CLASS - 7  
SUBJECT - GEOGRAPHY  
7(A) - STUDY OF CONTINENTS (EUROPE AND AFRICA)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Help children to locate Europe and Africa on the world map.
- Identify the countries in Europe and Africa.
- Understand the major physical features of these countries.

EUROPE

https://youtu.be/ML7PtP4J4J8

Europe is a small continent. It ranks sixth among the seven continents of the world in terms of area.

1. **Location**- Europe lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere. Its latitudinal extent is 35°N and 73°N whereas its longitudinal extent is 25°W and 65°E. The Prime Meridian (0° longitude) passes through Greenwich, near London.

2. **Boundaries**- Europe is a peninsula.
   (i) In the north, it is bounded by the Arctic Ocean.
   (ii) In the west, it is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean.
   (iii) In the South, it is bordered by the Mediterranean sea. Ural Mountains and Ural Rivers separate Europe from Asia.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKkwCkGmgJQ
3. **Coastline**-The coastline here is highly indented (broken) due to large number of enclosed seas and bays. The indented coastline provides a large number of natural harbours and port sites.

4. **Islands**-British Isles, Iceland, Sardinia, Sicily and Crete are the main islands of Europe.

**POLITICAL DIVISIONS**

1. **Countries**-Europe is a small continent with 50 countries.

2. **Scandinavian Countries**

3. **BALTIC STATES**
4. LOW COUNTRIES-

BELGIUM  NETHERLANDS  LUXEMBOURG

5. BALKAN STATES-
6. THE BRITISH ISLES -

7. THE IBERIAN PENINSULA - It is made up of the countries of Spain and Portugal.
8. **SMALLEST COUNTRY**- Vatican city is a small and independent state situated within the city of Rome with a population of few hundred people.

**PHYSICAL FEATURES**

Europe is a land of physical features. On the basis of the physical features, this continent can be divided into four major physical divisions.

1. The North-western Highlands.
2. The North European Plains.
3. The Central Uplands.
4. The Alpine System.

1. The North-western Highlands:
   - This is the highland region situated in the far north of Europe. These highlands stretch from Finland through Sweden, Norway and the British Isles to Iceland.
   - This highland region in its northern part is called the Fenno-Scandian Shield.
   - This region is rich in metallic minerals such as iron ore and copper.
   - The soils of the shield area are coarse and have very low fertility.

   These highlands are made up of hard ancient rocks that were shaped by glaciation. Glaciation has left number of distinct physical features like marshlands, lakes, fjords.
2. THE NORTH EUROPEAN PLAINS:

- This is a stretch of flat land extending between Ural Mountains in the east and the Atlantic coast in the west.
- This plain is broader in the east and it narrows to the west.
- The plain is a gently rolling flat area and it is one of the most fertile areas of Europe.
- Most of the area has soils deposited by rivers and glaciers. Agriculture has been the major activity in this plain since very old times.
- A number of navigable rivers flow through these plains. The Seine, the Rhine, the Danube, Dneiper and the Volga are some of them. Volga is the longest river of Europe.
3. THE CENTRAL UPLANDS:
- The Central Uplands region consists of a number of mountains, hills and plateaus.
- The major parts of this region are the Mesta in Spain and Portugal, the Massif Central and the Jura mountains in France, The Black forest in Germany and a number of low ranges in the Czech and Slovak republics.
- This is an area of undulating topography.

4. THE ALPINE SYSTEM:
- These are young fold mountains and are as old as the Atlas Mountains in Africa and the Rocky mountains in North America.
- The Alpine chain extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Caspian Sea in the east.
- Being young, these mountains have high peaks, deep valleys and steep slopes.
- The highest peak of the Alps, Mont Blanc, is 4,807 metres high.
- The Alpine system consists of a number of mountain ranges running parallel to each other.
AFRICA

https://youtu.be/TUPXOPLrgok

Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous continent, after Asia.

1. LOCATION- It stretches from 37°N to 35°S latitude and 20°W to 52°E longitude.

2. BOUNDARIES- The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, both the Suez Canal and the Red Sea along the Sinai Peninsula to the north-east, the Indian Ocean to the south-east and the Atlantic Ocean to the West.

Four important lines of latitudes and lines of longitudes pass through this continent:

- The Equator
- The Prime Meridian
- The Tropic of Cancer
- The Tropic of Capricorn

**PHYSICAL FEATURES**

- PLAINS
- RIFT Valleys
- DESERT
- PLATEAUS
- MOUNTAINS
- DRAINAGE

**MOUNTAINS**

- Lies in the NW region of AFRICA
- These are FOLD mountains consisting of several parallel ranges.
There are number of volcanic mountain in the eastern part such as MT.KILIMANJARO, MT.KENYA

Along the western side DARKENBERG MOUNTAINS forms the steep edge of the plateau

PLATEAUS

* Entire Africa appears to be plateau
* Higher in the eastern and the southern side of the continent
* These plateaus are of volcanic origin.
* The South African plateau is bound by highlands in the east, west and south. A large part of the plateau is occupied by the barren Kalahari Desert.

The East African plateau also rises steeply from the east. A characteristic feature of this plateau is the existence of two rift valleys. These are great lines of depression formed by the sinking of blocks of the Earth's crust.

RIFT VALLEY

* The rift valleys are the most prominent physical feature of Africa.
* These are found in the eastern part of the continent and are collectively known as the Great Rift Valley.
* The Great Rift Valley of Africa stretches for a distance of about 8,000 km from River Zambezi in the south to the Red Sea in the north and then further into Asia.
FORMATION OF RIFT VALLEYS

The Victoria Falls on the Zambezi is higher and wider than the Niagara Falls in North America.

These falls were discovered by the Scottish explorer David Livingstone in 1855 and he named them after Queen Victoria of England.
LEARNING TERMS

PENINSULA: A large stretch of land surrounded by sea except for one side through which it is connected to a large landmass.

FJORD: Deep inlets of sea between high cliffs. They are formed through erosion by glaciers.

FOLD MOUNTAINS: Mountains formed due to buckling of the crust of the earth under the influence of the compression forces beneath the surface of the earth.

INTERMONTANE PLAINS: Plains surrounded by mountains.

ISLAND: A body of land completely surrounded by water.

RIFT VALLEY: A narrow steep sided valley formed between two parallel faults.

WORKSHEET

A. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN BRIEF:

1. What is the location of Europe?
2. Name the mountains which separate Europe from Asia?
3. "The coastline of Europe is highly indented." Give reason.
4. Define fjords.
5. Name the longest river of Europe.
6. What is the location of Africa?
7. Name any two lakes of Africa?
8. Name any two lines of latitude and longitude which pass through Africa.
9. Mention the physical divisions of Europe.
10. What is a rift valley?
B. FILL IN THE BLANKS:
1. Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg are called the _______ countries.
2.______ is the highest peak of Alps.
3._________ and__________ are important rivers of Europe.
4.______ is the highest mountain peak of Africa.
5.______ is the largest desert of Africa.

C. NAME THE CAPITAL CITIES OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:
1. Russia 6. Belgium
2. Germany 7. Netherlands
3. Italy 8. South Africa
5. United Kingdom 10. Egypt

D. MATCH THE FOLLOWING COLUMNS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLUMN A</th>
<th>COLUMN B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Iceland</td>
<td>(a) Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baltic state</td>
<td>(b) Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Balkan State</td>
<td>(c) Vatican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Low Country</td>
<td>(d) Scandinavian country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Smallest Country</td>
<td>(e) Bosnia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANSWERS:

A. 1. Europe lies entirely in the Northern Hemisphere. Its latitudinal extent is 35°N and 73°N whereas its longitudinal extent is 25°W and 65°E.
2. Ural mountains separate Europe from Asia.

3. The coastline here is highly indented (broken) due to large number of enclosed seas and bays.

4. Fjord is a glacially over deepened valley, usually narrow and steep sided, extending below sea level and filled with salt water.

5. Volga is the longest river of Europe.

6. It stretches from 37°N to 35°S latitude and 20°W to 52°E longitude.

7. Lake Victoria and Lake Albert are the two lakes of Africa.

8. The Equator and the Prime Meridian pass through Africa.

9. On the basis of the physical features, this continent can be divided into four majors’ physical division.
   1. The North-western Highlands.
   2. The North European Plains.
   3. The Central Uplands.
   4. The Alpine System.

10. A Rift Valley is a long, deep valley with steep sides. Such valleys are formed due to cracks or fractures or faults in the crust of the earth.

    B

1. Low

2. Mont Blanc

3. Seine, Rhine

4. Mt. Kilimanjaro

5. Sahara
1. Moscow
2. Berlin
3. Rome
4. Paris
5. London
6. City of Brussels
7. Amsterdam
8. Cape town, Pretoria
9. Nairobi
10. Cairo

1. D
2. A
3. E
4. B
5. C