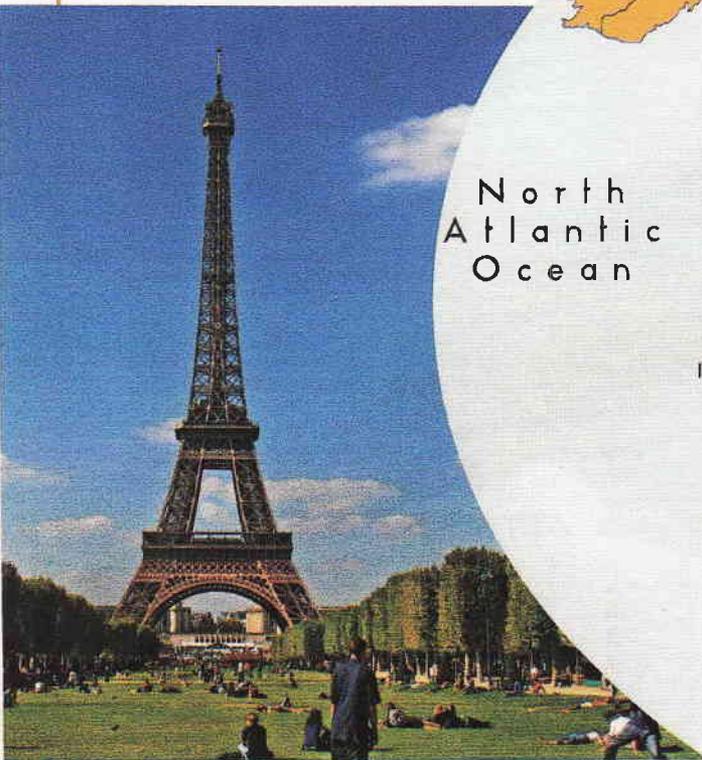




The European continent

1 Before you read think about what you know about Europe. Look at the map and discuss these questions as a class. Then read and listen to the text to see if you were right.

- 1 How many countries are there in Europe?
- 2 Which seas and oceans surround it?
- 3 Which country is the biggest and which is the smallest?
- 4 How many people live in Europe?
- 5 How many different languages are there?



The Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.



Europe is a continent in the northern hemisphere. It is separated from Asia by the Ural Mountains. To the south, the Mediterranean Sea separates it from Africa. To the west, there is the Atlantic Ocean. Europe's land is over 10 million square kilometres. Its coast is about 38,000 kilometres.

European countries

There are forty-six countries in Europe.

Some European countries like Turkey and Russia, are **transcontinental**. This means that they are in two continents: Europe and Asia. In Russia the capital Moscow and 74% of the population are in Europe, but 77% of the land is in Asia. Only 3.5% of Turkey's land is in Europe and the rest is in Asia. Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Georgia are also transcontinental, but these countries are not usually thought of as European.

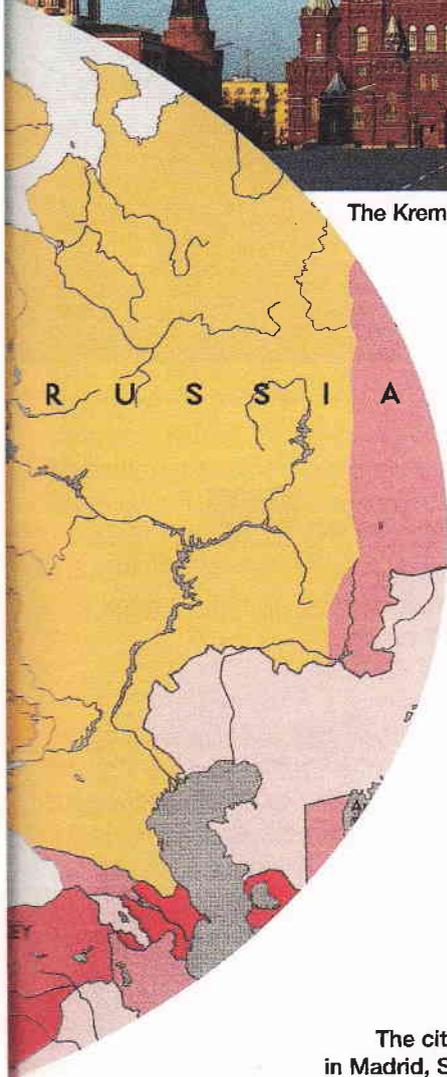


The Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

The biggest country in Europe is Russia (even with only 23% in Europe). The smallest is Vatican City, the home of the Roman Catholic Church.

Population

The population of Europe today is about 800 million. This is about 12% of the world's population. Europe is a heavily populated area because of its good climate, resources and economy. About 65% of the population live in cities. The five most populated European cities are Moscow, London, Istanbul, Paris and Madrid.



Languages

There are about forty major languages spoken in Europe. Russian has the most native speakers, but English is the most spoken language across the whole of Europe. Some European languages are spoken in countries outside Europe. For example, English is spoken in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; Spanish is spoken in Mexico, Central America and most of South America; Portuguese is spoken in Brazil; and French is spoken in parts of Canada and some African countries.



The city hall in Madrid, Spain.

Comprehension check

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Europe is separated from Africa by the Atlantic Ocean.
- 2 Transcontinental countries are in more than one continent.
- 3 The most populated city in Europe is in the eastern part of the continent.
- 4 More people live in Europe now than in the past.
- 5 English has the highest number of first-language speakers.
- 6 Some European languages are spoken in countries outside of Europe.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>