

The background is a light blue surface with horizontal yellow lines. Various school and office supplies are scattered around: a green set square in the top right, a red USB drive with a network icon in the top left, a yellow folder with a hand icon and a smiley face on the left, a red ribbon banner in the center, a magnifying glass with a question mark in the center, a red ball with a white bandage in the bottom right, a blue pencil in the bottom right, a pair of red scissors in the bottom left, and a small pie chart in the bottom left. There are also some small orange circles and arrows scattered throughout.

Check Out Google-Maps &
Examine The Southern Region of
Europe! Explain What You Find!

INVESTIGATE

4.3

Southern Europe



As a Young Geographer, I will be able to...

- **Examine the physical geography of Southern Europe**
- **Investigate the history of the region & how that has affected life today**
- **Analyze how the region attempts to deal with climate issues**

Landforms

Southern Europe is made up of **Peninsulas- a landform that extends from a mainland & is surrounded by water on most sides.**

These are the Iberian Peninsula, The Italian Peninsula, & the Balkan Peninsula

The Iberian Peninsula is home to Spain & Portugal with coastal plains leading to the Mesta, a large interior plateau

****Strait of Gibraltar**- a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Europe from Africa**

Landforms

The Italian Peninsula is home to Italy & extends from the south of Europe into the middle of the Mediterranean Sea

The coastline varies from high, rocky cliffs to long, sandy beaches

The Northern region holds the Alps, the highest mountain chain in Europe & source of its most important rivers



Landforms

The Balkan Peninsula sits between the Adriatic & Ionian seas, Greece sits on the southern most region

Greece is known for its many islands (2,000) of its coast in the Aegean Sea

The islands in the Mediterranean are important for the region as they serve as trading posts



Water Systems

The two major rivers on the Iberian Peninsula are the Tagus & the Ebro

The rivers are too shallow for ships but supply hydroelectric power to the region

The Po river flows into Venice, located on the Adriatic Sea

Venice has constructed a complicated set of dikes & canals to control the river



Water Systems

Greece , on the southern tip of the Balkan has a mountainous terrain leading to sloping rivers & marshes

The Maritsa river creates the border between Greece & Turkey

Glacial movements did not make their way to this region during the ice age

Due to this, the region lacks lakes or reservoirs of water that Northern Europe has.

Climate, Biomes, & Resources

The subregion of South Europe is a popular vacation destination & is suited for grapes, olives, herbs, & raising livestock

The Alps create two climate zones: The marine west coast to the North & Warm Mediterranean climate to the South

Most of the yearly rainfall occurs in the winter months. Animals have adapted to these dry periods



History & Government

Ancient Greece was one of the earliest societies in the region with its own form of government & society

City-states –An independently governed community consisting of a city & its surrounding lands

Sparta was a society built on the power of war ; it and Greece have influenced Western civilization for thousands of years!

The Roman Republic took over in Italy & created the largest empire of the ancient world

History & Government

After the fall of Rome, began the middle ages & an new era that began in Italy in the 1300s

Renaissance- “Rebirth” the period in European civilization with a surge of interest in classical learning & values

1400s-1500s- Spain & Portugal began a series of explorations that would bring them into the new world & India

1800s-1900s Societies began to unify under Nationalism & set up modern countries based on common identities & languages



History & Government

The region has seen multiple invasions from North Africa, Asia, & other parts of Europe in its history

Today, the region is home to democratically elected governments

However, Spain, Greece, & Italy have high unemployment rates, credit problems, & issues moving to new economic identities



Population Patterns

Vatican City is the most densely populated area in Southern Europe

Greece is the least & has the most rural agrarian countries of the region

Agrarian- Farming economy

The people in Southern Europe are aging & there is not a high enough birthrate to grow populations



Population Patterns

The growth of income & the inclusion of women into society has caused birthrates to drop

Older citizens often do not have adult children to help care for them, so the countries government has to supply care

Newly admitted countries into the EU have larger populations & are attracted to work in urban areas

This has caused a growth of different cultures & ethnicities in the countries

Population Patterns

There has also been an influx of refugees from North Africa & Southwest Asia to the region

As a result, countries has seen a surge in expenses for housing, food, & health care

The largest cities in Southern Europe are economic & cultural hubs on ancient trade routes

Vatican City, within Rome, is an independent country for the Catholic Church



Society & Culture

Southern Europe has served as a geographic crossroad for cultures around the Mediterranean Sea

It's also a region where civil societies formed the first representative governments elected by people

The region has a 95% literacy rate, education is compulsory, & university education is common

Taxes fund healthcare & other social services that cover universal basic needs

Society & Culture

**Italian women have a high level of gender equality,
except in politics**

**Italy, Greece, & Spain have family-oriented cultures
where extended families will often live together**

**The ancient Greeks & Romans inspired important
elements of architecture & realism in art**

**The Renaissance brought forth many important
Italian artists like Leonardo da Vinci &
Michelangelo**

**Spain had the art of Pablo Picasso & surrealist
artist Salvador Dali'**



Economic Activities

Greece constantly suffers economic stress. 2015 had unemployment at 25% & youth unemployment at 50%

Southern European countries have seen a steady decrease in in the manufacturing sector in the last 30 years

The EU has helped increase trade & economic support in the region since the 1990s

However, some countries in the region still have issues such as too much national debt, high unemployment, & too much govt spending

Managing Resources

The landscape is home to a comfortable climate that encourages tourism & many outdoor activities

However, human settlement has increased as has a number of concerns for the environment

Large algae blooms in the Adriatic Sea has been dissolving oxygen & killing marine life

**Climate change has made summers unpredictable.
One summer droughts, the other
unseasonable rain**



Managing Resources

Soil erosion has become a huge issue because it removes topsoil, plants cant grow & fires are more common

Glaciers are shrinking & the warmer climates have allowed bugs to overpopulate & destroy forests

Overfishing in the region has caused an ecological issue & has been affecting the region's economy

Pollution Hotspot- A location where pollution & other human activities have led to the degradation, or even death, of an ecosystem

Addressing Issues

The Mediterranean Action Plan has set up goals for countries to reach to reduce environmental impact

The European Environmental Agency evaluates threatens & sets up plans to deal with environmental issues

Organizations, such as the World Wildlife Fund, have been organizing individuals to help clean up the environment

The Forest Stewardship Council has been trying to curb deforestation by replanting trees



Find Me Five!

**What are 5 Things you
learned about today?**

Could be from a picture, information, or just
a fun fact!

RADICAL!

