So that is why the fish that I buy have been living in fresh water, and when it's one year old, it naturally moves downstream and comes out into the salt water.

These are perfect conditions because we have a one-meter level of fresh water on top of the salt water so that the salmon meets in a natural way in the salt water.

The original inhabitants of Scandinavia--the Vikings--were a seagoing people.

It was ships such as this one
that the Vikings used
to reach America
500 years before Columbus.
The shipbuilding tradition
is best represented
in Swedish Gothenburg.
though nowadays,
the docks here are mostly used
for repairing ships only.
In the actual building
of ships,
the Scandinavians
were unable
to beat the competition
from the Far East.
Scandinavia's
main mineral resources
lie in the northern part
of Sweden,
such as the iron ore mines
of Kiruna and Gällivare.
After blowing up the rock,
the ore is transported
for crushing and concentration.
Most of the hard work,
which performed by miners,
is now handled
by remote-controlled machines.
Europe's largest and richest
iron ore deposits
are situated
in northern Sweden,
well above
the Arctic Circle.

For Norway,
the important mineral wealth
lays deep in the North Sea.

Anchored
to the sea bottom,

these man-made
drilling platforms
extract oil
and natural gas.
Tankers and pipelines
bring them to the land,
where they are processed
by the companies

of Norway's coastal
petrochemical industry.
It is important
to the people of Scandinavia
to live in harmony
with their natural environment.
Like all other
Scandinavian capitals,
Oslo,
the capital of Norway,
is an important seaport.
It is
a thriving urban center,
yet on the hills
surrounding the Oslo Fjord,
human settlements
are situated
amidst the unspoiled
Scandinavian landscapes.
In this Stockholm suburb,
one sees a new approach
to urban planning--
living and working
side by side,
still in harmony
with nature.

Stockholm--
capital of Sweden.
On the right side is the saltwater seaport. On the left, freshwater Lake Mjaren. Every year, in the town hall of Stockholm, the Nobel Prize is presented by the king of Sweden. For distinguished men and women of science and literature around the world, the Nobel is the most prestigious award of its kind.

The biggest city in Scandinavia is Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. Copenhagen is a busy center for industry and commerce and an important gateway for all Scandinavia. As a seaport and business center, it has a long and distinguished history.

Sweden, Norway, and Denmark are all monarchies. While the Prime Minister is the head of the government, the monarch is considered the chief of state.

The Scandinavian countries were among the first in Europe to have democratic parliaments. Citizens’ rights have been protected here for many years. Every summer, in much of Scandinavia, the sun only touches the horizon before rising again. But winter will come soon, and long days will be traded for even longer nights.

Tivoli, the famous amusement park in Copenhagen, treats its numerous visitors with old-fashioned attractions. Perhaps it is the region’s harsh climate that has helped instill the people of Scandinavia with such strong belief in traditional values. Nevertheless, their living style is modern, and their living standard is considered to be the highest in Europe. The Scandinavians offer a challenging example, as well as a great hope, to the rest of Europe.

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