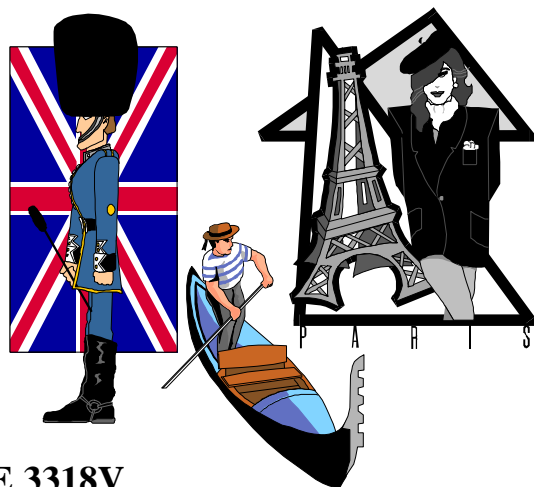


# WESTERN EUROPE: PEOPLE AND PLACES



**CFE 3318V**

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OPEN CAPTIONED  
BENCHMARK MEDIA

1994

Grade Levels: 6-12

22 minutes

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

## **DESCRIPTION**

How Europeans live, their occupations, and how they spend their leisure time depends on where they live. The eighteen major countries of Western Europe share similarities in size and population density, but each country's housing, land, energy sources, languages, and industries vary. Shows how the people have adapted to their country's geography. WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY SERIES.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

- To identify the regions, countries, and major cities of Western Europe.
- To depict how Western Europeans have turned geographic liabilities into assets.
- To compare how Western Europeans have adapted to their various climates and geographic areas.
- To illustrate that housing styles vary depending on the availability of building materials and the climate.
- To present Western Europe's energy resources and concerns.
- To show the variety of transportation systems used in Western European countries.
- To inform viewers of the various dominant religions in the countries of Western Europe.
- To compare the kinds of foods people grow and eat in various Western European countries.

## **BEFORE SHOWING**

1. Preview the video to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. Position the TV monitor next to a map of Western Europe.
3. Identify Europe on a world map or globe and become familiar with the various countries in Western Europe.

4. Introduce the various terms used synonymously for Britain: *Great Britain*, *British Isles*, and *United Kingdom*.

5. On a world map, identify the Netherlands on a world map. Define the word *Dutch*.

### **DURING SHOWING**

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.

2. To show relative location, point to the countries on a map as the video discussion moves from country to country.

3. Pause the video to complete the chart. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

### **AFTER SHOWING**

#### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Describe different ways Europeans have adapted to limited land space. Consider:

- a. Housing
- b. Farming
- c. Placement of cities

2. Explain the process that the Dutch used to claim farming land from the North Sea.

3. What is a *Mediterranean climate*? What kinds of food typically grow in that kind of climate?

4. Compare the various climates of Western Europe to various places in the United States. Within similar climate areas, compare:

- a. Housing
- b. Agriculture
- c. Common foods

5. List the sources of energy discussed in the video. Compare them to energy sources people use in the United States.

6. Discuss the religious conflict that is ongoing in Ireland. Give opinions as to why the video did not mention this conflict.

### Applications and Activities

1. On a blank map, label the countries and regions of Western Europe.
2. Research and complete the chart illustrating Western Europe's diversity. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)
  - a. Research the missing information.
  - b. Research information on other Western European countries to add to the chart.
  - c. Add other categories to the chart and research to locate the information.
3. Define the phrase *turning geographic liabilities into assets*.
  - a. Describe some of the examples of this concept from the video.
  - b. Research and present examples of this concept found in the United States.
4. Research the various types of housing common to each country.
  - a. Make a chart to compare the building materials and styles.
  - b. Compare European housing styles with American housing styles.
5. Make a series of maps for one Western European country, region, or for all of Western Europe. Show information on:
  - a. Climatic regions
  - b. Languages
  - c. Physical features and elevation
  - d. Major cities and population density
  - e. Natural resources
  - f. Religions
6. Research major imports and exports for various countries in Western Europe. Display the information in the form of a map, chart, or graph.
7. Invent a new country.
  - a. Draw a map and label important landforms and resources.

- b. Write a description of the people who live there. Include information on their foods, religions, modes of transportation, housing styles, languages, and energy sources.
  - c. Support the cultural information with appropriate information about the environment, including the land itself, the climate, natural resources, and agriculture.
8. Match the terms used for the people who live in a country with each country's name.
  9. Make a dictionary of natural and constructed landforms common to Western Europe. Include *fjord*, *dike*, and *canal*.
  10. Create a travel brochure for a country in Western Europe. Include information on:
    - a. Location and climate
    - b. Sightseeing
    - c. City sizes and populations
    - d. Natural resources
    - e. Transportation and housing available
    - f. Languages spoken
    - g. Common foods

### **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

1. Research and practice preferred name signs for each country. Discuss why culturally based signs are preferred.
2. Locate information about the sign languages used in different European countries. Compare various signs for the same concept.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS**

One instructional graphic is included with this lesson guide. It may be enlarged and used to create transparencies or copies.

- WESTERN EUROPE'S DIVERSITY

## **WEBSITES**

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

## **SUMMARY**

Western Europe has eighteen major countries divided into three regions: Northern, Central, and Mediterranean. These countries have different cultures, but they also have similarities. Compared to the United States, the countries are small, but are more densely populated. The people live mostly in row houses or apartments in big cities like London, Paris, or Berlin.

Europeans have turned geographic liabilities into assets. In the Netherlands, the Dutch built hundreds of dikes to hold back the North Sea. They used the power from windmills to pump seawater off the land, and they continue to use drainage canals as a transportation network. Italians built terraces along mountainsides for farming. Some Italian fishing villages and trading centers along the coast are now major seaside resorts. Norwegians built houses on steep hillsides and have used fjord access to develop a large fishing industry. Germans use every bit of agricultural land available, even in and around cities. British farmers raise sheep instead of crops because of the cool climate and rocky soil.

Housing styles reflect the diverse climates and building materials available. Scandinavians build wooden buildings with steep rooflines. The British use stone for buildings and fences. Italians paint stucco and brick buildings with light colors to reflect heat.

Energy resources are scarce. Dense populations with heavy industrialization and use of fossil fuels have created air pollution problems. Some alternative energy sources are: peat in England and Scotland,

hydroelectric power in Norway, wind turbines in Denmark, and nuclear power in France.

Public transportation networks are extensive in all Western European countries. Every town and city has buses or trolleys and larger cities have subways. Many countries have bicycle lanes. Even so, they continue to have traffic problems.

Transportation between countries is exceptionally well-developed. This includes a network of highways, railways, and rivers with connecting canals. The water highways connect to seaports which allow Europe to trade with other countries.

Western European countries retain their own distinct cultural identities, even though they are becoming more interdependent. The countries' languages, religions, and foods illustrate some obvious cultural differences. Germanic based languages are dominant in the northern areas and Latin-based languages are dominant in the south.

Western Europe is predominately Christian. The northern region is mostly Protestant. In the central region, France and Austria are mostly Catholic, while Germany and the Netherlands are mostly Protestant. The Mediterranean Region is predominately Catholic.

Italians developed their distinctive foods from produce that grows easily in the Mediterranean climate. Some common foods are: fish in Norway, Iceland, and the United Kingdom; root crops in Ireland; and milk and cheese from dairy farms in Denmark and the Netherlands.

