Europe Natural Features

Europe is one of the seven continents. The other six are North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and Antarctica. A continent is a group of countries in the same area of the planet. Countries in Europe include the United Kingdom, France, Holland and Greece. All over Europe there are plenty of examples of human and physical landmarks. Some of the most famous physical landmarks are mentioned below.

Mighty Mountains

In Greek mythology, Mount Olympus was the home of the gods and the throne of Zeus, the head god. It is the highest mountain in Greece, reaching 9,570 feet (2,917 metres) tall. You can usually see the mountain covered in snow for seven months every year between November and May, the wettest season. The rain is caused by a thick blanket of clouds that cover part of the mountain.

Violent Volcano

Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano found in Italy, only nine miles from the city of Naples. It has erupted many times, most recently in 1944. The most violent eruption recorded happened in 79AD killing thousands of people and completely burying the nearby cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Raging Rhine

The Rhine is one of the longest and most important rivers in Europe. It is over 1,232 kilometres (766 miles) long. Its source is in Switzerland and continues to flow through six countries in total before exiting into the North Sea. The river has been used for trade for many years, even as far back as the Roman era over 2,000 years ago. The river is still used for transporting goods today, and many towns have been built along the river to support the many businesses.

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Glossary

active volcano
Can still erupt lava at any time

erupt
Explode lava and ash

goods
Things you buy and sell, like food or clothes

landmark
An object that is well known and easily remembered

mythology
Myths

source
Where something is originally from

trade
Buying and selling

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Questions

Read the information sheet and answer these questions in full sentences.

1. What is a continent?
2. What are natural features?
3. In which month would you not see snow on Mount Olympus?
4. What is an 'active' volcano?
5. What year did Mount Vesuvius last erupt?
6. What is the Rhine River used for?
7. How can you tell that it rains often at Mount Olympus?
8. Why do you think the Romans used the River Rhine to transport goods?
9. How would you feel if you lived only nine miles from Mount Vesuvius?
10. Which of the three natural features would you be interested in visiting and why? Provide three reasons.

Answers

1. What is a continent?
   A continent is a group of countries in the same area on the planet.

2. What are natural features?
   Natural features are features that have not been made by humans and have occurred naturally.

3. In which month would you not see snow on Mount Olympus?
   Snow would not be seen on Mount Olympus during the months of June, July, August, September and October.

4. What is an 'active' volcano?

   An 'active' volcano is a volcano that can erupt lava at any time.

5. What year did Mount Vesuvius last erupt?

   Mount Vesuvius last erupted in 1944.

6. What is the Rhine River used for?

   Today, the Rhine river is used for transporting goods.

7. How can you tell that it rains often at Mount Olympus?

   You can tell that it rains often at Mount Olympus because the top of the mountain is covered by clouds.

8. Why do you think the Romans used the River Rhine to transport goods?
   Accept responses that refer to the length of the river and links to different countries, such as; 'I think the Romans used rivers to trade goods because it was incredibly long. It was an easy way for the Romans to trade with many countries as the river passed through 6 countries.'

9. How would you feel if you lived only nine miles from Mount Vesuvius?
   Pupils own response, that refers to the text, such as: 'I would feel very worried if I lived 9 miles from Mount Vesuvius because it is an active volcano, which means it could erupt at any time. I would worry about it erupting and burying my home.

10. Which of the three natural features would you be interested in visiting and why? Provide three reasons.
    Pupil's own response, that refers to the text and includes three reasons, such as: 'I would like to visit Mount Olympus because it is the home of the ancient Greek gods and I really liked learning about the ancient Greek gods. Also, it is the highest mountain in Greece and would be a great challenge to climb. There are also clouds at the top so it would be interesting to walk inside the clouds and see what that that is like.'