

OVERVIEW OF EUROPE



5 REGIONS OF EUROPE

- Western Europe
- Eastern Europe
- British Isles
- Northern (Nordic) Europe
- Mediterranean Europe

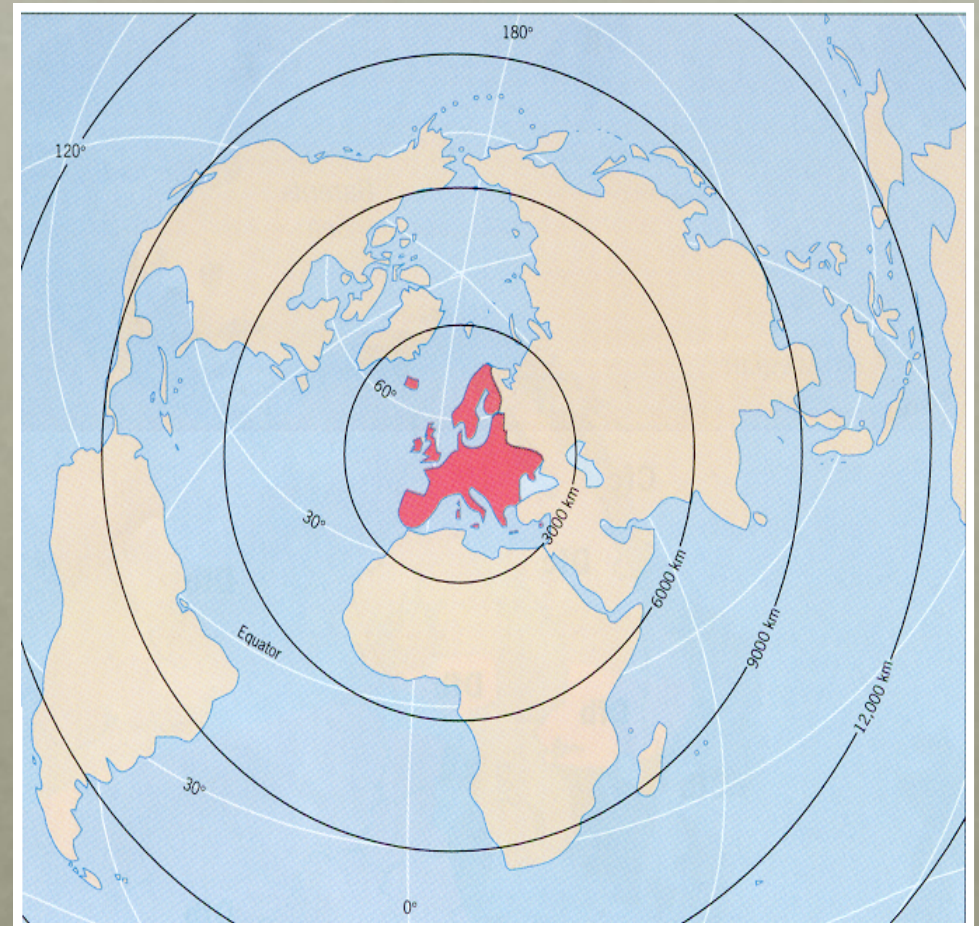


GEOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Pervasive (present everywhere) **world influence**
- Industrialized
- Numerous **nation-states**
- **Urbanized** population
- High standards of living in more developed countries
- East vs. West differences
- Unusual continent as a peninsula of peninsulas

IMPORTANCE OF LOCATION

- Centrally located with capability of contact with rest of world.
- Every part of Europe is close to the sea (within 300 miles).
- Navigable waterways
- Moderate distances

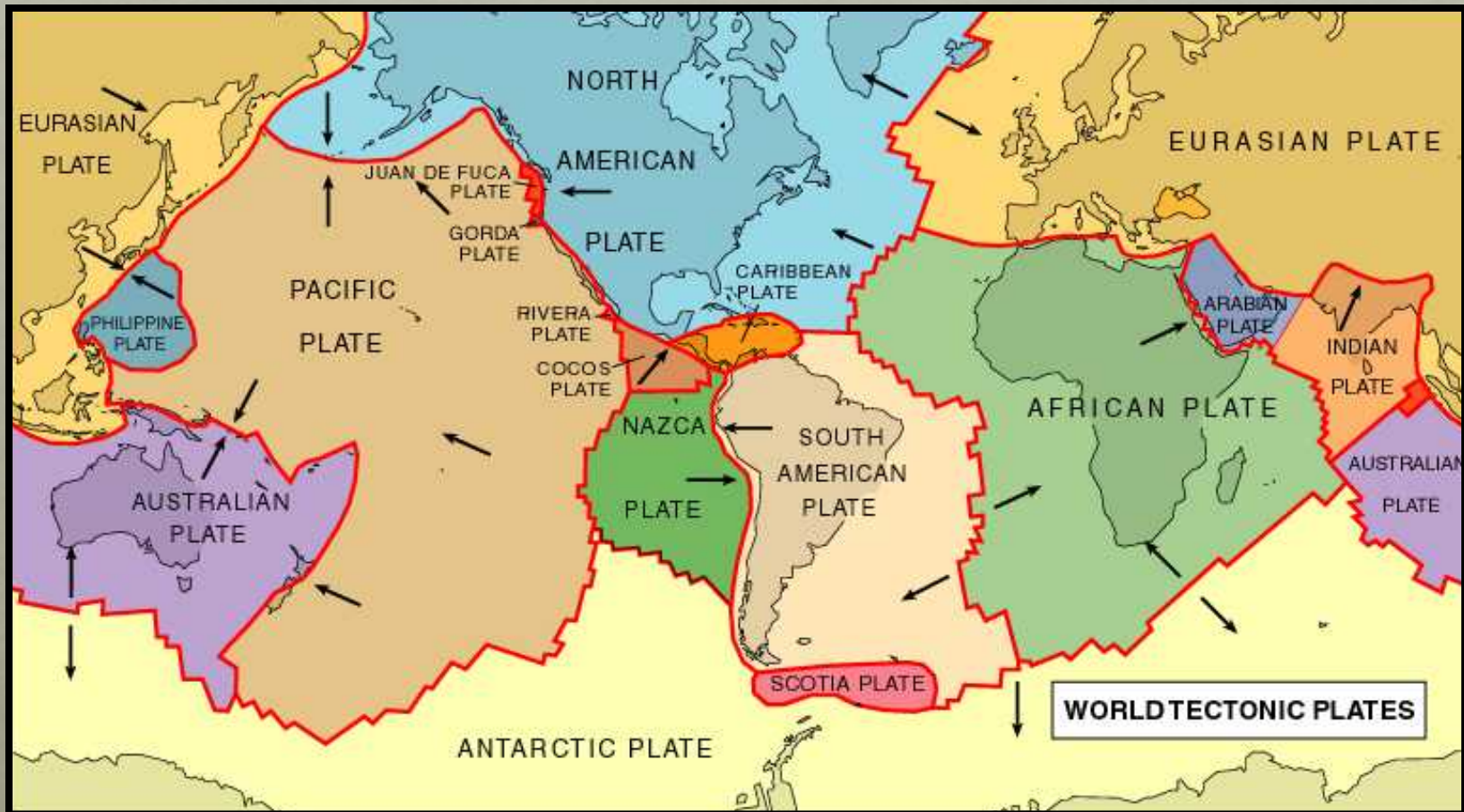


PHYSICAL LANDSCAPES

- Alpine Areas:
 - The Alps
 - Pyrenees
 - Carpathians
- Peninsulas:
 - Scandinavia,
 - Italian,
 - Iberian
 - Balkan
- North European Plain



SEISMIC ACTIVITY



Volcanoes and earthquakes often occur on the boundary of Eurasian Plate.

EUROPE'S ISLANDS

- **Iceland**, an island south of the Arctic Circle in the North Atlantic Ocean, features volcanoes, hot springs, and geysers.
- The **British Isles**—primarily Ireland and Great Britain—are cool, hilly, and rainy.
- In the Mediterranean, five large islands—**Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Cyprus, and Crete**—all have rugged terrain and volcanic mountains.
- **Greece's** nearly 2,000 islands in the Aegean Sea have rugged landscapes and a sunny climate that attracts tourists
 - Aegean Sea – **graben** (an area of land that dropped down between faults)



EUROPE'S CLIMATE

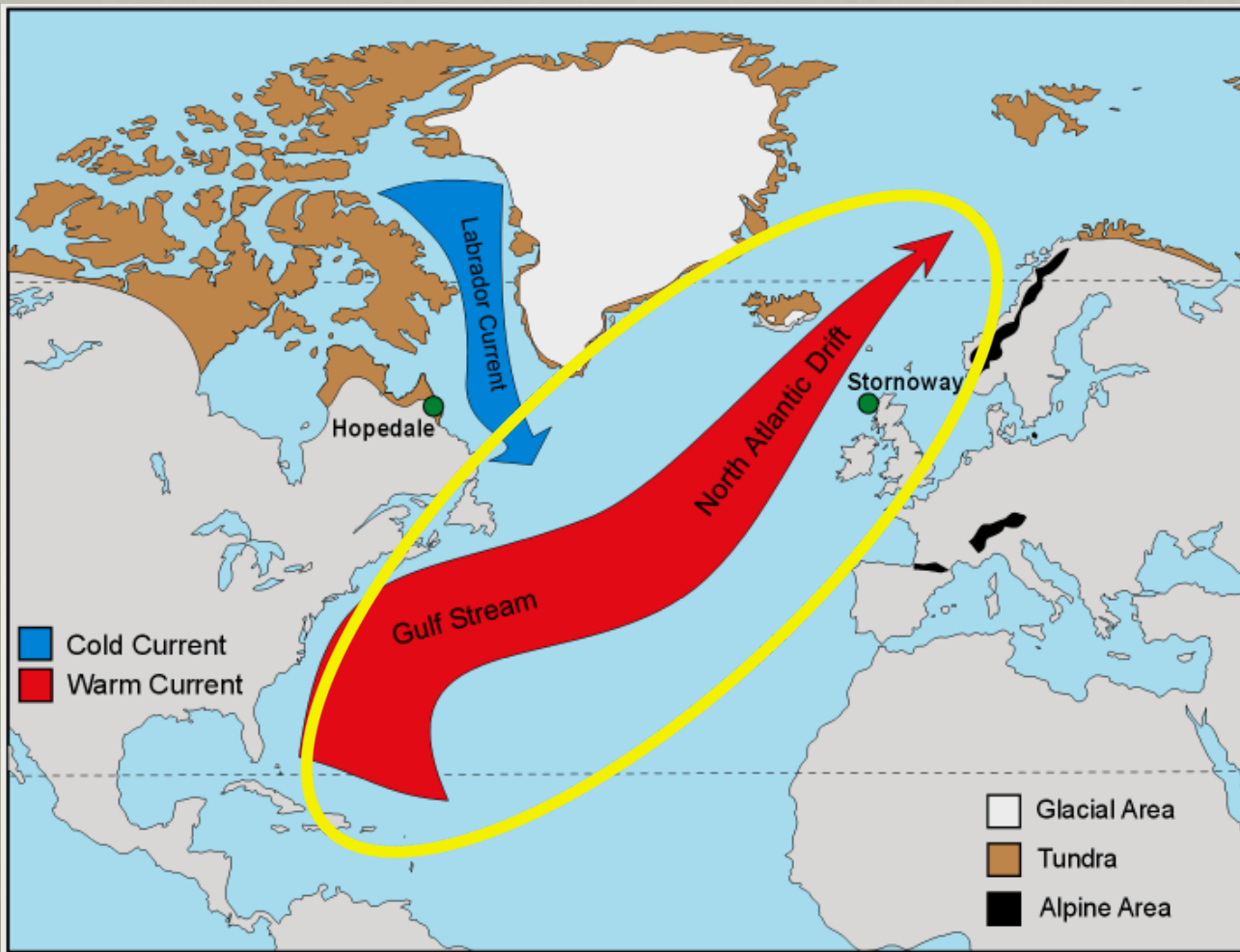
- **Marine West Coast** dominates Western Europe.
- **Humid Continental** dominates eastern Europe.
- There are pockets of arid areas (**steppe**) and **highland** climate.
- The dry summers of **Mediterranean** climate are found along the Mediterranean coastline.



GENERALIZATIONS ON CLIMATE

- Countries closer to warm Atlantic ocean currents and winds have milder temperatures than those farther east and north.
- European climates vary according to distance from the sea (idea of **continentality** - the tendency of land to experience more thermal variation than water, due to the land's lower specific heat capacity).

CLIMATE



North Atlantic Drift – (also known as the North Atlantic Current) part of a ocean-current system in the North Atlantic Ocean, extending from southeast of the Grand Bank, off Newfoundland, Canada, to the Norwegian Sea, off northwestern Europe.

The warm wind coming off of this water helps create a temperate climate along the eastern coast of North America and the western part of Europe. It is very important to the climate of the continent of Europe.

BIOMES AND LAND USE

- Most of Europe is **Temperate Mixed Forest**, that is typically cleared for farming.
- Areas of Scandinavia are **Coniferous forests**.
- The Mediterranean coastline has scrubby vegetation known as **chaparral**.



- Land use is typically **Mixed Farming** or **Dairy Farming**.
- Mediterranean farming would include the **wine industry** and **olive oil production**.
- Much of the highlands in the British Isles is used for **grazing**.



REGIONS OF EUROPE

Regions of Europe

	Western Europe	Eastern Europe	British Isles	Northern Europe	Mediterranean Europe
Country					
Capital					
Physical Landscape					
Climate					