This year-long series is presented in collaboration with the Connecticut Geographic Alliance.

# Germany



### **COUNTRY VIEW**

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Suten morgen, good morning! Welcome to Germany! Did you know that Disney's Cinderella castle is actually a replica of Germany's famous Neuschwanstein castle? The storied country of Germany is home to many beautiful and iconic castles. This beautiful country has many incredible sights to see and friendly people everywhere. The people who live here speak German, but many also speak English, especially in tourist areas. The country has a varied landscape with tumbling hills and mountainous landscapes. There are many quaint villages and large cities, like Berlin, the capital, or Frankfurt. The possible activities in Germany are endless! Take a day trip to the city of Munich, and

you will be hit by a wave of aromas both familiar and unfamiliar; there are restaurants and food vendors selling bratwurst, pretzels, schnitzel, currywurst, potato salad, mashed potato, weisswurst, and pumpernickel to name a few. This city also boasts many beer gardens that feature dancing. But by far the most impressive thing about Germany is how both old and new architecture dot the landscape. Germany is home to the autobahn, an impressive highway system. Once you step foot on German ground, you will never want to leave it.



# MAPPING ACTIVITY



From 1961 to 1989, the Berlin barrier wall divided Germany into two separate nations, West Berlin and Eastern Berlin. West Berlin was a democracy and East Berlin became a member country of the Communist Soviet Union. The military on both sides took illegal border crossings very seriously and anyone

who dared to cross could face imprisonment or death. To legally get to the other side of the wall, you would need to get patted down, have any bags you brought thoroughly checked. If you had family on the other side of the wall, it could be very difficult to see them. It was also hard, if not impossible, to get communications through the wall. On October 3, 1990, the Berlin wall came down and Germany was reunified. Use the map to think about how a border wall made life difficult for the country's civilians.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Berlin-wall-map.png

**RESOURCES** 

http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/article?id=ar222500&st=germany#tab=homepage http://www.germany.travel/en/travel-information/useful-facts/travel-information.html http://www.dhm.de/

**LOCATION:** Germany's location on a map is (51.1657° N, 10.4515° E) Germany's neighbors are: Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Austria, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

PLACE: Celebrations, dancing, beer, food, high german, low german, castles, varying landscapes, economic system, greenlands, populated, Europe.

### **HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION:**

German people use the varied landscapes to do many things such as: winter sporting in the mountains, castles on the plains, and rivers for well water (when filtered)

**MOVEMENT:** Germans usually drive cars on the autobahn. But, you can also go on boats, planes, buses, bikes, trolleys or your feet to get places. People got to Germany by immigrating through Europe

**REGION:** Germany is a region with a varied landscape, similar languages, many buildings, and very nice people.

## Did You Know?

- Germans speak two languages: high German and low German
- It is the second most populated country in Europe (second to Russia)
- Germany has the second most neighboring (bordering) countries (second to Russia)
- Many Germans eat their main meal of the day at noon with their families at home
- Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven are some of the most successful composers and were both born in Germany
- · Germany has contributed many scientists to the world, such as Albert Einstein, who excelled in astronomy, chemistry, mathematics, and physics

### **GLOBAL GOALS**

Germany has been taking the lead in Global Goal #13 Climate Action by cutting emissions and working toward cleaner energy. By reducing their "carbon footprint" they have developed new technologies and standards for energy use. What is a "carbon footprint?" Using the news, find out what efforts are being made around the world to work toward the Climate Action Global Goal.

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/15/climate/germany-coal.htm