Chapter 11: Northwestern Europe

Unit 4
Section 1: Physical Geography
Landforms

• Plains and mountains
• Northern European Plain/Great European Plain:
  – Flat
  – low-lying land
  – Southeastern England, western and central France, through Germany
  – Fertile soil
    • loess—a fine, rich, wind-born sediment left by glaciers
Landforms

• Alps:
  – High, jagged mountain range
  – South of the Northern European Plain
  – Southern France, through Switzerland and Austria, to the Balkan Peninsula
  – Mount Blanc is the highest peak: almost 16,000 ft
Landforms

• British Isles:
  – Great Britain
  – Ireland
  – Thousands of smaller islands
  – Rocky cliffs
  – Deep bays
  – Mountains
  – Plateaus
  – Valleys
  – Hills
  – Rolling plains
Water Systems

• Ocean transportation is important

• Rivers are used to transport goods and people
  – Trade and tourism

• Eleven significant lakes surround the Alps
  – Used for water power/energy
  – Water routes for transportation
Water Systems

Netherlands:

• Much of the country is below seawater

• Dikes—large banks of earth and stone to hold back water

• Polders—area where seawater has been drained to create new land
  – Creates land that can be used for farming, settlement, etc.
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

• Mild climate in areas due to the North Atlantic Current
• Different wind patterns can result in different climates/weather
  – Cold and snowy
  – Dry
  – Milder temperatures that will melt the snow
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

- Coal
- Iron Ore
- Oil
- Natural Gas
- Nuclear
- Hydroelectricity
- Wind power
Section 2: Human Geography
History and Government

- Most of the region was once a part of the Roman empire
- Roman Empire collapsed during the AD 400s; Germanic groups took control for hundreds of years
History and Government

• During the Roman empire, Christianity was the main religion.
  – The Crusades
  – Opened trade routes to eastern Mediterranean

• Late 1400s:
  – Renaissance spread through Europe
    • Art, politics, culture, religion

• 1500s:
  – Protestant Reformation
History and Government

• Early 1700s:
  – Enlightenment Era
    • Value reason, question tradition
    • Progress: things can improve

• Mid 1700s:
  – Industrial Revolution
  – Industrial Capitalism vs. Communism
History and Government

• 20\textsuperscript{th} Century:
  – World War I (1914-1918):
    • Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria
    • Allied Powers: Britain, France, Russia
    • Treaty of Versailles
History and Government

• 20th Century:
  – World War II (1939-1945):
    • Adolf Hitler, Nazi Party
    • Central Powers vs. Allied Powers
    • Holocaust—6 million Jews killed, other groups also targeted
History and Government

• 20\textsuperscript{th} Century:
  – Cold War
    • Power struggle between the Soviet Union and communism vs. United States and non-communist countries
    • Came to an end in the early 1990s
Economic Activities

• 70% of workers are in the service (tertiary) industry
  – Banking and insurance are some of the most important jobs in the industry
  – Tourism

• Transportation (secondary activity)
  – Roads, rail lines, waterways, airline routes

• Some agriculture
Economic Activities

• European Union
  – One trading community
  – Eliminates tariffs and other trade barriers
Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction
Managing Resources

- Natural resources
- Pollution (land and water)
- Overfishing
- Transportation routes impacting animals/environment