



SWEDEN

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Overview

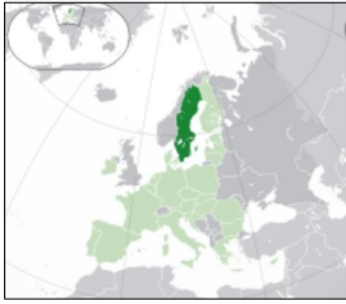
-Sweden is a country in northern Europe. The area of Europe that Sweden is in (alongside Norway, Denmark, Finland and sometimes Iceland & the Faroe Islands) is known as Scandinavia.

-Sweden covers an area of 449,964 sq. km. It is the 5th largest European country.

-About 10.3 million people live in Sweden – it is the 16th most populous country in Europe.

-The capital city of Sweden is Stockholm. Most Swedish settlements are in the south of the country, where the climate is warmer.

-Sweden has borders with Norway & Finland



Physical Geography

-Sweden is in northern Europe. It shares borders with Norway and Finland, and is also close to Denmark.

-Sweden also borders the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Bothnia. The north of Sweden is within the Arctic Circle.

-The north-western sides of the country are more mountainous, whilst the land is flatter in the south, where the majority of the population live.

-Thousands of islands are a part of Swedish territory, including over 1000 which are inhabited. Amongst the largest are Gotland and Oland.

-The Swedish climate varies a great deal from north to south. In the south, the temperature averages 13-17°C in the summer and -22 - -3°C in winter. In the north, the temperature can drop to below -30°C!

The highest mountain is Kebnekaise at 2,097 metres.

-The longest river wholly in Sweden is the Dalälven River at 470 kilometres



Human Geography

Sweden became known to the rest of the world through the Vikings. Today, it is seen as an educated, advanced country, known for its sustained peace and prosperity. It maintains a Scandinavian-influenced culture.

Population -The population of Sweden is around 10.3 million people. This makes it the 16th most populous country in Europe. The population density is 23 people per square kilometre. This is the 4th most sparsely populated country in Europe.

Settlements -The most populous and capital city of Sweden is Stockholm. It has a population of around 970,000 people. Other large settlements include Gothenburg, Örebro and Malmö. Most settlements are built along the warmer southern section of the country.

Economic Activity -Sweden has a mid-sized economy, which is highly competitive. Sweden (along with other Scandinavian countries) is considered to have one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Resources/Trade -Sweden's economy is driven by products that it exports to the rest of the world. Some of the highest-selling products include timber, hydropower, iron ore, motor vehicles, telecommunications and pharmaceuticals.

Comparison with the UK

-Both countries are in Europe – the UK is an island and Sweden is on the Scandinavian Peninsula.

-Due to its more southerly latitude, the UK is warmer than Sweden on average.

-The UK is smaller than Sweden – 243,610 sq. km compared to 449,964 sq. km.

-Far more people live in the UK – 66 million people compared to 10.3 million in Sweden.

-The capital city of the UK – London – has a far larger population (8.4 million people) than Stockholm (970,000).

-Sweden has higher mountains - Kebnekaise is 2,097m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at only 1,345m.



Key Vocabulary

Sweden

Europe

Scandinavia

Stockholm

Gothenburg

Malmö

Örebro

Baltic Sea

Gulf of Bothnia

Kebnekaise

Dalälven

Krona

Arctic Circle

Fjord

EU

Sweden Timeline

4000 BCE Farming culture exists in Sweden
1700 BCE Bronze Age begins
500 BCE Iron Age begins
800 CE Viking Age. Swedish warriors attack Europe.
829 CE Christianity is adopted in Sweden.
1349 CE Black Plague kills one third of population.
1527 CE Swedish Reformation begins.
1875 CE The Kroner is adopted in Sweden, Norway & Denmark.
1939 CE Sweden is neutral throughout World War II.
1946 CE Sweden joins the United Nations.
1995 CE Sweden joins the European Union.
2000 CE Öresund Bridge opens between Sweden & Denmark.



MEXICO

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Overview

-Mexico is a country in North America.

-Mexico takes up a large southern section of North America. This region is also unofficially known as Central America.

-It shares borders with the United States (north) Guatemala and Belize (both southeast). It also has long coastlines on the Caribbean Sea, the Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.

-Mexico covers an area of 1,97 million km² - the 3rd largest country in North America.

-About 129.2 million people live in Mexico. It is the 2nd most populous country in North America.



Physical Geography

-Mexico is the world's 13th largest country.

-The climate of much of Mexico is tropical, with a rainy season (May-October) and dry season (November-April). However, much of the northern area of the country has a desert climate.

-Mexico is broad at its northern end, but becomes rapidly narrower further south.

-The Baja California peninsula is a large, arid peninsula in the north-west of the country, which juts out into the Pacific Ocean, creating the Gulf of California.

-There are few long rivers in Mexico, but the Rio Grande (3,108km) partially runs through Mexico.

-The Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range runs down most of the length of the country, from northwest to southeast.

-The highest mountain in Mexico is Pico de Orizaba at 5,636m. It is the second most prominent volcanic peak in the world after Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro.



-Mexico is split into 32 states. State leaders have the power to make some decisions within their states, although decisions in the national interest are generally made by the central government.

Human Geography

Canada was settled for many hundreds of years by indigenous peoples. In its more modern history it has been ruled over by the British and French, but is now an independent and prosperous nation.

Population -The population of Mexico is around 129.2 million people. It is the most populated Spanish-speaking country, and the 2nd most populated country in North America. Mexico has 53 people per square kilometre of land. More than half live in the central belt, with the north & south sparse.

Settlements -The capital city of Mexico is Mexico City. It has a population of around 9.5 million people. If its metropolitan area is included, it is one of the largest cities in the world. Some of the other largest cities in Mexico are Guadalajara and Ecatepec.

Economic Activity -The Mexican Peso is the currency of Mexico. Mexico has great extremes of wealth, with some of the richest people in the world, yet millions living in poverty. There are relatively few middle-class people.

Resources/Trade -The top exports of Mexico are motor vehicles, oil, electronics, manufactured goods, silver, plastics, fruit, vegetables and coffee. Mexico's main export partner (by far) is the United States.

Comparison with the UK

-The UK is in Europe, whilst Mexico is in North America. Both nations are in the northern hemisphere.

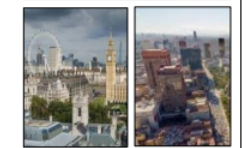
-The UK is generally much colder than Mexico. The UK has a temperate climate, whilst most of Mexico has either a tropical or desert climate.

-Mexico is much larger than the UK – 1,97 million sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.

-More people live in Mexico – 129.2 million people compared to 66 million people.

-Mexico City has more people than London: 9.5 million people compared to 8.4 million.

-Mexico is situated on its continent, whereas the United Kingdom is an island country.



Key Vocabulary

Mexico

North America

Peninsula

Sierra Madre

Desert

Tropical

Spanish

Mexico City

Ecatepec

Guadalajara

Rio Grande

Yucatan Peninsula

Mexico Timeline

Before 1400 BCE The Olmec civilisation begins to develop.
1000 BCE The Mayan civilisation starts to form.
100 BCE Mayans build the first pyramids.
1200 CE The Aztecs arrive in the valley of Mexico. They rule for over 300 years.
1521 CE Spanish arrive. Hernan Cortez defeats Aztecs.
1600 CE Spain conquers the rest of Mexico. Mexico becomes a colony of Spain.
1821 CE Mexico declares its independence from Spain.
1824 CE Mexico becomes a Republic.
1910 CE Mexican Revolution takes place.
1942 CE Mexico joins the Allies in World War II.
1968 CE Olympics held in Mexico City.



BRAZIL

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Overview

-Brazil is a large country in South America.

-Brazil shares a border with 10 different countries. The only South American countries that it does not border are Chile and Ecuador.

-It also has a long coastline on the Atlantic Ocean.

-Brazil covers an area of 8.51 million km² - by far the largest South American country by area.

-About 209 million people live in Brazil. The capital city is Brasilia.

-Brazil contains about 60% of the Amazon rainforest. It is also home to large, bustling cities like Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.



Physical Geography

-Brazil has a wide variety of landscapes, including rainforests, grasslands, mountains and deserts.

-Brazil is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest in the world.

-The majority of the Amazon Rainforest (around 60%) is in Brazil. Much of the climate is tropical, with the south being relatively temperate.

-The Equator runs through northern Brazil. Most of the country lies in the Tropic of Capricorn.

-The highest mountain in Brazil is Pico da Neblina, at 2,994m, a mountain in the Serra da Neblina near the border with Venezuela.

-Other Brazilian highlands are found in the south of the country.

-60% of the Amazon River is in Brazil. By some measures, the Amazon is the longest river in the world! The Rio Parana and Negro River are other large rivers in the country.



Human Geography

The history of Brazil can be split into two distinct sections: Before 1500, Brazil was settled by thousands of small tribes. Post-1500 Portuguese settlers have had a profound impact on all aspects of Brazilian life.

Population -The population of Brazil is around 212 million people. This is around half of all of the people in South America. Across the country, there are 26.5 people per km², which makes Brazil the 4th most densely populated country in South America (after Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela).

Settlements -The capital city of Brazil is Brasilia. It was specially designed to be the capital of Brazil, and currently has a population of around 2.4 million. However, Sao Paulo (12.1 million) and Rio de Janeiro (6.3 million) are much larger and more populous cities.

Economic Activity -The Brazilian real is the national currency of Brazil. There has always been huge inequalities of wealth in Brazil, however between 2004 and 2013 the economy rapidly developed, lifting 29 million people out of poverty.

Resources/Trade -The top exports of Brazil are soy beans, iron ore, crude petroleum, raw sugar and cars. Portuguese is the first language of Brazil, which has helped to build strong trade with European countries.

Comparison with the UK

-The UK is in Europe, in the northern hemisphere, whilst Brazil is in South America and lies mostly in the southern hemisphere.

-Due to its position over the Equator, most parts of Brazil are much warmer than the UK. The UK has a temperate climate, whilst many parts of Brazil do not have clear seasons.

-Brazil is much larger than the UK – 8.51 million sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.

-More people live in Brazil, 209 million people compared to 66 million in the UK.

-However, Brasilia has a smaller population than London: 2.4 million people compared to 8.4 million.

-Brazil is situated on its continent, whereas the United Kingdom is an island country.



Key Vocabulary

Brazil

South America

Amazon River

Amazon Rainforest

Portuguese

Ancient

Invaders

Atlantic

Rio de Janeiro

Brasilia

Sao Paulo

Equator

Biomes

Brazil Timeline

Before 1500 CE Local tribes live in peace for thousands of years.
1500 CE Portuguese explorer Cabral discovers Brazil.
1532 CE Sao Vicente established as 1st permanent settlement.
1549 CE Priests arrive to convert locals to Christianity.
1565 CE The city of Rio de Janeiro is established.
1789 CE A Brazilian independence movement is stopped by the Portuguese.
1822 CE Pedro I declares Brazil an independent country.
1889 CE The monarchy is overthrown.
1917 CE Brazil fights in WWII on the side of the Allies.
1960 CE The title of capital city is moved to Brasilia.
2000 CE Brazil's 500th anniversary is held.



RUSSIA

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Overview

-Russia is a country located partially in Europe and partially in Asia.

-23% of Russia is in Europe and 77% is in Asia. However, 77% of the people in Russia live in the European portion.

-Russia covers an area of 17.1 million sq. km, making it by far the largest country in the world.

-About 144.5 million people live in Russia. 110 million are in the European part: the most populated European country.

-The capital city of Russia is Moscow. Moscow is in the European part of Russia.



Physical Geography

-Russia is located partially in Europe (23%) and partially in Asia (77%).

-Because of its vast size, Russia contains several different types of terrain. It has a number of mountain ranges, e.g. the Ural, Sayan and Caucasus mountains.

-Its size also means that there are huge differences in climate from place to place. E.g. Siberia, in the north-east, is sub-arctic, whilst in the far south are areas that are hot and humid.

-Russia has several large bodies of water. Lake Baikal, for example, is the largest freshwater lake by volume in the world.

-The highest mountain in Russia is Mount Elbrus at 5,642m – considered the highest in Europe.

-The longest river entirely in Russia is the Lena, at 4,295km. However, there are several longer rivers which run through Russia and other countries, for example the Yenisei (5,544km).



-Russia is so large that it spans 11 time zones! Russia borders 14 other countries.

-Russia is broken into a complex system of 83 regions called 'federal subjects'. These include 'oblasts', 'federal cities', 'regions' and 'republics.'

Human Geography

Russia has a long and rich history, and a culture which has developed over hundreds of years. It is a major economic centre and is considered a world 'powerhouse'.

Population -The population of Russia is around 144.5 million people. The 110 million people in the European part make it the most populated European country. The population density is 8.4 people per square kilometre. In the European part there are 29 people per km².

Settlements -The most populous and capital city of Russia is Moscow. It has a population of around 11.9 million people. Other large settlements include St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk and Kazan. Fewer settlements are found in the northern and western parts of the country.

Economic Activity -Because of its vast size and abundant natural resources, Russia has a large economy. The government owns several large companies. There are great disparities, with many billionaires whilst others live in poverty.

Resources/Trade -Russia is a worldwide exporter of mineral fuels, for example oil and gas – these products dominate the Russian economy. It also creates iron, steel, gems and precious metals for countries across the world.

Comparison with the UK

-Both countries are in Europe (although Russia can also be considered a part of Asia).

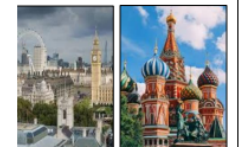
-It is difficult to compare the climates of the two countries, as Russia's climate differs so much from place-to-place!

-Russia is far, far larger than the UK – 17,100,000sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.

-More people live in Russia than the UK – 144.5 million people compared to 66 million people.

-The capital city of the Russia – Moscow – has a larger population (11.9 million people) than the capital of the UK, London (8.4 million people).

-Russia has much higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Elbrus is 5,642m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at only 1,345m.



Key Vocabulary

Russia

Europe

Asia

Moscow

St. Petersburg

Ural

Caucasus

Lake Baikal

Sub-Arctic

Tundra

Lena

Yenisei

Oblast

Federal City

Mt. Elbrus

Russia Timeline

800 CE Slavic peoples migrate into western Russian region.
1237 CCE Mongols destroy region's cities.
1547 CE Ivan the Terrible crowned first tsar of Russia.
1613 CE Romanov Dynasty begins, which will rule until 1917.
1654 CE Russia invades Poland. They sign a peace treaty in 1667.
1703 CE Peter the Great founds St. Petersburg.
1867 CE Russia sells Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million.
1917 CE Russian Revolution takes place.
1922 CE Civil War ends. Soviet Union established.
1939-45 CE The Soviets fight with the Allies in WWII.
1961 CE Soviets put first man in space: Yuri Gagarin.
1991 CE The Soviet Union is dissolved. Country of Russia established.