Chapter 12: Southern Europe

Unit 4
Section 1: Physical Geography
Landforms

• Southern portion of Europe is made up of 3 peninsulas:
  – Iberian Peninsula
  – Italian Peninsula
  – Balkan Peninsula
Landforms

- Iberian Peninsula:
  - Spain and Portugal
  - Separates the Atlantic from the Mediterranean Sea
    - Strait of Gibraltar allows a very narrow connection (20 miles)
  - Separated from the rest of Europe in the north by the Pyrenees (mountains)
    - Earthquakes common
Landforms

- Italian Peninsula
  - Italy
  - Surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea
  - Plains cover 1/3rd of the landform
  - Apennine Mountains
  - North of the peninsula lie the Alps
Landforms

• Balkan Peninsula
  – Greece
  – Adriatic and Ionian Seas to the west
  – Aegean and Black Seas to the east

• Small island countries/territories in the Mediterranean are important spots for trading
Water Systems

• Tagus and Ebro Rivers
  – Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal)
  – Not good for large ships, but used for some shipping
  – Hydroelectric power
  – Irrigation
Water Systems

- **Tiber and Po Rivers**
  - Italian Peninsula (Italy)
  - Po:
    - Italy’s longest river
    - Starts in the Apennines
    - Venice
  - Tiber:
    - Italy’s second longest river
    - Primary water source for Rome
    - Naval harbor

- **Maritsa River**
  - Balkan Peninsula (Greece)
  - Located in Northeastern Greece
  - Makes the border between Greece and Turkey
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

• Portugal:
  – copper

• Northern Spain:
  – Coal
  – Tin
  – Tungsten
  – Hydroelectricity

• Italy: hydroelectricity
Section 2: Human Geography
History and Government

• Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome:
  – City-states
    • Athens: democracy
    • Sparta: military
  – Art and culture of the Greeks and Romans is still seen today
  – Rule of law and balance of power
History and Government

• Renaissance
  – 1300s
  – Cultural revival
  – Arts, politics, science, philosophy

• European countries were not nearly as developed as Middle eastern empires before the 1400s.
  – This changed as countries (mainly Spain and Portugal) began to colonize other areas of the world
    • Mainly Latin America
History and Government

• 1800s and 1900s: Period of change
  – Nationalism
  – World Wars
  – Today: democratic countries
Society and Culture Today

- Speak a romance language
  - Spanish
  - Italian
  - Portuguese

- Mainly Roman Catholic

- Political and economically stable
  - Greece has had more issues than the other countries
Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction
Managing Resources

• Algae blooms in the Adriatic Sea
  – Caused by human products (like chemicals) that upset the balance of the ecosystem
  – Can be toxic to the marine species and other plants

• Climate change:
  – Unpredictable weather patterns
    • Droughts vs. unseasonal rain
    • Soil erosion
    • Fires

• Pollution