

Grand Tour of Europe's Landforms

Mission: Ride across Europe from the plains to the peaks. Enter each landform, collect evidence, and explain how each physical feature shaped the way people live there.

Big question: What are Europe's major physical features, and how do they affect how people live?

★ Warm-up: Landform match

Name the landform.

Water on three sides ✓ **Peninsula.**

High and flat ✓ **Plateau.**

Key vocabulary

Peninsula	Land surrounded by water on three sides.
Plateau	A high, flat area of land.
Fjord	A long, narrow sea inlet between cliffs, carved by glaciers.
Plain	A large area of flat land.

1 Box 1

Start on the plain

In the simulator: Enter the Great European Plain and examine both objects.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Ride the whole route

In the simulator: Enter all 6 places and collect at least 11 objects.

What did you notice?

3 Box 3

Landform types

What type of landform is each?

Sort: The Alps • Great European Plain • Iberia • Italy • Norway's fjords • The Netherlands

Mountains	Plain / lowland	Peninsula	Coastal inlet
The Alps	Great European Plain The Netherlands	Iberia Italy	Norway's fjords

4 Box 4

Geography and history

Why did Spain and Portugal lead ocean exploration in the 1400s?

- ☐ The Iberian Peninsula has long coastlines facing the Atlantic
 ☐ They had the tallest mountains
☐ They were landlocked

✓ **The Iberian Peninsula has long coastlines facing the Atlantic**

Distance

Check the distance readout. About how many miles did you travel? (nearest 100)

Answer: _____ miles ✓ **varies: check the student's simulator readout**

5 Box 5

Travel journal

Write a travel journal entry about two landforms and how each affects people's lives.

Landform 1

Look for: Names a landform; at least 14 words

Landform 2

Look for: Names a landform; at least 14 words

Comparison

Look for: at least 10 words

6 Box 6

Legend: barriers and highways 🏆 Legend only

Some landforms are barriers and some are highways. Classify three from your trip and explain.

Look for: Uses "barrier"; Uses "highway" or connection; at least 30 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

What are Europe's major physical features, and how do they affect how people live?

Look for: Europe's landforms shape life: the flat, fertile Great European Plain supports farming and big cities; the Alps are a barrier and a source of rivers; Norway's fjords pushed people toward the sea; the Netherlands reclaimed land with dikes; peninsulas like Iberia and Italy turned people toward sea trade and exploration.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
🗺 Explorer	6WI-E
🔍 Investigator	QDE-I
🏆 Legend	1UN-L



Watch for these misconceptions

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- "Latitude and longitude are the same thing." Latitude = north/south position, longitude = east/west position.
 - "Places at the same latitude have the same climate." Elevation, oceans, and currents matter too.
 - "South America is directly south of North America." Most of South America is east of Florida.