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Social Security Assistant

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Volume – 4

GENERAL AWARENESS



EPFO SSA (Social Security Assistant)

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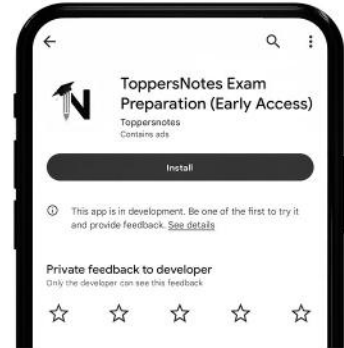
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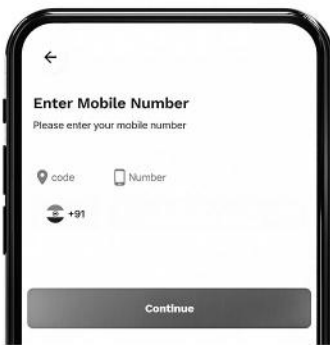
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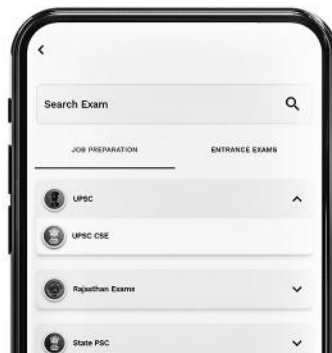
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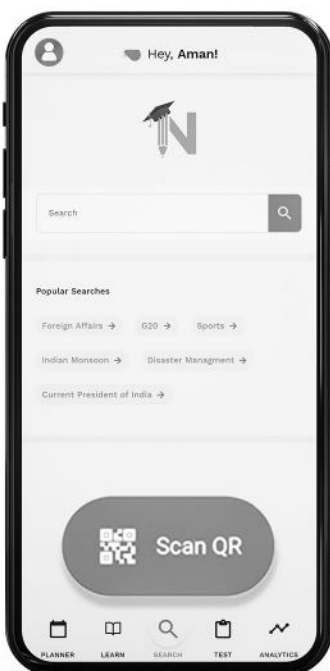
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INDIAN GEOGRAPHY

1 CHAPTER

World Physical Geography

- There is a total of **7 continents and 5 oceans** in the world.
 - **Continents:** Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America and Antarctica
 - **Oceans:** Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean and Southern Ocean
- **The Equator passes through 13 countries:**
 - **South America:** Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil,
 - **Africa:** Sao Tome & Principe, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia
 - **Asia:** Maldives, Indonesia and Kiribati.
- **Water Bodies through which the Equator passes:** Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean
- **The Prime Meridian passes through 8 countries:**
 - **Europe:** United Kingdom, France, Spain
 - **Africa:** Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo
 - **Antarctica**
- **Water Bodies through which the Prime Meridian Passes:** Arctic Ocean, Norwegian Sea, Greenland Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Southern Ocean
- **The Tropic of Cancer Passes through 16 Countries:**
 - **North America:** Bahamas, Mexico
 - **Africa:** Egypt, Libya, Niger, Algeria, Mali, Western Sahara, Mauritania
 - **Asia:** Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia
- **Water Bodies through which Tropic of Cancer passes:** Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Taiwan Strait, Red Sea and Gulf of Mexico
- **The Tropic of Capricorn passes through 10 countries:**

- **South America:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay
- **Africa:** Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar
- **Australia:** Australia
- **Water Bodies through which the Tropic of Capricorn Passes:** Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean
- **The Arctic Circle passes through 7 countries:** Canada, Finland, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Russia and USA (Alaska).

1. Africa

- Africa is the **second-largest continent after Asia**.
- **Natural Boundaries:**
 - **North:** the Mediterranean Sea,
 - **North East:** the Red Sea,
 - **East:** the Indian Ocean,
 - **West:** the Atlantic Ocean
- **It is divided in half almost equally by the equator.**
- **Tropic of Cancer:** Egypt, Libya, Niger, Algeria, Mali, Western Sahara, Mauritania.
- **Equator:** Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia.
- **Tropic of Capricorn:** Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique and Madagascar
- **Prime Meridian:** Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo
- **55 African countries**, 54 sovereign African states plus the territory of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, are **members of the African Union**
- **Subregions of Africa (as per African Union):**

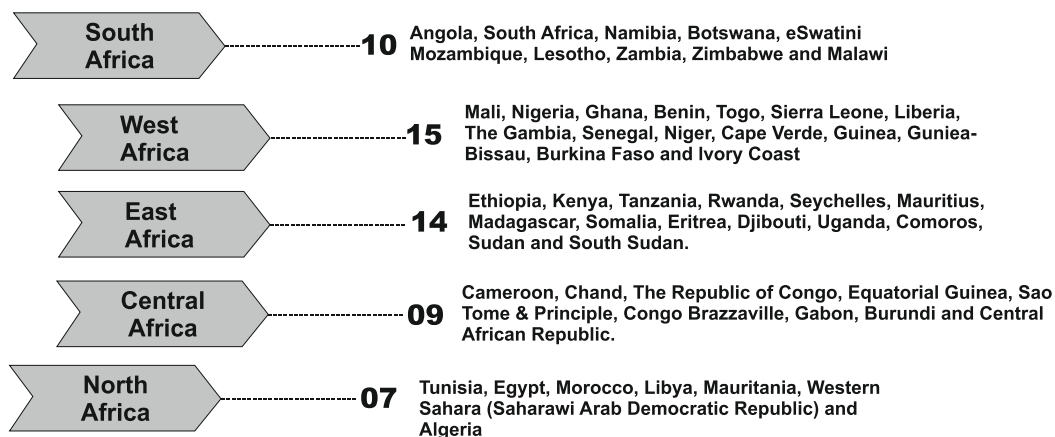


Figure: Sub Regions of Africa (As per African Union)

Plains of Africa

Sahel

- The Sahel is a **narrow band of semi-arid land** that forms a **transition zone** between the **Sahara to the north** and the **savannas to the south**.

- The Sahel comprises **flat, barren plains** and stretches **across Africa**, from **Senegal to Sudan**.

Savanna

- Cover almost half of Africa**, making up most of **central Africa**.

Mountains of Africa

Mountain	Features
Atlas Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Northwestern part of the continent stretching towards the southwest direction across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. Highest Peak: The Jebel Toubkal (height is 4165 m from sea level) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a physical separator between the extensive coasts of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Sea, and the Sahara Desert.
Rwenzori Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: borders Uganda and Congo (Kinshasa) and is thought to be the "Mountains of the Moon". Highest Peak: Mount Stanley at Margherita Peak (5,119 m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a gigantic horst of six separate glaciated masses which falls steeply westward to the Western Rift Valley.
Mount Elgon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: the northeast part of Lake Victoria on the Uganda – Kenya border. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a volcanic mountain it has a crater which is 610 m deep and 8 km across.
Tibesti Massif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: the northern part of Chad and spread west into northern Niger and the Southern border area of Libya. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have a volcanic origin. Highest Peak: Emi Koussi
Ahaggar Massif	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: south of the capital, Algiers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a highland region in central Sahara, or southern Algeria, near the Tropic of Cancer. Highest Peak: Mount Tahat is the highest peak (2, 918 m). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has a volcanic formation.
Drakensberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: The eastern part of South Africa Highest Peak: Thabana Ntlenyana at 3,482 m (11,422 ft). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is also the highest peak of Lesotho.
Mount Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: central Kenya, just south of the equator, around 150 km north-northeast of Nairobi. Highest Peak: Mount Kenya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second-highest in Africa (after Mount Kilimanjaro).
Kilimanjaro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Tanzania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilimanjaro has three volcanic cones, Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira. An inactive stratovolcano in northeastern Tanzania.
Mount Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only active volcanic mountain in Africa dominates the coastline of Cameroon. Known for iron ore.
Bomi and Nimbas Hills	The main hills of Liberia, known for Iron ore deposits.

Plateaus of Africa

Plateaus	Features
Ethiopian Highlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rise 75 million years ago when magma from Earth's mantle uplifted a broad dome of ancient rock. Include native species such as the Walia ibex, an endangered wild goat and gelada baboon.
Southern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kaapvaal craton shapes much of southern Africa. Southern Africa's Cape Floral Region is one of the world's richest areas for plants.

Katanga Plateau	Farming, ranching, resource-rich – copper and Uranium deposits
Ethiopian Plateau	Lake Tana (Source of Blue Nile) cooler despite being close to the equator
Jos Plateau	The northern half of Nigeria consists of the undulating Jos Plateau.
Bie Plateau	Important for copper, Agriculture and cattle rearing
Adamawa Plateau	Savannah vegetation, Bauxite deposits

Rivers of Africa

Basin	Features
Nile Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rivers: Blue Nile, White Nile and Atbarah Rivers (Black Nile). • Mouth: Mediterranean Sea • Longest river in the world. • From Lake Victoria, it flows, as the Victoria Nile, into Lake Albert, from which it emerges as the Albert Nile. • Farther north, after receiving several tributaries, it becomes the White Nile and finally the Nile, emptying at last into the Mediterranean Sea. • This is especially true of the Blue Nile, which, after issuing from Lake Tana on the Ethiopian Plateau, flows most of its length through a steep gorge. • Swamps also interrupt the river's course. Of these, the largest is Al-Sudd, a vast area of floating swamp reeds, mostly papyrus. • The largest is the Aswan High Dam on the main Nile
Niger Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Mountains of Guinea • Mouth: enters atlantic ocean from Southern nigeria • The Niger basin is the largest river basin in western Africa. • The Niger River, which rises in the mountains of Guinea and enters the sea through its delta in southern Nigeria. • Niger receives its largest tributary, the Benue, which flows in from its left bank, in Nigeria
Congo (Zaire) Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Lualaba (boyoma falls) • Mouth: Atlantic ocean • Gorges often construct the river's course. • Below its confluence with the Kasai, the main river cuts through the Crystal Mountains in a deep gorge, which at one point expands into Malebo (Stanley) Pool, a shallow lake.
Zambezi Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source : Mwinilunga District (Zambia) • Mouth : Zambezi Delta (Indian ocean) • The Zambezi River Originally were two rivers corresponding to the upper and lower courses of the present river. • There are numerous waterfalls, the most spectacular of which is Victoria Falls. • After these falls, the river winds through several deep gorges cut out of basalt and, after flowing through a broad valley, enters Kariba Gorge. • The Kafue and the Luangwa, the two main tributaries, which both flow through gorges, join the Zambezi on its left bank downstream from Kariba .
Orange Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Lesotho, Drakensberg • Mouth: Atlantic ocean • The Orange River is the longest in South Africa. • Flowing across almost the entire width of the country, it makes its way from the highlands in the east through the Kalahari depression in the west to empty into the South Atlantic Ocean. • Its major tributary, the Vaal River, is one of its northern headwaters. • Together with other major rivers on the continent, the Orange–Vaal river system shares the characteristic of flowing over steep gradients for numerous stretches of its course.

Lakes of Africa

Lake	Features
Lake Kariba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries: central Africa, between Zambia and Zimbabwe. • Location: Zambezi River • One of the biggest man-made lakes where commercial fishing is done. • Largest producer of hydroelectricity in Africa
Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type : Rift valley lake • Countries: Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania. • Third largest lake in Africa.
Lake Mweru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire) and Zambia. • Location: Congo River. • It is the second-largest lake in the Congo valley. • There are two main reserves situated in the Eastern and Western parts, the Mweru Wantipa and the Lusenga Plain National Parks.
Lake Tanganyika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: Rift valley lake • Countries: Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia. • It is the longest freshwater lake in the world and the second deepest after lake Baikal in Russia.
Lake Edward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries: Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo
Lake Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries: Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. • Source of White Nile River. • Largest lake of Africa and it does not lie in rift valley • A large lake through which the equator passes. • World's third largest lake after the Caspian Sea and Lake Superior. • It contains numerous coral reefs.
Lake Turkana (Lake Rudolf)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: Rift valley lake • Country: Kenya
Lake Tana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country: Ethiopia • Location: Ethiopian highlands. • Source of the Blue Nile River.
Lake Nasser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: Man Made Reservoir • Countries: Egypt and Sudan • Location: the river Nile.
Lake Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: endorheic (shallow freshwater lake) • Countries: Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria • River: Chari River • Largest lake of Sahara • An example of deflation hollow which is formed due to wind erosion.
Lake Volta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: Man Made Reservoir • location: on the River Volta in Ghana
Lake Assal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type: Crater Lake • Countries: Djibouti. • The lowest point in Africa.

Other water bodies in Africa

- A strait is a **narrow area of water** that connects two larger areas of water.

Straits	Connects	Separates
Strait of Gibraltar	Atlantic Ocean to Mediterranean Sea	The Iberian Peninsula in Europe from Morocco in Africa.
Bab-El-Mandeb	Red sea to the Gulf of Aden	Yemen (Arabian Peninsula) From Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa.
Strait Of Tiran	Red sea and Gulf of Aqaba	Sinai and the Arabian Peninsula

Deserts in Africa

1. Sahara Desert

- **Location:**
 - **North :** Mediterranean sea
 - **South :** Shael Savannah
 - **West :** Atlantic Ocean
 - **East :** Red Sea
- The Sahara contains **two permanent rivers (the Nile and the Niger)**, at least **20 seasonal lakes and huge aquifers**.
- **Hamada: Rocky desert of Sahara** is bare rock surface formed by deflation.
- **Cities:**
 - Zinder (Niger)
 - Timbuktu (Mali)
 - Kano (Nigeria)
 - Kumasi (Ghana).

2. Libyan Desert

- It is also known as the **Great Sand Sea or Western Desert**.
- Located in the **northern and eastern part of the Sahara Desert** and occupies southwestern **Egypt**, eastern **Libya**, and northwestern **Sudan**.
- This desert is primarily **sand and boulder plains** and is inhabited by the **Senussis**, a conservative Islamic group.
- **Ridges and deep depressions (basins)** exist in several parts of the desert, and **no rivers or streams drain into or out of the area**.

Serir: Stony desert of Libya is covered with boulders, angular pebbles and gravel produced by a high diurnal temperature range.

3. Arabian Desert

- Arid region of **North-East Egypt**.
- **Encompasses** almost the **entire Arabian Peninsula**.
- It contains **Rub Al-Khali**, one of the **world's largest continuous bodies of sand**.

4. Nubian Desert

- The arid region is **rugged and rocky** and contains some dunes.
- It also contains many **wadis(valleys)** that **die out before reaching the Nile**.
- The **largest city** of the Nubian Desert is **Port Sudan**.
- This desert is the **only habitat for the critically endangered palm 'Medemia argun'**.

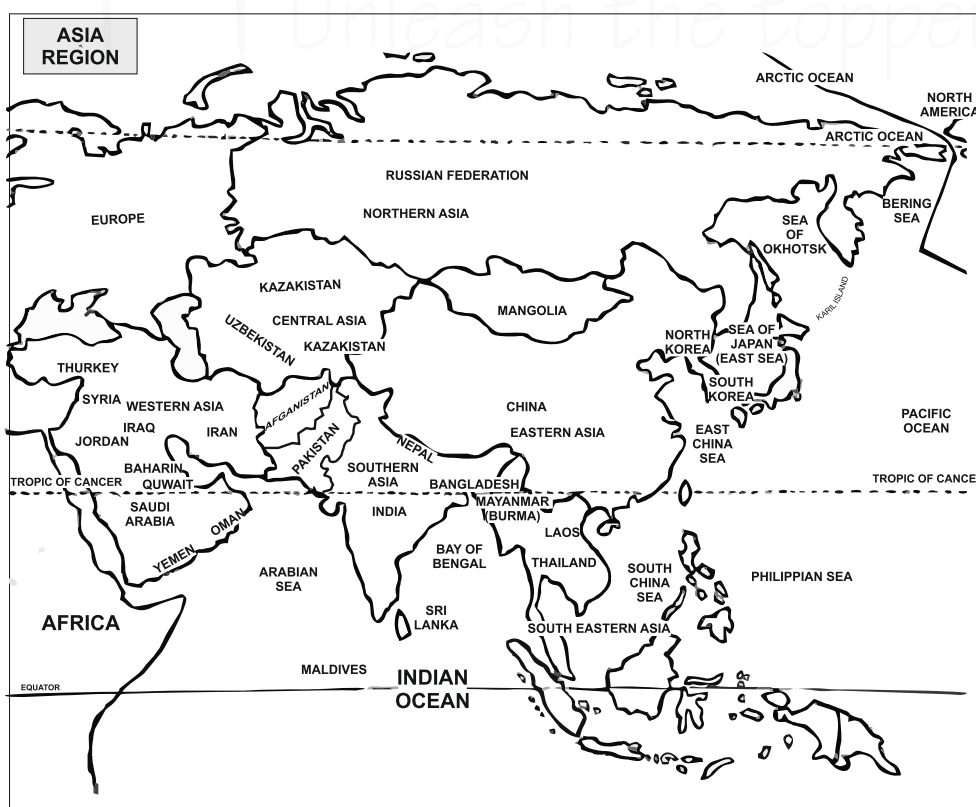
5. Namib Desert

- **Namib** means "**vast**" in the Nama language.
- Existing for at least 55 million years, the Namib is **one of the oldest deserts** in the world.
- Some of the **world's tallest sand dunes** (over 300m) are **found in the Namib Desert**.

6. Kalahari Desert

- The **semi-desert region of Botswana** lies to the **east of the Namib desert**.
- Home of one of **Africa's oldest races**, the **Kalahari Bushmen**.

2. Asia



- **Natural Boundaries:**
 - **North West:** The Ural River, The Ural Mountains.
 - **West:** The Caucasus Mountains, The Mediterranean Sea, The Caspian Sea, And The Black Sea.
 - **South West:** The Suez Canal, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden.
- **Ural Mountains-** separated from Europe, and **the Bering Strait** separates it from **North America**.
- **Tropic of cancer:** Taiwan, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia

- **Equator:** Maldives, Indonesia, Kiribati (Oceania)
- **Grasslands of Asia**
 - **Steppes have warm** to hot summers and cold winters.
 - Commonly referred to as '**the Great Steppe**', it is found in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and nearby countries.

The earth's highest and lowest places are both in Asia:

- **Highest place** on earth: **Mount Everest**
- **Lowest place** on earth: **Dead Sea-shore**

Political Divisions of Asia

Divisions	Features
West Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Known as the Middle East and is a region of political instability. ● Countries: Iran, Iraq, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Qatar, and Kuwait. ● Geographical extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ West: The Mediterranean Sea, the Sinai Peninsula. ○ South: The Red Sea ○ Southeast: The Indian Ocean.
Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geographical Extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ East: China ○ North: Russia ○ South: Afghanistan ● The western border of this region runs along the Caspian Sea. ● Countries: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan. ● Silk Road Trading- Played an important role in the transportation of goods between China and Europe
East Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geographical Extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ West: Central Asia ○ East: East China Sea ○ North: Russia ○ South: South Asia ● Countries: China, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau.
South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● South Asia has a peninsula-like shape. ● Geographical extent: three bodies of water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South : The Indian Ocean ○ East : The Bay of Bengal ○ West : The Arabian Sea ● The region includes the Indian subcontinent and surrounding countries. ● Countries: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Iran, the Maldives, and Myanmar. ● Featured as the most densely populated area in the world.
South Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geographical Extent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South: Australia ○ North: East Asia ○ East: The Pacific Ocean ○ West: The Bay of Bengal. ● Only Asian region is located on both sides of the equator. ● Countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

Plains in Asia

Plains	Features
Great Siberian Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ West: Ural Mountains ○ East: River Lena • Lake Baikal, the deepest lake of the world is located in Siberia, estimated to holds 20% of all fresh lake water on the globe. • Mountains and deserts surround this interior Heartland.
Manchurian Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed by the Amur River and its tributaries in the northern part of China. • Important cities Anshan, Shenyang and Fushun of the Mudkan triangle (region of well-developed Iron and steel industries) are located.
Mesopotamia Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: The land between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers • Both rivers are fed by numerous tributaries. • Climate: semi-arid with a vast desert expanse in the north. • In the extreme south, the Euphrates and the Tigris merge and drain into the Persian Gulf.
Ganga Plains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical extent: • Containing Plains of northern and eastern India, Bangladesh and southern plains of Nepal • The Ganga plain, part of the Great Plains of north India which comprises the Rajasthan plain, the Punjab plain. • Formed: through alleviation by the Satluj, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra drainage.
Great Plains of China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed by two major rivers of China, the Hwang Ho and Yangtze rivers.

Mountains of Asia

- The **highest, grandest** and most revered **mountain ranges** are found in Asia.
- These Ranges are home to some of the most iconic and **highest peaks in the world.**
- Asia is a vast continent with **many mountain ranges**, the subcontinent ranges of the **Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindu Kush**, often collectively referred to as the **Great Himalaya.**

Himalayas

- One of the **youngest mountain ranges**, formed through the collision of the Indian **tectonic plate** and **the Eurasian plate.**
- Runs in **an arc form, from northwest to southeast.**
- The highest mountain outside Asia is **Aconcagua** in the Andes that stands at 6,961m.
- **Mount Everest** (8,848m) is the highest peak of Himalaya.

Range	Countries	Highest Point
Himalayas	Nepal, India, China, Bhutan	Mount Everest (8,848 m)
Karakorum (Second highest mountain range in World.)	Pakistan, India, China, Afghanistan and Tajikistan	K2 (8,611 m)
Hindu Kush	Afghanistan and Pakistan	Tirich Mir (7,690 m)
Ural Mountains	Russia and Kazakhstan	Mount Narodnaya (1,895 m)
Altai Mountains	Russia, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan	Bekuda Mountain (4,506 m)
Tian Shan	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and China	Jensingh chokusu (7,439 m)
Pamir Mountains	Tajikistan	Kangour Taugh (7,649 m)
Kunlun Mountain	China/Tibet	Liushi Shon (7,167 m)
Western Ghats	India	Anamudi, Kerala (2,695 m)
Couscous Mountains	Russia, Acerb, Georgia	Mount Elbrus (5,642 m)

Mountain Knot

Junction of two or more mountain ranges

Pamir Knot

- **Hindukush:** Extends into **Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.**

- Highest peak **Tirich Mir (Pakistan)**.
- **Tien shan:** Spread into **China, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan**.
- Highest mountain **peak is Jengish chokusu (Kyrgyzstan–China border)**
- **Kunlun shan:** Lies in **China**.
- Highest **peak is KongurTagh (China)**.
- **Karakoram:** Countries **India, Pakistan, China, Afghanistan and Tajikistan**.
- Highest **peak is k2 (China and POK Border)**.
- **Himalayas:** Countries **India, China, Nepal and Bhutan**.
- Highest **peak Mount Everest (Nepal)**.

Armenian Knot

- Mountains of **Elburz, Zagros, Pontic and Taurus** originate from here.

- The mountain ranges **extend into Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Iran**.
- **Mount Damavand (Iran)** highest peak of the highlands.

Chronological order of mountain ranges in Asia are:

- **West to East:** Pontic and Taurus ranges, Elburz and Zagros mts. Hindukush ranges, Tien Shan, Kunlunshan, Karakoram, Himalayas, Altai mts, Nan shan, ArakanYoma etc.
- **North to South:** Kolyma mts, Altai mts, Armenian knot (Pontic, Taurus, Elbrus and Zagreus), Tien shan, Kulunshan, Hindukush, Karakoram, Himalayas, Sulaiman, Kirthar, etc.

Plateaus

Plateau	Features
Iranian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Countries: Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. ● Plateau - not uniformly flat- contains some high mountains and low river basins. ● Highest mountain peak- Damavand (5,610 meters/18,410 feet). ● Plateau has two large deserts: the Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut.
Deccan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most of the southern part of India. ● Bordered- three mountain ranges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ North: Satpura Range ○ East: Eastern Ghats ○ West: Western Ghats ● The plateau and its main waterways—the Godavari and Krishna rivers—gently slope toward the Eastern Ghats and the Bay of Bengal.
Tibetan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Known as the “Rooftop of the World,” ● Geographical Extent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South: Himalayas ○ North: Taklamakan desert ● Countries: China, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. ● Termed as the Third Pole. ● Largest reserve of freshwater outside the polar regions.
Pamir Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Known as the Roof of the world. ● Countries: Tajikistan, China and Afghanistan ● It is a junction of mountain ranges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South East: Himalayas ○ North East: Tian shan ○ West: Hindu Kush ○ South: Suleiman
Arabian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Easternmost part of Asia. ● High Aridity due to low Rainfall ● Rich in petroleum reserves

Deserts of Asia

Desert	Features
Arabian Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Countries: Yemen, Oman, Jordan and Iraq. ● Water body: Persian Gulf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rub Al Khali sand desert is part of it. ● Largest in Asia.
Gobi Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2nd largest desert in Asia. ● Countries: China and Mongolia. ● Less rainfall due to Himalayan barrier. ● cold desert
Taklamakan Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● China's largest desert. ● Known as the "Place of Ruins" or the "Sea of Death" ● Second largest non-polar sand-shifting desert in the world.
Thar Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asia's only subtropical desert. ● Countries: India and Pakistan. ● Consists of aeolian (wind-deposited) sand. ● Several playas (saline lake beds), known as dhands, are scattered throughout the region.
Kyzylkum Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fifth largest desert in Asia ● Countries: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. ● Features a wide variety of flora and fauna. ● Famous for red sand
Kara Kum Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Country: Turkmenistan. ● Famous gas crater "Gates to Hell" is located here. ● Translated as "Black Sand"

Rivers of Asia

Rivers	Features
Euphrates and Tigris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Originates in Eastern Anatolia. ● Countries: Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait. ● Mouth: Persian Gulf. ● Flows South easterly direction
Syr Darya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Border of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. ● Countries: Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. ● Mouth: Aral Sea. ● Flows North westward
Amu Darya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Tien Shan Mountains in Kyrgyzstan. ● Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. ● Mouth: Aral Sea. ● Flows North west ward.
Indus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Tibetan plateau Near Mansarovar lake in China. ● Flows to the North-northwest and after Entering into Pakistan it flows towards the south west. ● Countries: China, India and Pakistan. ● Mouth: Arabian sea.
Ganges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Himalaya Mountains at Gomukh, end of the Gangotri Glacier. ● Mouth: Bay of Bengal. ● Flows to south and then loops back on an easterly course toward Kanpur. ● Longest river in India, if we consider the total distance covered by a river within India.
Brahmaputra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Mansarovar lake in Tibet. ● Mouth: Bay of Bengal. ● It is Known as Yarlung Tsangpo (the purifier) in China. ● It flows in the East direction and after entering into India it flows southward.
Irrawaddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Myanmar. ● Mouth: Andaman Sea ● Flows North to South. ● Very important transport route. ● Naypyidaw is on this river.

Salween	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Tibetan plateau in China. ● Countries: China, Myanmar and Thailand. ● Mouth: Andaman Sea. ● Flows from North to South ● One of the largest Basins in Southeast Asia.
Mekong Yangtze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Tibetan plateau. ● Countries: China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. ● Mouth: South China Sea. ● Flows from North to South
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Origin: Qinghai province of western China. ● Mouth: Bohai sea (China) ● Known as Huang He. ● Flows from West to Northeast. ● Yellow colour because of sand from the Gobi Desert.

Chronological order of Rivers in Asia:

- **West to East:** Euphrates, Tigris, Amu Darya, SyrDarya, Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtze, Yellow etc.

Lakes of Asia

Lakes	Features
Caspian Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● World's largest inland body of water ● Type: Saline, Permanent, Natural ● Geographical extent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ West: The Caucasus Mountains, ○ East: The Central Asian steppes, ○ North: The Russian plains in Eastern Europe, ○ South: Western Asia's Iranian Plateau. ● Countries bordering: Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
Lake Baikal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The oldest and largest freshwater lake by volume ● Type: Ancient Lake, Continental rift lake ● Geographical extent: Located in south-central Russia ● Country: Russia and Mongolia
Lake Balkhash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Third-largest Lake in Asia ● Type: Endorheic, Saline ● Countries: Kazakhstan, China and Kyrgyzstan. ● Rivers: The Aksu, Byan, Ili, Karatal, Kapal, Koku, and Lepsy rivers
Lake Urmia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Type: Salt (hypersaline) lake ● Country: Iran ● Rivers: Gadar, Mahabad, Nazlou, Boyuk Chay, Leylan, and Zola. ● Asia's sixth-largest lake. ● It is a Ramsar site

The chronological order of water bodies in Asia are:

- **West to East:** Red Sea, Dead Sea, Lake Van, Lake Urmia, Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea, Aral Sea, Lake Balkhash, Lake Baikal etc.

Seas of Asia

Sea	Features
Red sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Countries: Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea and Djibouti. ● Adjoining water bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meets the Mediterranean Sea by the Suez Canal. ○ Meets Gulf of Aden by Strait of Bab El Mandeb

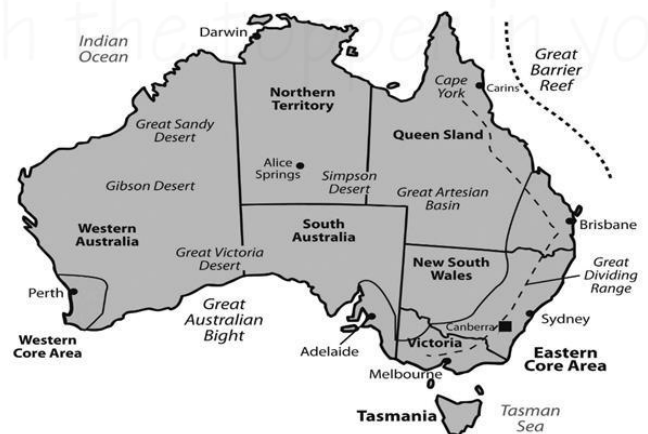
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Formed because of Rifting in the Arabian Peninsula. ■ Important trade routes.
Dead sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Countries: Jordan and Israel. ● Landlocked Salt Lake. ● Lowest elevation and the lowest water body on the surface of Earth
Persian Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Countries: Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Oman. ● World's largest single source of Petroleum. ● The Strait of Hormuz connects it with the Gulf of Oman.
Aral Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Afghanistan and Iran. ● Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers fed it. ● Characterized by a desert-continental climate ● Previously the 4th largest lake in the world but now reduced to 1/10th of its size.

Straits of Asia

Straits	Separates	Connects
Bering strait	Asia and North America	East Siberian Sea with Bering Sea
La Pérouse Strait	Sakhalin Island and Hokkaido Island	Sea of Okhotsk with Sea of Japan
Tata Strait	Eastern Russia and Sakhalin	Sea of Okhotsk with Sea of Japan
Korea Strait	South Korea and Kyushu (Japan)	Yellow Sea with the Sea of Japan
Formosa Strait (Taiwan Strait)	Taiwan and China	East China Sea with South China Sea
Luzon Strait	Taiwan and Luzon (Philippines)	South China Sea with Pacific Ocean.
Makassar Strait	Borneo (Kalimantan) and Celebes Island	Celebes Sea with the Java Sea.
Sundra Strait	Java and Sumatra	Java Sea with India Ocean
Malacca Strait	Malaya Peninsula and Sumatra	Java Sea with the Bay of Bengal
Strait of Johor	Singapore and Malaysia	South China Sea with strait of Malacca
Strait of Hormuz	UAE and Iran	Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman.
Strait of Bosphorus	Asia and Europe	Black Sea with Sea of Marmara.
Strait of Dardanelles	Asia and Europe	Sea of Marmara with the Mediterranean Sea

3. Australia

- **Location:** Indian and the Pacific oceans
- **Capital:** Canberra
- **Tropic of Capricorn** passes through it
- **Physical boundaries**
 - **Northwest:** The Timor Sea
 - **North:** The Gulf of Carpentaria
 - **Northeast:** Great barrier reef
 - **South:** Great Australian bight
 - **South East:** The island of Tasmania.
- **Natural Vegetation and Forest**
 - **Downs**
 - **Temperate grassland** of Australia, found in the **Murray-Darling basins of South-Eastern part.**
 - Cultivation is profitably done in the down areas where **Mitchel grasses** are grown.
 - Similarly, in New Zealand, Profitable cultivation is practised in **Canterbury grassland**



Political Division of Australia

- Has **6 states** and 2 centrally administered territories.
The 6 states are:
 1. Western Australia
 2. Queensland
 3. South Australia
 4. New South Wales
 5. Victoria
 6. Tasmania
- **Mount Kosciuszko (2,230 meters), the highest peak.**

- Smooth **coastline and no inlets except in the south.**
Known for **few good harbours.**

Physical Features of Australia

Western Plateau

- **Eroded plateau**, undergone the **process of erosion.**
- Originally **home to Australian Aboriginal tribes (Kulin).**

Central Lowlands

- Extends from The **Gulf of Carpentaria** (north) to the **southern shores of Australia.**
- **Dry lowland.**
- **Biggest source of freshwater for basins** in the world.

Eastern Highlands

- **The Great Dividing Range:** a chain of hills and mountains interrupts the levelled landform of Australia.
- **Important mountain ranges:** Great Dividing Range, Grey range, Blue Mountain range, Australian Alps, Darling range, Reynolds range etc.
- Extended from the **Cape York Peninsula to the north of Tasmania.**
- **Elevated plateau** – the highest peak - **Mt. Kosciusko** (2234mt)
- Most **rivers of Australia rise from here.**
- **The Australian Alps** are Part of this range.

Great Barrier Reef

- **Largest and most extensive coral reef system in the world.**
- located in the **Coral Sea (North-East Coast)**, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

- Selected as a **World Heritage Site in 1981.**

Deserts of Australia

Deserts	Features
Great Victoria Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: western Australia • Largest Desert of the continent. • Due to offshore trade winds.
Great Sandy Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Northern territory of western Australia • Gold mines are found here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Granites gold mine ○ Coyote Gold Mine
Tanami Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Northern territory of western Australia • Gold mines are found here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Granites Gold mine ○ Coyote Gold Mine
Gibson Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Northern territory of western Australia • Gold mines are found here <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Granites gold mine ○ Coyote Gold Mine

Rivers of Australia

- Australia has **two crucial rivers Murray and Darling.**
- **Darling** river originates from **the Great Dividing Range** and **Murray** from **Snowy Mountain.**
- **Temperate grassland** – ‘Downs’ are the **feature of the Murray darling Basin.**
- **Most of the rivers drain into lakes.** (Inland drainage basins)

Rivers	Features
Murray River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Australian Alps • Mouth: Southern Ocean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Murray River is Australia’s longest river and is located in the southeastern region of Australia. ○ The Murray River acts as a mouth for some other major Australian rivers. ○ The Murray River flows through South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.
Murrumbidgee River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Peppercorn Hill • Mouth: Murray River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Murrumbidgee River is Australia’s second-longest river and is located in the south-eastern region of Australia
Darling River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Culgoa River and Barwon River • Mouth: Murray River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The darling River is the third-longest river in Australia and is located in New South Wales.
Lachlan River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: The Great Dividing Range • Mouth: Murray River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Lachlan River flows through New South Wales, and is dammed to form the Wyangala Reservoir near Cowra
Warrego River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source: Mount Ka Ka Mundi • Mouth: Darling River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flows from Queensland down to New South Wales. ○ The name ‘Warrego’ is believed to mean “bad”. It is also an Aboriginal term meaning “River of Sand”

Cooper Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source: The Great Dividing Range ● Mouth: Lake Eyre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooper Creek travels from Queensland to South Australia.
Paroo River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source: Augathella ● Mouth: Darling River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Paroo River consists of lots of water holes ○ It flows from Queensland down to New South Wales. ○ In 2007 the Paroo River Wetlands was listed as a wetland of national importance

Lakes of Australia

Lakes	Features
Lake Eyre/Kati Thanda (South Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: South Australia and covers an area of 9690 sq. km. ● Type: endorheic and Salt Lake, which is mainly a dried basin for most of the year ● It is considered the lowest natural point in Australia.
Lake Mackay (Western Australia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Type: ephemeral Salt Lake ● Location: Pilbara and Goldfields-Esperance region of the northern portion of Western Australia.
Lake Amadeus (Northern Territory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Type: Salt Lake ● Location: southwestern corner of Australia's Northern Territory (north of Uluru/Ayers Rock) ● The lake forms a part of the larger Amadeus Basin. ● Lake Amadeus is the Northern Territory's largest Salt Lake.
Lake Garnpung (New South Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: Willandra Lakes region in the western part of the Australian state of New South Wales. ● Garnpung Lake is located to the north of Lake Mungo National Park.
Lake Gordon (Tasmania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Type: Artificial reservoir created by the damming of the Gordon River by the 140m high Gordon Dam. ● location: southwest region of the Australian island state of Tasmania. ● Lake Gordon is considered the largest lake in Tasmania.
Lake Dalrymple (Queensland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Type: Man-made reservoir created by the damming of the Burdekin River by the 876m long Burdekin Falls Dam. ● Location: the northern portion of the Australian state of Queensland. ● Lake Dalrymple serves as a popular tourist destination and offers many recreational activities such as fishing, boating, water sports, etc. for its visitors.
Lake Corangamite (Victoria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Also referred to as Kronimite by the indigenous people. ● Type: A hypersaline endorheic lake in state of victoria ● Lake Corangamite is considered the largest permanent saline lake in Australia. ● The lake forms a part of Victoria's Western District Lakes that have been designated as "wetlands of international importance" under the Ramsar convention. ● Lake Corangamite Complex has also been recognized by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area as it often supports an internationally significant number of waterbirds.

Straits of Australia

Strait	Connects	Separates
Bass Strait	Tasman sea and the great Australian bight	Tasmania and Australia's mainland
Torres strait	Coral Sea to Arafura Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria	Australia and New Guinea

Gulfs of Australia

Gulfs	Features
Gulf of Carpentaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shallow sea enclosed on three sides by northern Australia, and the eastern Arafura Sea encloses the north side ● The Gulf hosts a submerged coral reef province that was only recognised in 2004.
Gulf of Cambridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location: The north coast of the Kimberley region of Western Australia. ● Rivers: Ord River, Pentecost River, Durack River, King River and the Forrest River, making the environment an estuarine one

4. Europe

- Europe is a continent of **peninsulas, islands, and varied landforms.**
- **Physical Boundaries:**
 - **North:** The Arctic Ocean
 - **South:** Mediterranean Sea
 - **West:** Atlantic Ocean
 - **East:** Ural Mountains
- A **portion of Turkey** is in Europe, but **Turkey is considered a part of Asia.**
- Europe is also **close to North Africa**, and **Morocco's coast** can be seen across **the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain.**
- **Prime meridian:**
 - United Kingdom
 - France
 - Spain

Physical Division of Europe

Physical Division	Description
Western Uplands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also known as the Northern Highlands, curve up the western edge of Europe and define the physical landscape of Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark), Finland, Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, the Brittany region of France, Spain, and Portugal. • A fjord is a long and narrow inlet of the sea that is surrounded by high, rugged cliffs. Many of Europe's fjords are located in Iceland and Scandinavia.
North European Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends from the southern United Kingdom east to Russia. • It includes parts of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Poland, the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), and Belarus. • It is home to many navigable rivers, including the Rhine, Weser, Elbe, Oder, and Vistula
Central Upland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends east-west across central Europe and include western France and Belgium, southern Germany, the Czech Republic, and parts of northern Switzerland and Austria. • Important highlands in this region include the Massif Central and the Vosges in France, the Ardennes of Belgium
Alpine Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes the mountains of the Alps, Pyrenees, Apennines, Dinaric Alps, Balkans, and Carpathians. • High elevations, rugged plateaus, and steeply sloping land define the region. • Europe's highest peak, Mount Elbrus (5,642 m), is in the Caucasus mountains of Russia. • Also includes active volcanoes, such as Mount Etna and Mount Vesuvius in Italy

Rivers of Europe

Rivers	Features
Danube River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Danube River is considered the second-longest river in the European continent. • Origin: The Black Forest region of Germany • Drains: Black Sea via the Danube Delta. • Countries: Germany, Austria, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Moldova. • The Danube River is one of the most significant commercial waterways on the European continent. • It is an important source of drinking water, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, fishing, and navigation, for the 10 countries that share its waters. • The Rhine-Main-Danube Canal connects the Danube River with the North Sea.
Dnieper River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth-longest River in Europe. • Origin: Valdai Hills (Russia) • Drains: The Black Sea
Don River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifth-longest River in Europe. • Origin: Novomoskovsk, Russia. • It then flows in a southeasterly direction towards the Volga River. • Drain: The Gulf of Taganrog in the Sea of Azov. • The Lenin Volga-Don Shipping Canal links the Don River with the Volga
Elbe River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin: Krkonose Mountains (Poland and the Czech Republic boundary) • Drains: North Sea. • It then flows through Bohemia in the northwestern part of the Czech Republic and enters Germany through its eastern side
Po River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Po River is Italy's longest river. • Origin: Cottian Alps • Drain: Adriatic Sea

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cities of Milan and Turin, which serve as major industrial centers in the country, utilize the waters of the Po River for industrial purposes.
Volga River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Volga River is the longest river on the European continent. National River of the Russian Federation. Origin: Valdai Hills Drains: Caspian Sea. Many hydroelectric reservoirs were built on the Volga River. These reservoirs are Volgograd, Saratov, Uglich, Gorky, and Cheboksary.
Rhine River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origin: Swiss Alps, Switzerland. Drain: North Sea international boundary: Switzerland and Liechtenstein and Switzerland and Austria. In Austria, the river flows into Lake Constance. The river then flows westwards out of the lake as High Rhine and forms Switzerland's northeastern border with Germany. It is referred to as the Upper Rhine This part Forms the international boundary between Germany and France The principal cities along the Rhine River include Düsseldorf, Basel, Rotterdam, Cologne, and Strasbourg.

Seas of Europe

Seas	Features
Mediterranean Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mediterranean Sea is one of the largest seas in the world. Physical Boundaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North: Europe South: Africa East: Asia West: The Atlantic Ocean via the narrow Strait of Gibraltar. Countries: Greece, Spain, Italy, France, Croatia, Algeria, etc.
Adriatic Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the northernmost extension of the Mediterranean Sea that separates the eastern part of the Italian Peninsula from the countries of the Balkan Peninsula. Surrounded by the Apennine Mountains, Dinaric Alps, and other adjacent mountain ranges. Countries: Italy, Croatia, Albania, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Aegean Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is located between Anatolia and the Balkan peninsulas. seven major groups of islands: Cyclades, Crete, Dodecanese, North Aegean Islands, Saronic, Sporades, and the West Aegean Islands.
Alboran Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westernmost portion of the Mediterranean Sea Location: Between the Iberian Peninsula and the northern part of Africa. Physical boundaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West: Gibraltar sea North: Spain South: Algeria and Morocco in the south. The Strait of Gibraltar, which lies at the extreme western end of the Alboran Sea, connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.
Balearic Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often referred to as the Iberian Sea. The Balearic Sea is a portion of the Mediterranean Sea Physical Boundaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West: Spain, North: France, East: Sardinia and the Corsica Islands.
Baltic Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Baltic Sea is one of the marginal seas of the Atlantic Ocean. Countries: Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark, and Russia's Kaliningrad region. It is estimated that over 250 rivers and small streams drain into the Baltic Sea. Significant islands like Gotland, Saaremaa, Oland, Lolland, etc. are located in the Baltic Sea.
Barents Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated along the northern coasts of Russia and Norway.