

Central Europe

Central Europe includes some of the most industrialized and richest countries in the world. Other countries in the region are slowly recovering from decades of Communist rule.



Crown, Holy Roman Empire



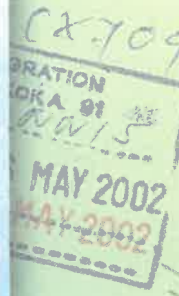
Shepherd with alpenhorn, Switzerland

Grüss dich! (Hello!) My name is Lizzi (LEE-zee), and I live in the village of Deutenhausen. Deutenhausen is near Munich in Bavaria, in southern Germany.

I am in the eighth grade at the gymnasium (high school). I live on a farm with my three older sisters, my parents, and my grandmother. My parents are farmers and also own a restaurant. In the summer, I make sure the cows have enough water. I also help my parents in the restaurant by chopping vegetables for the salads. When I grow up, I hope to become a doctor and work in an emergency room.

In the morning I drink warm milk fresh from our cows and eat fresh bread baked in the restaurant. Our kitchen is a huge room where everyone hangs out. At about 7:30 A.M. each day, I take the bus to school in Weilheim, which is about 2 miles (3 km) away. My favorite subject is art. I also study German, geography, Earth science, English, and Latin. Next year I will start classical Greek.

When school is over at 12:30 P.M., I go home to have lunch with my grandmother. Afterwards, I play with my friends outdoors, even though it often rains. We splash in the creek, race our bikes, and climb up to the church steeple to hear the bells ring.



Section
1

Germany

HOLT

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Watch the video to understand the impact of the European Union.

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are some key events in the history of Germany?
2. What are some features of German culture?
3. What is Germany's economy like?
4. What issues and challenges does Germany face today?

DEFINE

alliances
balance of power

LOCATE

Berlin
Bavaria
Ruhr Valley



Ivory carving from Dresden, Germany

Reading Strategy

DEVELOPING VOCABULARY Find unfamiliar words in this section. On a sheet of paper, write down what you think each word means. Use context clues to help figure out the meaning. Look each word up in a dictionary to verify its meaning. Then, write an explanation of how the words relate to the section's topics.



Central Europe: Physical-Political





King Louis II of Bavaria had this castle, Neuschwanstein, built in the mid-1800s. It is a fanciful version of a medieval German castle. Louis spent his family fortune and part of the country's treasury to pay for the castle. It is now a major source of income for Bavaria's tourism industry. Every year, approximately 1 million tourists visit Neuschwanstein.

History

From its location in the heart of Europe, Germany has helped shape the continent's history. Many Germanic tribes fought against the Roman Empire. During the A.D. 700s a ruler called Charlemagne united several German kingdoms. Later the region broke into hundreds of small states, each with its own ruler. The German states became part of a loose confederation called the Holy Roman Empire. By the 1300s, about 100 northern German towns formed a trading group known as the Hanseatic League. This group dominated trade in the Baltic region. By the 1700s, a number of powers controlled or strongly influenced the German states. Among these powers were the German state of Prussia and the Habsburg Empire, which later became the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Prussia led the movement to create a single German country. Northern and southern German states united in 1871. From 1890 to 1914, Germany prospered and became a great industrial and military power. Germany's army and navy were among the strongest in Europe.

The World Wars The rapid rise of German power worried other European countries, particularly France, Great Britain, and Russia. As a result, many European countries formed military **alliances**. An alliance is an agreement between countries to support one another against enemies. Countries that are joined in an alliance are called allies.

These alliances helped maintain a **balance of power** in the region for some time. A balance of power exists when countries or alliances have such equal levels of strength that war is prevented. World War I erupted in 1914 partly because the balance was upset. Britain, France, Russia, and later the United States

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joined forces against Germany. Germany was allied with the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. After World War I ended in 1918, Germany had to accept harsh peace terms imposed by the victors. Germany's economy also collapsed in the 1920s. Food shortages, high inflation, and high unemployment caused severe hardships.

Germany's economic and political problems helped bring the Nazi Party to power in 1933. Adolf Hitler was the Nazi leader. Under Hitler, Germany rebuilt its military and allied itself with Italy and Japan. In 1939 Germany invaded Poland, sparking World War II. Fighting soon involved most of Europe and later much of the world. The United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, and other allies defeated Germany in 1945. The Nazis murdered 6 million Jews. Some 50 million people had lost their lives. Much of Europe lay in ruins.

Division and Reunification The Allied victors of World War II divided Germany. Soviet troops occupied eastern Germany as well as most of Eastern Europe. British, French, and U.S. troops occupied western Germany. Over time, two countries emerged from this division, East Germany and West Germany. Communist governments ruled East Germany as they did other Eastern European countries. West Germany became a democracy. West Germany also rebuilt rapidly with U.S. aid and soon became a global economic power. However, the economy of East Germany lagged. In 1990, following the collapse of communism, East and West Germany reunited.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *The Uses of Geography* How did World Wars I and II affect Germany?

Culture

Today Germany has a democratic system of government. Berlin is the capital. (See Cities & Settlements: Berlin.) The country is divided into 16 states, or *Länder*, which vary in size and population. Bavaria, in the south, is the largest German state in area.



From 1961 to 1989, Berlin was split into a communist East and a capitalist West by a heavily guarded concrete wall. During this time, about 5,000 people escaped over, under, or through the wall into West Berlin.

A traditional carnival celebration winds through the streets of Mainz. The city serves as the capital of Rhineland-Palatinate, one of the Länder of southwestern Germany. Mainz is famous as the home of Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of movable type printing.



German is the dominant language, although it has several regional dialects. Novels, plays, and poetry written in German have enriched world literature. German composers and artists have also created great works. About a third of Germans are Roman Catholic, and a larger number are Protestant. Southern and western areas are more Catholic than northern and eastern regions. Many Germans do not attend religious services of any kind. German food features pork, sausages, veal, and cheeses. Rich pastries are popular desserts.

In recent years concern over Germany's environment has grown. Many people worry about the effects of air and water pollution and acid rain. "Green parties" are well established in government. These parties have helped pass laws to protect the country's natural environment. As a result, Germany now has some of the strictest environmental laws in the world. Interest in the environment also goes beyond legislation. For example, many Germans spend their vacations hiking, camping, or volunteering with environmental organizations.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Environment and Society* How is concern for the environment part of Germany's political culture?

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Flowers are grown as a cash crop near western German cities. How may strict environmental laws have affected the marketability of Germany's crops?

Economy

Germany is an economic powerhouse. In fact, the country's GDP is the fourth-largest in the world, behind the United States, Japan, and China. However, Germany's per capita GDP is much higher than that of China, which has a far larger population.

Germany is one of the most prominent members of the European Union (EU). Most of Germany's trade is with other EU members. In addition, German has become a widely used language for business in Central Europe. German businesspeople are major investors in other Central European countries. The United States and Japan are other major trading partners.

The German economy is diverse. Businesses manufacture machinery, automobiles, electronics, and medical equipment. Chemicals, steel, and high-tech computer equipment are also important products.

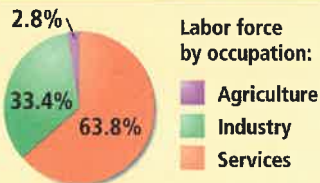
Coal, iron ore, and other minerals helped make Germany an industrial power. In fact, the Ruhr Valley in western Germany is a major industrial center. Industries there developed around huge coal deposits. Today the Ruhr Valley is an almost continuous belt of cities and industries.

Almost half of the country's land is available for agriculture. German agriculture is efficient. Thus, farmers make up less than 3 percent of the population. Grains, potatoes, and sugar beets are major crops.

Nuclear power has provided about a third of Germany's electricity. However, in 2001 the government decided to gradually close all the nuclear power plants. Germany imports almost all of its oil.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* How productive is the German economy?

Germany's Labor Force



Source: Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2001*

INTERPRETING THE GRAPH

What part of Germany's economy has the largest number of employees? How does Germany's labor-force distribution compare to that of most developing countries?

Issues and Challenges

One important issue in Germany today is the country's changing population. (See Geography for Life: Germany's Aging Population.) Low birthrates, longer life expectancies, and a large number of immigrants are all changing Germany's population. The largest group of immigrants are from Turkey. They have migrated to Germany to work in its growing industries. Most live clustered together in the neighborhoods of big cities. Their Islamic religion, Turkish language, and distinct culture add to their isolation in Germany. In some cases, prejudice and violence against Turks and other groups have been a problem. Many other immigrants to Germany are ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union.

Since 1990 Germany has tried to bring the standard of living in the east up to that of the west. This effort has been difficult and costly. Many inefficient factories in the east were closed down. As a result, unemployment soared. With unemployment at almost 20 percent in eastern Germany, some Germans are becoming migrant workers in other European countries. Eastern Germany also suffered from heavy pollution during the Communist era, and the cleanup of the environment is just beginning.

Some easterners, or *Ossis*, feel that they are treated as second-class citizens. They resent that westerners, or *Wessis*, have a higher standard of living. Some *Ossis* also miss the lower costs of living and guaranteed jobs and housing that they had under communism. Even citizenship practices sometimes differ between *Ossis* and *Wessis*, a result of Germany's long period of division. For example, May Day, or May 1, was a major holiday in East Germany during the Communist era. It was a day to honor workers. Today some *Ossis* still organize parades to celebrate May Day. *Ossis* do this even though it is not an official holiday in the reunified Germany.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* How did different economic and political systems in East and West Germany influence economic, social, and environmental differences between the two regions after reunification?



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD More than 2 million people of Turkish descent live in Germany today. Some are victims of persecution and discrimination, even though many were born in Germany. Only recently have new laws offered immigrant Turks full German citizenship. How have cultural beliefs shaped the political opportunities available to German Turks?



Review

Define alliances, balance of power

Working with Sketch Maps On a map of Central Europe that you draw or that your teacher provides, label Germany, Berlin, Bavaria, and the Ruhr Valley. In the margin of your map, identify the capital of Germany.

Reading for the Main Idea

1. **Human Systems** How was Germany divided after World War II?

2. **Human Systems** What role does Germany play in European economies?

3. **Environment and Society** What is the Ruhr Valley? Around what natural resource did its industries and cities grow?

Critical Thinking

4. **Comparing** In what ways might people in eastern Germany have mixed views about the effects of reunification on their lives?

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Organizing What You Know

5. Copy the time line below. Use it to identify important periods and events in Germany's history after 1871.





CITIES & SETTLEMENTS

Berlin

Human Systems For much of its long history, Berlin seemed to be on the road to greatness. In the mid-1900s, though, a series of events intervened to block its path. Today, barely a half century after the city's near-destruction and later division, Berlin is once again a vibrant city. It still does not enjoy the status of London, Paris, or Rome. However, Berlin at last seems ready to rejoin the ranks of the great European cities.

A History of Triumph and Tragedy

Berlin was founded in the early 1200s as a trading village. Although it became the capital of a small independent state called Brandenburg, the town grew slowly. In 1670 its population was only 12,000. By then, Brandenburg had merged with a neighboring state to form the powerful kingdom of Prussia. In the early 1700s Prussia's king made Berlin his capital. The king and later rulers turned the town into a great city. By 1750 Berlin had become a thriving commercial center and home to some 100,000 people. In the late 1800s Prussia united the region's other states to form Germany. Berlin became the new country's capital. By 1880 the city's population had reached 1.3 million.

While it was Prussia's capital, Berlin became a center for the arts, education, and literature. Among

the city's residents in the 1800s were political philosopher Karl Marx and the composer Felix Mendelssohn. Over time French, Jewish, Polish, and Russian immigrants flocked to the city. Despite political and economic problems following Germany's defeat in World War I, Berlin continued to flower. The city remained a cultural center during the 1920s. In the 1930s, however, Adolf Hitler came to power and led Germany into World War II. Bombs and invading armies then destroyed much of Berlin.

After the war Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union divided Berlin and the rest of Germany into zones. The British, French, and American zones in Berlin soon merged into what was called West Berlin. The Soviet zone became East Berlin. All of Berlin was located deep within Soviet-controlled East Germany. In 1961 the Communists built a high concrete wall around West Berlin to keep East Germans from fleeing to the west. The wall did not come down until 1989, as both East Germany and the Soviet Union began to collapse. In 1990 Berlin, like all of Germany, was officially reunited.

A Future of Cautious Hope

Most of the Berlin Wall is gone now. Small sections still stand as a monument to Berliners' struggle for unity and freedom. In some ways, however, the city remains divided. For example, when the Communists controlled East Berlin they seized houses owned by West Berliners and turned them into public housing. After reunification, the former owners began to reclaim their property. Many East Berliners have been forced to give up homes where they lived for years. In addition, many of East Berlin's inefficient government-run businesses closed. Some 275,000 easterners lost their jobs. The east has seen a great deal of commercial construction since reunification. However, East Berliners



In 1989 the Brandenburg Gate was opened to traffic for the first time in 28 years. The gate had been blocked by the Berlin Wall.



Berlin



INTERPRETING THE MAP Potsdamer Platz was the cultural and economic heart of Berlin until it was destroyed in World War II. Developments like the Sony Center, seen at left, help to re-create the Platz's prestige. **How might the location of Potsdamer Platz allow it to again develop into a major economic center?**

resent the fact that westerners have many of the jobs created by Berlin's recent growth. For their part, West Berliners resent the attention, money, and development focused on East Berlin. Berliners have a phrase to describe the tension—*die Mauer im Kopf*, or “the wall in the head.” It refers to the psychological and emotional barrier that still lingers in the city.

Yet if concrete remains a reminder of Berlin's recent past, it is also a symbol of the city's future. At one point in the late 1990s, some 1,200 construction cranes dotted the Berlin skyline. In 1991 Potsdamer Platz was a huge vacant field just east of the wall in downtown Berlin. Today it is packed with workers, shoppers, and entertainment-seekers. This gleaming new city center houses offices for international corporations, apartments, and general office buildings. Eastern Berlin needs more construction. More than 100,000 new businesses were started in Berlin during the 1990s. In addition, thousands of new emigrants from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have flooded the city. In the first five years after

reunification, Berlin's population jumped from 3 million to 3.5 million.

Today western Berlin is energetic and prosperous. Meanwhile, the eastern half of the city is shedding its Communist past and looking toward the future. Life in the former East Berlin is no longer dreary. Many of its beautiful old buildings have been restored as art galleries and cafés. Residents dress in the latest styles. Cultural divisions between east and west continue to lessen. The golden era of the 1920s is returning to the city. The “new” Berlin is again one of the liveliest cities in the world.

Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** Why are there still some divisions among Berliners even though the Berlin Wall has been torn down?
- 2. Contrasting** What were the urban environments of East and West Berlin like before the wall came down? What are they like today?

Geography for Life

Germany's Aging Population

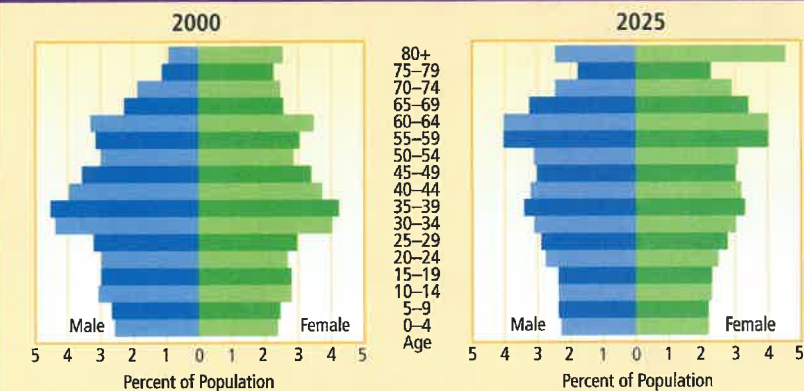
While many of the world's countries face high population growth rates, Germany—and most of Europe—faces a different problem. The UN estimates that Europe's population will decline from 713 million in 2025 to 658 million in 2050. In contrast, the population in most of Africa may double in about 30 years. In fact, of the 45 countries in the world with the lowest population growth rates, 30 are in Europe. This statistic means that Europe's population is aging. Thus, middle-aged and older people make up a much larger part of the population, and relatively few young people live there.

The total fertility rate—the average number of children a woman has during her lifetime—that is needed to replace a population is 2.1. However, in 2000, Germany's total fertility rate was about 1.38. Therefore, fewer children are born in Germany than are needed to replace the population. This means that young people are making up a smaller percentage of Germany's population. At this rate the population will gradually decline.

Germany's population is also aging because people are living longer. Good health care helps people survive illnesses and accidents. Now 16 percent of the German population is aged 65 or older. This figure will probably rise to more than 23 percent by 2025. Such a trend will increase demand for health care and government pensions. Pensions are regular payments to retired people. As more and more older people retire, young people will carry the increasing burden of supporting the retirees. How will Germany accommodate this change?

Germany could increase its birthrate or its worker productivity. It could decrease pension benefits or increase immigration. Immigrants are part of German society. When the economy was booming in the 1950s, the country needed workers. People from Turkey and other countries responded to the German government's invitation to become "guest workers." When this campaign ended in 1973, most Germans assumed the workers would

Population Pyramids for Germany



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Database

INTERPRETING THE GRAPH In 2025 what percentage of Germany's population will be 80 and older? What trend do you see at the bottom of the 2025 pyramid?

return to their homelands. Yet many Turks stayed. Nearly 2 million Turks lived in Germany by the mid-1990s.

Since 1990, ethnic Germans and others from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have also moved to Germany. Their return could help slow the aging of Germany's population. However, many Germans worry about their country's ability to absorb so many immigrants. Furthermore, the unemployment rate is currently high—as much as 20 percent in some areas. As a result, the government now discourages ethnic Germans from returning.

Applying What You Know

- Analyzing** How is the continued aging of Germany's population shown on the population pyramids? What do you think Germany's population pyramid will look like in 2050? What do you predict for Germany's future population growth?
- Evaluating** Compare Germany's situation to Oman's. Oman's population growth rate is 3.46 percent. Thus, Oman has a young population that will double in about 20 years. What might be the consequences of Oman's young population? Create a chart listing the advantages and disadvantages of Germany's and Oman's population structure.

Section 2

The Alpine Countries

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are some important features of Austria's history, culture, and economy?
2. What are the political, cultural, and economic features of Switzerland?

Reading Strategy

READING ORGANIZER

Draw a line down the center of a sheet of paper to create two columns. Title one column What I Know. Title the other column What I Learned. Before you read, write down what you know about the Alpine Countries (Austria and Switzerland) in the first column. As you read the section, write down the information you learn in the other column. Include key terms and their definitions.

DEFINE

confederation
cantons
neutral
multilingual

LOCATE

Vienna	Basel
Danube River	Bern
Geneva	Zürich

Austria

Austria and Switzerland are both located in the Alps, the most mountainous region of Central Europe. Germanic culture has deeply influenced these two Alpine countries. The areas of both countries were settled by Germanic tribes after the fall of the Roman Empire. Like Germany, Austria became part of the old Holy Roman Empire. From the 1400s onward the Holy Roman emperor was a member of the Habsburgs, a powerful family of German nobles. Many different ethnic groups lived within the empire. Each had its own language, local government, and legal system. The Holy Roman Empire was united only by its allegiance to the emperor and for the defense of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Austrian Empire, under Habsburg control, eventually replaced the Holy Roman Empire. At the height of their power, the Habsburgs ruled Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and parts of eastern Europe. The Austrian Empire was a major power in Europe in the 1800s. In 1867 the Austrians agreed to share political power with the Hungarians. The Austrian Empire became the Austro-Hungarian Empire. That empire collapsed at the end of World War I. Hungary and other parts of the empire won independence. In addition, the Habsburgs lost power in Austria, which then became a democratic republic. Germany took over Austria shortly before World War II, uniting the two countries. After the war, the Allies occupied Austria. The country became independent again in 1955.

Today Austria is a country about the same size as South Carolina. Nearly all Austrians speak German, and more than

Austria's Habsburg emperors lived in elegant palaces like Schloss Belvedere in Vienna, seen here. The schloss, which means "palace," now houses a museum and a botanical garden.





The Austrian government encourages the country's farmers to maintain traditional rural customs. Agriculture itself is not a major factor in the Austrian economy, but the preservation of rural ways helps draw millions of tourists each year.

75 percent are Roman Catholic. Vienna, Austria's capital and largest city, is located on the banks of the Danube River. Vienna was the political and cultural capital of Central Europe during Habsburg rule. Historic palaces, churches, and performance halls beautify the city. In addition, many great artists and composers once lived there. Among the most famous were Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Austria is a member of the EU and has a diverse economy. Austrian industries include steel, machinery, and chemicals. Forestry and hydropower are also important. Austria is famous for its high-quality wood, glass, textile, and ceramic handicrafts. The scenic Alps and the country's cultural attractions draw many tourists. Austrian ski resorts are world-famous.

After World War II, Austria kept up trade relations with many countries in Eastern Europe. These ties strengthened after the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s. Today many American and Western European companies base their Eastern European operations in Austria.

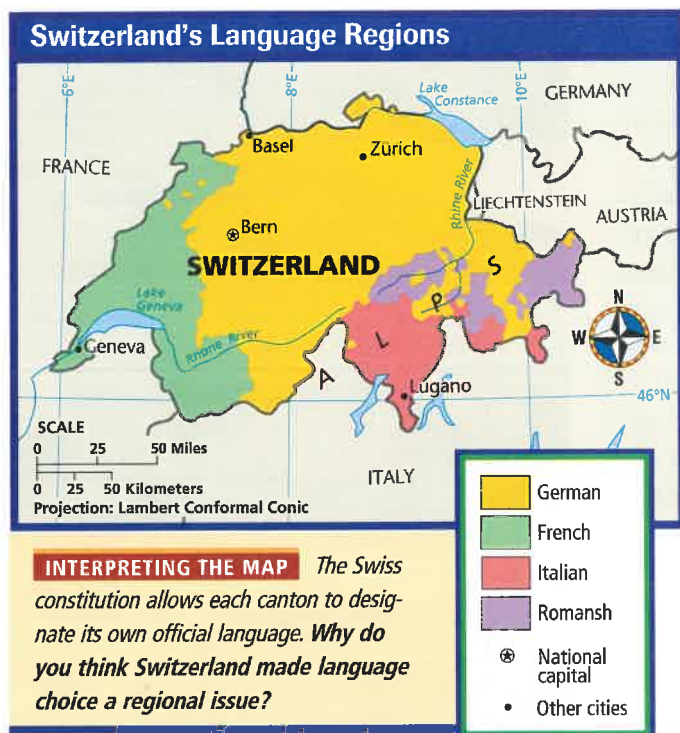
✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why is Vienna an important city culturally and historically?

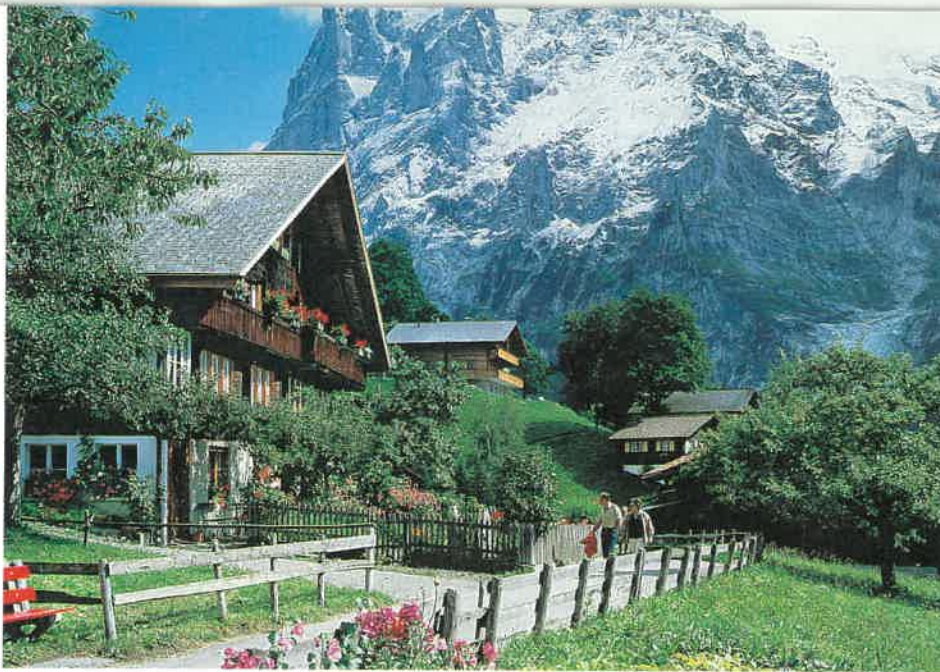
Switzerland

The history of Austria and Switzerland began to diverge in the late 1200s. At that time Swiss states began to form alliances to protect themselves against invading Austrian armies. Switzerland became independent of Habsburg rule in the 1600s. Today Switzerland is a **confederation**, or a group of states joined together for a common purpose. The country is made up of 26 **cantons**, or states. Each canton has self-government for all issues not reserved for the federal government. The federal government controls national policies, such as defense, international relations, and social programs.

Since Switzerland was formed, it has generally been a **neutral** country. A neutral country is one that does not take sides in international conflicts or alliances. In fact, Switzerland has not been involved in any recent wars. To preserve their neutrality, the Swiss have even resisted joining international organizations. For example, Switzerland is not a member of the EU. The country does participate in international affairs, however. In fact, many world and regional organizations have their headquarters in the Swiss city of Geneva. Geneva also hosts many international conferences.

Switzerland has four major languages: German, French, Italian, and Romansh. (See the map of Switzerland's language regions.) However, many Swiss are **multilingual**, meaning they speak several languages. English is rapidly becoming the country's fifth language. About 46 percent of the Swiss are Roman Catholic, and 40 percent are Protestant. As you can see, Switzerland is a culturally diverse country. However, it is one of the world's most stable countries.





INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

The Swiss Alps are a favorite destination for people from around the world. Tourists are drawn to mountain resorts like this one near Bern. How can you tell from the photo that Alpine architecture has been adapted to the area's climate?

Switzerland's largest cities are Basel, Bern, Geneva, and Zürich. Zürich, the largest, is a leading-world-banking center. Basel is a transportation center on the Rhine River in northwestern Switzerland. Bern, the capital, is centrally located between the country's German-speaking and French-speaking populations.

Switzerland has one of the world's highest standards of living. Immigrant workers make up about one fourth of the population and are vital to Swiss business. International banking and insurance are important segments of the economy. Switzerland also produces chemicals, pharmaceuticals, watches, and some farm goods. Most of the country's farm output comes from dairy products. Swiss cheese and chocolate are world-famous. This scenic mountain country also attracts crowds of tourists. Timber production once played a role in the economy. However, air pollution has damaged the woodlands. In fact, pollution has harmed more than 35 percent of the country's forests. The Swiss government now limits tree cutting.

READING CHECK: *Human Systems* How has Switzerland's traditional foreign policy shaped the country?

Section 2

Review

Define confederation, cantons, neutral, multi-lingual

Working with Sketch Maps On the map that you created in Section 1, label Austria, Switzerland, Vienna, the Danube River, Geneva, Basel, Bern, and Zürich. Which city is a leading world-banking center?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Places and Regions** What are some of Austria's main economic products and industries?
- Environment and Society** What are Switzerland's largest cities? In which language region is the capital located?
- Environment and Society** How has air pollution affected Switzerland's forests?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How do you think Switzerland's system of government has helped it maintain unity despite the country's cultural divisions?

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Organizing What You Know

- Create a chart like the one shown below. Use it to compare the cultures and economies of Austria and Switzerland.

	Austria	Switzerland
Culture		
Economy		

Poland and the Baltics

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What is the history of Poland and the Baltic countries?
2. What are the urban environments and economy of Poland like today?
3. What influences have shaped culture in the Baltic countries?

Reading Strategy

TAKING NOTES Taking notes while you read will help you understand and remember the information in this section. Your notes will be useful for reviewing the material. Before you read, write the main ideas (the headings) down the left side of a sheet of paper. As you read this section, write beside the main ideas the supporting details you learn about Poland and the Baltics. Include key terms and their definitions.

DEFINE

exclave
ghetto

LOCATE

Kaliningrad
Warsaw
Vistula River
Kraków
Gdańsk



In 1386 the monarchs of Poland and Lithuania united their countries. This union, the Commonwealth of Two Nations, became a powerful force in European affairs. After about 1550, however, costly wars and poor leadership weakened the Commonwealth. Russia took it over in the mid-1700s. This Polish helmet dates from about 1640.

History

Poland gets its name from a Slavic people who moved into the area long ago. Their name, *Polanie*, came from a Slavic word meaning “plain” or “field.” In fact, Poland’s landscape is filled with plains and rolling hills.

Poland is the largest of the European countries that once made up what was called the Soviet bloc. These countries were allied with the Soviet Union from shortly after World War II until the early 1990s. Poland had also been under Russian control during part of the 1700s and 1800s. During that period, Austria and Prussia (and later Germany) also occupied areas that make up Poland today. Poland became independent after World War I. During and after World War II, however, the Soviet Union occupied the country. A Communist government then ruled the country for more than 40 years.

The Baltic countries also gained independence from Russia after World War I. These countries are Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. They stretch northward from Poland to the Gulf of Finland. The Soviet Union took over these countries during World War II. However, they regained their independence in 1991.

While most people have embraced the move toward democracy and capitalism, some people in the Baltics and Poland favor a return to Communist rule. Russian cultural influences linger in the Baltic countries. In fact, some of the countries have large Russian minority populations. Also, Russia still controls Kaliningrad (kuh-LEE-nin-grat). The city, along with its surrounding territory, is an **exclave**. An exclave is an area separated from the rest of a country by the territory of other countries.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* What role have foreign countries played in the history of Poland and the Baltic countries?



FOCUS ON HISTORY

Kaliningrad The Russian exclave of Kaliningrad is slightly larger than the state of Connecticut. The rest of Russia lies more than 200 miles (322 km) away, across Lithuania and Belarus. Lithuania borders the city on the north and east. Poland lies to the south.

Founded by German knights in the 1200s, the city and surrounding area were once part of Germany. The Germans called the city Königsberg (KOOH-niks-berk), or “King’s City.” Königsberg eventually became the seat of the Prussian government. During World War II, it became a staging area for German attacks against the Soviet Union. When the Soviets defeated Germany, they took control of the area.

The Soviets wanted to remove as much of Königsberg’s German culture as possible. They renamed the area Kaliningrad after a Soviet leader. They also destroyed historical sites. Finally, the Soviets forced the German residents to leave. Some went to Germany, while the Soviets sent others to prison camps. Ethnic Russians and other Slavs then moved into the abandoned homes. Kaliningrad became a key base for the Soviet navy. The city is still Russia’s only Baltic port that is free of ice all year.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Kaliningrad began to build a market economy. A skilled workforce and the port’s access to richer European markets may contribute to that goal. In addition, both Russian and foreign companies doing business in Kaliningrad receive special tax breaks that increase profits. Still, some Russian leaders value the city’s status as a military base and want to isolate it from foreign influences. Their efforts might slow Kaliningrad’s economic growth. In short, the city’s future may be determined as much by outsiders as by the people who live there.

 **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How did Kaliningrad become a Russian city?

Poland

Nearly all of Poland’s people are ethnic Polish and speak Polish, a Slavic language. In addition, the population is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic.

Warsaw is Poland’s capital and its transportation hub. The city lies along the Vistula River. Evidence of early settlement on the city’s site dates back more than 1,000 years. Warsaw became the capital of the kingdom of Poland in the late 1500s. In the early 1900s Warsaw had the largest urban Jewish population in the world, but the Nazis murdered 90 percent of Poland’s Jews. When the Germans took over Warsaw, they forced the Jews into a **ghetto**, a section of a city where a minority group is forced to live. The Jews fought back in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943 in which more than 60,000 Jews died. World War II devastated



INTERPRETING THE MAP *Kaliningrad is Russia’s only port on the Baltic Sea that can be used all year. Why would Kaliningrad be of strategic military importance to Russia?*

The Solidarity Party, a labor union that became a political party, led Poland’s struggle to break away from communism. Poland was the first country to leave the Soviet bloc. Here an old Soviet monument bears red paint thrown by anticommunist protesters.



Poles play a game of street chess. The people of Poland are proud of their country's diverse cultural heritage. Poland has strong traditions of art, literature, and music. Since the 1950s, film has also become a prominent means of expression in Poland. Polish movie directors have achieved worldwide fame for their work.



the city. After the war, the Poles rebuilt Warsaw. Today more than 2.2 million people live there.

Farther south along the Vistula lies Kraków (KRAH-kow). The beautiful medieval city has a university, monuments, and museums. Poland's main seaport is Gdańsk (guh-DAHNSK), on the Baltic coast. Gdańsk has been a ship-building city since the 1500s.

Poland's economy has made progress since the end of the Communist era. Many successful Polish companies have emerged. In addition, Poland has attracted foreign investment. Auto and glass manufacturing has grown. Still, the traditional coal and steel industries are lagging. Poland's economic future took an upturn in 1997 when the country adopted a new constitution. The constitution committed the country to a free-market economy and to turning over many government-controlled companies to private ownership. In 2004, Poland joined the EU.

Much of Poland's farming activity takes place in productive soils created by thick deposits of loess. Cereals, potatoes, and sugar beets are the main crops. Still, farmers have suffered as the country has moved from communism to capitalism. Many do not have work. Others have moved to the cities to look for jobs.

READING CHECK: *Human Systems* How has the operation of Poland's economy changed since the end of the Communist era?

Poland's Exports



Source: Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook 2003*

INTERPRETING THE GRAPH In 1987 machinery and equipment accounted for 63 percent of Poland's exports, and manufactured products, such as consumer goods, 14 percent. As you can see, these percentages are much different today. **What do you think is behind the change since 1987?**

The Baltic Countries

During the Middle Ages, two groups of people lived in what are now the Baltic countries. The Balts occupied modern Latvia and Lithuania. Finns from Scandinavia made up the other group. They settled in Estonia. Lithuania remained an independent country for many years, but Latvia and Estonia did not. First Vikings and then German knights called the Teutonic Order invaded and conquered these countries. The Teutonic Knights brought a strong German element into Baltic society. They also helped spread Christianity to the Latvians and the Estonians. Lithuania did not become Christian until later.

Historically, the Baltic Sea was one of the busiest trade routes in northern Europe. People who met in Baltic ports exchanged both goods and information. The influence of this meeting of cultures can still be seen in the Baltic countries. For example, the Estonian language is related to Finnish. Also, like the Finns, almost all Estonians are Lutheran. Latvia has ties to Sweden, a result of a long history of trade between the two countries. Lithuania, on the other hand, is closer culturally to Poland and the Roman Catholic Church. Most Lithuanian folk festivals are tied to church holidays. Folk music is an important part of these festivals. Many of the instruments used are similar to Polish musical instruments. One example is the *cymbaly*, a type of percussion instrument. Also, Russian minorities in each of the Baltic countries keep Russian cultural traditions alive.

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania share some challenges. They are trying to rebuild their economies after years of Soviet rule. Their citizens are also cleaning up environmental pollution from the Soviet era. Small populations and limited natural resources make trade essential to all three countries.

 **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* Why is trade essential to the Baltic countries?



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Riga, the capital and largest city of Latvia, is a port city on the Baltic Sea. The city's architecture and society reflect the influence of many different cultures. Germany, Poland, Russia, and Sweden have all helped to shape Latvian society. How has the city's location influenced Riga's cultural development?



Review

 **Homework Practice Online**
Keyword: SW3 HP15

Define exclave, ghetto

Working with Sketch Maps On the map that you created in Section 2, label Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kaliningrad, Warsaw, the Vistula River, Kraków, and Gdańsk. In which city did Jews living in the ghetto rise up against the Germans?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What countries once controlled areas that are now part of Poland?
- Human Systems** How are Poland's three main cities related to the country's politics, sea trade, and history?
- Environment and Society** What are two challenges facing the Baltic countries?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** Why might many people in Poland and the Baltic countries want closer ties to Western Europe than to Russia?

Organizing What You Know

- Draw a map illustrating cultural and historical ties between the countries discussed in this section and other European countries. Note some specific cultural connections, such as language and religion.

Section
4

The Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary

READ TO DISCOVER

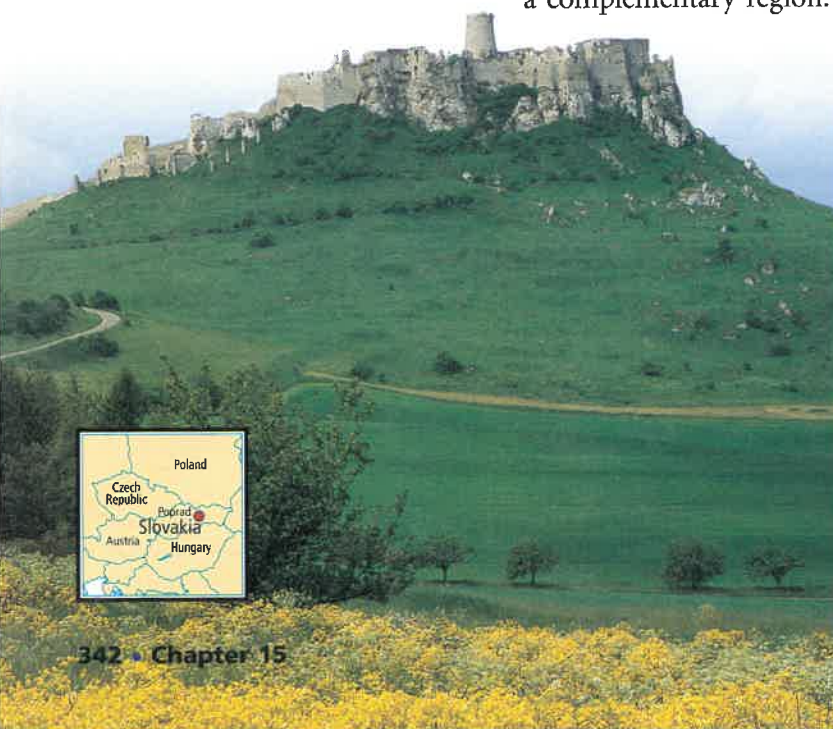
1. What are some similarities and differences in the histories of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary?
2. What are the Czech Republic and Slovakia like today?
3. How has the fall of communism affected Hungary?

Reading Strategy

READING ORGANIZER As you read, create a concept map on a sheet of paper by using the large and small headings in the section. Find details to support each idea in your concept map. Include key terms and their definitions.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Medieval castles and ruins are scattered across Slovakia's landscape. The fortress shown below dates back to the 1200s. Why were castles like this one built on hilltops?



DEFINE

complementary region

LOCATE

Prague
Bratislava
Budapest



Wood carvings from Hungary

History

The Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary lie south of Germany and Poland. Slavic peoples have long lived in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. About 90 percent of Hungary's people belong to a non-Slavic ethnic group—the Magyars.

The Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary were once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They gained independence after World War I. The Czech Republic and Slovakia formed one country, Czechoslovakia. The union of the two parts of Czechoslovakia had economic advantages. Czech lands had mineral resources and industries. Slovakia was mostly agricultural. Together they formed a **complementary region**. The combining of two areas with different activities or strengths, each of which benefits the other, forms a complementary region. At the time, Czechoslovakia was one of the world's 10 most industrialized countries.

Germany occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II. The Soviet Union then occupied Czechoslovakia and Hungary at the end of World War II and set up Communist governments there. The Soviets invaded Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 to keep control of both countries. Soviet control finally ended in the early 1990s. In 1993 the Czechs and Slovaks decided to separate peacefully into two countries.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** In what way did the Czech Republic and Slovakia form a complementary region?

Austro-Hungarian Empire (before World War I)



Hungary and Czechoslovakia (after World War I)



Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic (1993)



INTERPRETING THE MAP Political boundaries in Central Europe have changed significantly in the last century. For example, Czechoslovakia was created after World War I from part of the defeated Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1993 the Czech Republic and Slovakia separated from each other.

This division into two countries was not a violent event. What cultural factors do you think led to the creation of these states as separate countries?

The Czech Republic and Slovakia

The Czech Republic is made up of the regions of Bohemia and Moravia. About 40 percent of Czechs are Roman Catholic. About the same percentage are not religious. The country's capital and largest city is Prague (PRAHG). Prague is located on seven hills along the Vltava (VUHL-tuh-vuh) River. This historic city was founded more than 1,100 years ago. It is a cultural, university, and tourist center with a rich architectural heritage. The urban region is also the center of the country's major industries.

American culture has increasingly influenced Prague in recent years. With the end of the Communist era, trade and cultural links with the United States grew. A community of American businesspeople and students also began to grow over time. American English-language schools have popped up across the city. In addition, Prague cinemas show the latest releases from Hollywood. Even American fast food is easy to find in the central city.

The Czech Republic is a hilly region with good supplies of coal, iron ore, and uranium. The Czechs became well known for the production of fine steel and glass products. Farms grow mainly cereals and sugar beets. The country's economy had one of the strongest and most stable economies of the former Soviet-bloc countries. However, political and economic problems in the late 1990s slowed progress. Part of the problem was that the government still had too much influence over the economy. Still, the Czech Republic has attracted foreign investment and tourism. The country continues to move toward a market economy. In 1999 it joined NATO, and in 2004 it joined the EU.

Slovakia is the poorer eastern half of the two former regions of Czechoslovakia. The move to a capitalist system there has been hard. Unemployment is high. In joining the EU in 2004, Slovakia hoped to strengthen its economy. The capital and largest

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, has become a popular destination for tourists. Historical attractions like the Charles Bridge on the Vltava River are gathering spots for visitors and residents alike.



Connecting to HISTORY

A Shifting Region

Geographically, the countries discussed in this chapter lie in the middle of Europe, which stretches eastward to the Ural Mountains. However, throughout history, people's perceptions about just what makes up Central Europe have changed.

For example, in the early 1900s Germany was considered part of Central Europe. Then Germany was divided into East Germany and West Germany from the end of World War II until 1990. Communist East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria were tied to the Soviet Union. These so-called Soviet-bloc countries made up a region known as Eastern Europe. (See the map.)

Today Germany is reunited. Poland, Hungary, and other former Soviet-bloc countries have strong ties to the West. Once again, many people consider these countries part of Central Europe. In fact, in 2004 the seven former Soviet-bloc countries in Central Europe joined the EU. To the east, the former Soviet Union has split into several countries. Perhaps these countries will build stronger ties with the West. Then the boundaries of Central Europe may march farther east.

Making Generalizations In what ways is Central Europe a perceptual region? In what ways might it be a functional or formal region?



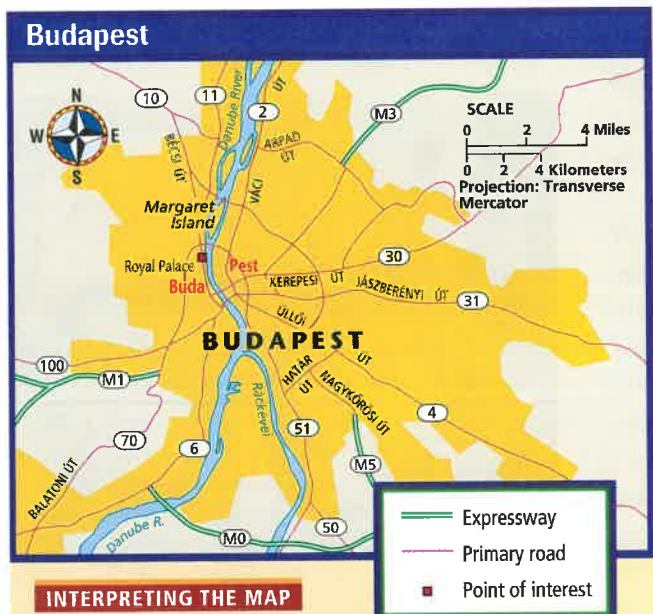
city is Bratislava. It is located on the Danube River and on a major railway junction. This location makes the city ideally located for the trade of both goods and ideas. Although Bratislava lies in the far west of Slovakia, it is the country's educational and cultural center. Institutions from Bratislava stage ballets, concerts, operas, and plays all across the country. Slovaks also have a strong folk culture, which is still evident in Slovakia's art and music.

READING CHECK: Environment and Society What factor has made Bratislava central to Slovakia's culture and economy?

Hungary

The Hungarians speak Magyar, rather than a Slavic language. Magyar is related to Finnish and has its origins in Central Asia. About two thirds of Hungary's population is Roman Catholic.

Hungarians have a rich history of folk and music traditions. Hungarian music is heavily influenced by Roma, or Gypsy, rhythms. To Hungarians, the delivery of a song



INTERPRETING THE MAP

Budapest, the capital of Hungary, benefits from international commerce. Many foreign investors have chosen the city as a base from which to ship their products around the world. Why do you think Budapest is a suitable location for these enterprises?

is as important as the melody and lyrics. Therefore, many Hungarian musicians are gifted actors and dancers as well.

Budapest is Hungary's major city and capital. It is made up of Buda and Pest, which lie across the Danube from each other. The two communities joined in 1873 to form Budapest. Almost one fourth of the country's population lives in or near the capital. Most businesses and industries are also located there. Its location along highways, rail lines, and the Danube help make the city the national transportation center.

Migration from rural areas to Budapest slowed in the 1990s. The slowdown came as rural areas experienced improvements in water, sewage, and other services. Also, many people have been moving out of Budapest to live in the suburbs. The suburbs have fewer problems with crowded housing and pollution. Because of these factors, Budapest's population declined a little in the 1990s.

Hungary is located on a broad agricultural plain in the central Danube Basin. Farming still plays a major role in the country's economy. Potatoes, sugar beets, and wheat are the main crops. Farmers also raise livestock, particularly cattle and hogs. Almost half of Hungary's population lives in small farming villages and towns.

The Communist government began to allow some private ownership of businesses in the 1960s. Over time, private businesses helped the economy grow. Still, after the end of Communist rule in the early 1990s, the rapid move to a market economy was hard. Today, however, most of the country's businesses are privately owned. In recent years Hungary has attracted new industries, foreign investment, and tourists. In fact, it has one of the strongest economies in the region today. Hungary joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004.

READING CHECK: *Environment and Society* What factors affected the growth of Budapest in the 1990s?



The origins of goulash, a traditional Hungarian stew based on meat, onions, and paprika, date from the A.D. 800s. Then the dish was a cooked mixture that was dried in the sunshine so it could be packed in bags made from sheep's stomachs.



The Great Hungarian Plain accounts for approximately half of Hungary's area. Most of Hungary's farms are located on this fertile plain.

Section 4

Review

Define complementary region

Working with Sketch Maps On the map that you created in Section 3, label the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Prague, Bratislava, and Budapest. What are the capital cities of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What are the main ethnic backgrounds of the people in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary?

- Human Systems** What American cultural influences grew in Prague after the end of the Communist era?
- Human Systems** What was Hungary's economy like in the 1960s? How strong is it today?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** Why do you think American and other Western companies might want to expand into former Communist-ruled countries like Hungary and the Czech Republic?

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hrw.
.com **Homework Practice Online**

Keyword: SW3 HP15

Organizing What You Know

- Create a chart like the one below. Then use it to compare political, economic, and cultural features of Prague, Bratislava, and Budapest.

Prague	Bratislava	Budapest

Review the video to answer the closing question:
Why do you think the formation of the European Union was important to many Europeans?



Building Vocabulary

On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

alliances	cantons	exclave
balance of power	neutral	ghetto
confederation	multilingual	complementary region

Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Berlin	Vienna	Geneva	Prague
Ruhr Valley	Danube River	Warsaw	Budapest



Understanding the Main Ideas

Section 1

- Human Systems** How did World Wars I and II shape the history of Germany?
- Human Systems** What problems has eastern Germany faced since reunification?

Section 2

- Human Systems** Why have many American and Western European companies chosen Austria as a base for their European operations?

Section 3

- Environment and Society** Why is loess important to Poland's economy?

Section 4

- Human Systems** How does Hungary's language differ from the languages of neighboring countries?

Thinking Critically

- Analyzing** How might differing viewpoints affect public policies regarding economic development in eastern Germany?
- Analyzing** What role have rivers played in the early development of Central Europe's major cities?
- Comparing and Contrasting** Which of Central Europe's former communist countries, other than the former East Germany, do you think may offer the brightest future for its people? Why?

Using the Geographer's Tools

- Analyzing Maps** Review the map of Swiss language regions. What are the major languages spoken in the country? In which region are three of the country's largest cities located? Which cities are these?
- Analyzing Tables** Use the unit Fast Facts and Comparing Standard of Living tables to rank countries in Central Europe by economic development and standard of living. How may the political histories of the countries have influenced their development and standard of living?
- Creating Maps** Research historical information about Central Europe since 1900. Then create a political map of the region, using colors or other tools to identify former communist countries that once were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Germany, or Russia. Note that the territory of some countries was controlled by more than one of those three powers.

Writing about Geography

People in the former communist countries of Europe are eager to learn about ways of life in other countries. Write a letter to a real or imaginary teenager in one of those European countries. Note similarities and differences you might expect to see between life in this country and in your pen pal's country.

SKILL BUILDING



Geography for Life

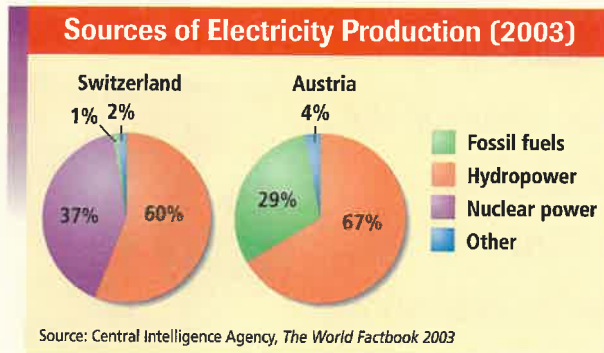
Documenting Environmental Change

Environment and Society

Environmental pollution is a legacy of the Communist era in Central Europe. What caused this pollution? Which areas are particularly polluted, and why? How might the pollution be cleaned up? Investigate these questions and write a script for a brief documentary film presenting your findings. Include a script, illustrations, maps, and other visual materials.

Interpreting Graphs

Study the pie graphs below. Then use the information from the graphs to help you answer the questions that follow. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.



- More than 90 percent of Switzerland's electricity is produced by
 - hydropower alone.
 - fossil fuels and nuclear power.
 - nuclear power alone.
 - hydropower and nuclear power.
- What is the single largest source of electricity in both Austria and Switzerland? What clues might this answer give you about the physical geography of the two countries?

Building Vocabulary

To build your vocabulary skills, answer the following questions. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- Few countries have remained *neutral* for long periods of time. In which sentence does *neutral* have the same meaning as it does in the sentence above?
 - The solution that resulted from the experiment was neutral.
 - The dining area should be painted in a neutral color.
 - The counselor has remained neutral throughout the dispute.
 - The car rolled down the hill because it was left in neutral.
- Alliance* means the same as
 - a largely self-governing state within a country.
 - a group of states with opposing views on world issues.
 - an agreement between countries for support against enemies.
 - an agreement between countries to establish new borders for overseas colonies.

Alternative Assessment

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY



Learning about Your Local Geography

Individual Project: Research

Throughout history many peoples, empires, rulers, invasions, and wars have affected the countries of Central Europe. Use library and Internet resources to research the history of your state. Note which countries or peoples have controlled the area over time. Explain how your state's history may have shaped cultural features there today. Write a short report about your findings. Then proofread it to make sure you have used standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.

Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SW3 GT15

Access the Internet through the HRW Go site to research the change in global trade patterns of three Central European countries. Then create a database that shows those changes. Use the Holt Grapher to represent your information in graph form. Finally, write a hypothesis to explain the changes that occurred in each country's trade and note the implications of these changes.

