

A world map with a blue background. The continents of Europe and North America are highlighted in a vibrant green color. The rest of the world's landmasses are shown in a light yellow-green color. The map includes outlines of major countries and islands.

Europe and North America

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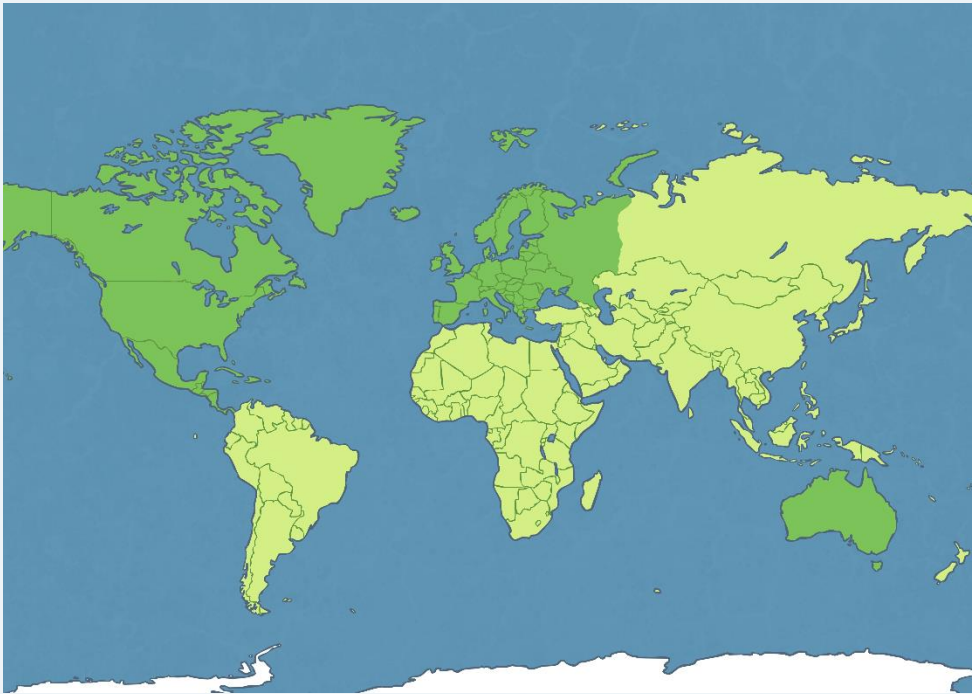
BQ: How are North America and Europe similar/different?

Geography Skill 3: Human and Physical Geography



Introduction

Europe and North America are continents. A continent is a very large land mass. A continent is usually, but not always, separated by water. Both Europe and North America are found in the northern hemisphere.



Question Time

How many continents are there?

Can you name all of them?

Which hemisphere is Australia found in?

North America

North America is the third largest continent in the world. Canada, the United States of America and Mexico make up most of North America, the rest consisting of many smaller countries.

As North America is so large, it spans across various climatic conditions, including arctic, sub-arctic, tropical, arid, equatorial and temperate.

The indigenous populations in North America include the Native Americans, Inuit people of Canada and indigenous peoples of Mexico.

English, French and Spanish are the main languages of North America.



Question Time

What climatic conditions span across Australia?

Canada

Canada is the second largest country in the world (Russia is first!). Regardless of its size, Canada's population is very small, mainly due to its location. One-third of Canada is located within the Arctic Circle, where living conditions (because of snow and ice) are unwelcoming.

Most of the major cities, including Ottawa (the capital of Canada), Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, are located towards the southern part of Canada where weather conditions are more hospitable.

Approximately half of the population came from Britain and France, so English and French are the official Canadian languages.

The Canadian flag features a large maple leaf. Canada produces about 70% of the world's maple syrup.



Question Time

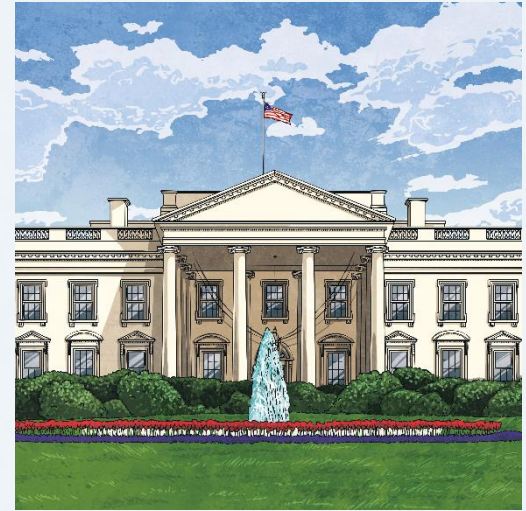
What makes Australia's flag significant?

United States of America

The United States of America consists of 50 states which are represented by 50 stars on the American flag. The American flag is also known as the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory and The Star-Spangled Banner.

The capital of the USA is Washington DC where the White House (the official residence of the President of the United States) is located.

New York City and Los Angeles are the two largest cities in the USA. New York or 'The Big Apple' is located on America's east coast. Los Angeles is Spanish for 'The Angels'. This city is located on the west coast of America and is home to Disneyland.



Question Time

How many states and territories does Australia have?

Europe

Europe has 44 countries (according to the United Nations). Major countries include the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy.

It is bordered by the Ural Mountains to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

Europe can be divided into Eastern Europe, Central Europe and Western Europe.

Europe has four distinct seasons and differing climatic conditions.



Question Time

What are the oceans that border Australia?

The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is made up of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The capital is London.

Queen Elizabeth II is the monarch of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. She resides mainly at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle in London.

Landmarks such as London Bridge, The Tower of London and Big Ben are major tourist sights



Question Time

What special relationship does Australia have with the United Kingdom?

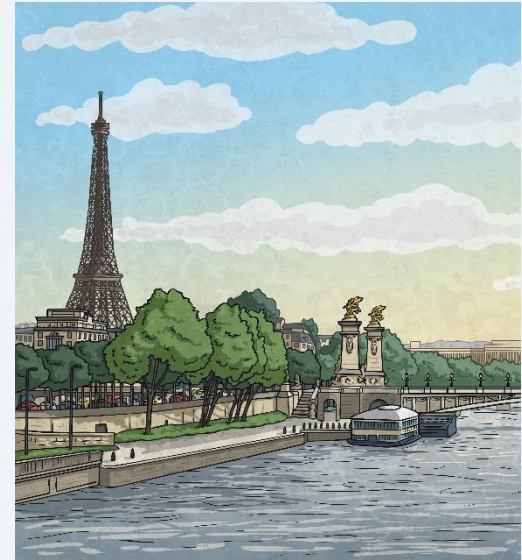
France

France is situated in Western Europe. The capital of France is Paris, home to the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre Museum.

The French flag consists of three vertical bands - red, white and blue. It has come to represent the national motto of France - *Liberté, Égalité and Fraternité* (Liberty, Equality and Fraternity).

France is most famous for wine production, cheese, fashion and art.

France has a very successful tourism industry, with approximately 84 million people visiting the country each year.

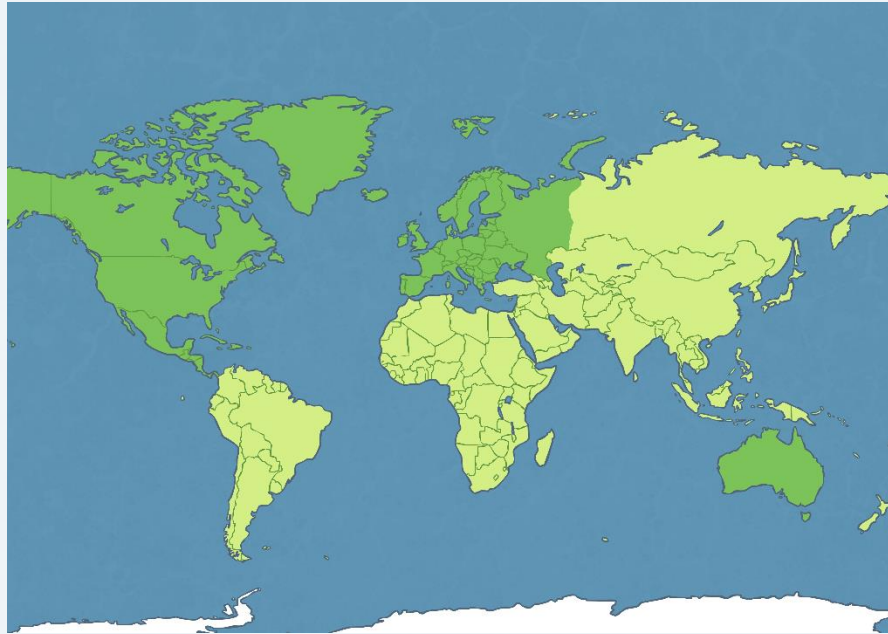


Question Time

Why is tourism so important?

Task

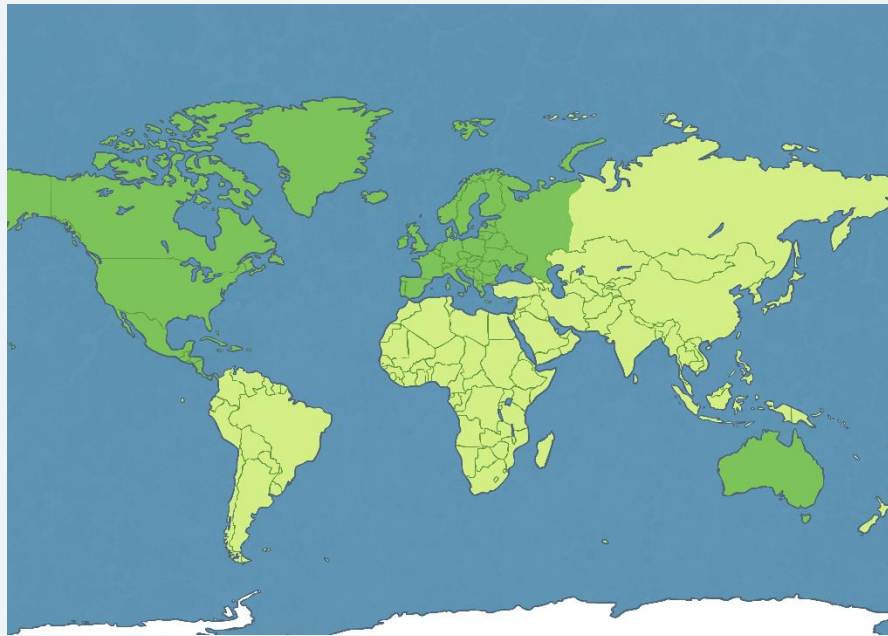
Your task is to look at two continents, North America and Europe, and write a comparison piece highlighting similarities and differences.

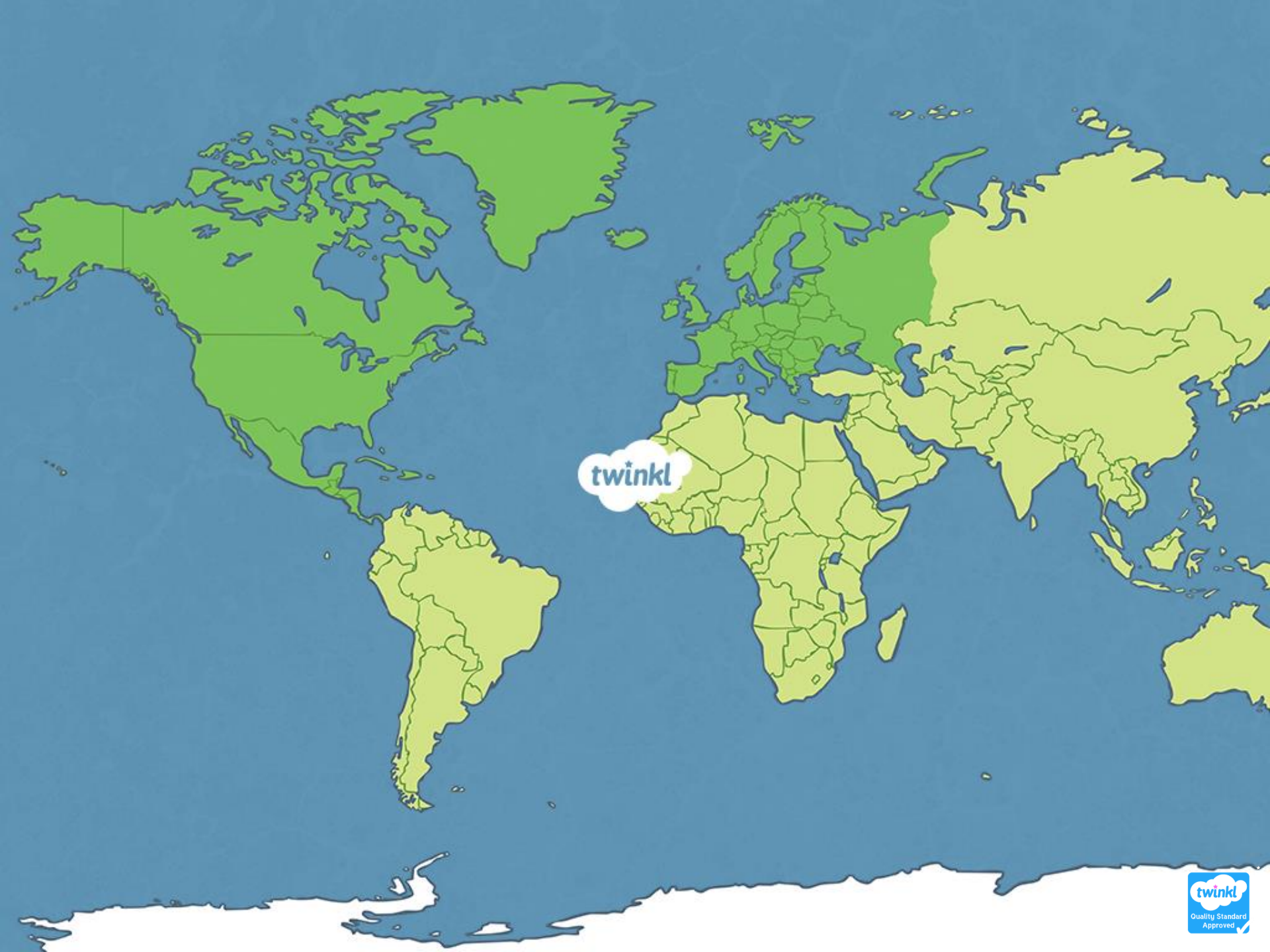


Plenary: Inquiry Questions

How do people and environments influence one another?

Which continent do you think is better to live in and why do you think that?





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