**Location**

**1. Explore Europe and Russia’s Location**

A geographer must know where a place is located in order to study it. Use the map at left to describe Europe and Russia’s location relative to the United States. Which ocean separates Europe and Russia from the United States?

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Which is closer to the equator, Europe and Russia or the United States?

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Which is closer to the Arctic Circle?

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Many people think the climates of Europe and the United States are similar. Look at the map. Then list 2-3 reasons why this might be so.

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**Place**

**2. Explore Europe and Russia’s Size**

Are Europe and Russia together larger or smaller than the United States?

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How does the size of Europe alone compare to that of the continental United States?

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Based on what you know, estimate the number of countries in Europe.

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**Place**

**3. Explore Europe and Russia**

Russia is not only the largest country on Eurasia, the largest landmass upon which Europe and Asia are located, but it is also the largest country in the world. Some of the smallest countries in the world are also located in Europe. Which European countries are the smallest?

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Europe is surrounded by several important seas. What are the names of the seas that surround Europe.

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**Regions**

**4. Predict Climate and Its Effects**

Find the Arctic Circle on the map. In regions north of the circle, there is a day when the sun never sets and a day when it never rises! Regions this far north are also very cold. Which countries have areas that lie north of the Arctic Circle?

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How do you think the cold climate affects the way people in these areas live?

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**Location**

**5. Identify the Mountains of Europe and Russia**

The Alpine mountain chain stretches through much of central and southern Europe. It includes the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Carpathians, the Balkans, and the Caucasus. Find these mountains on the map. Locate the Ural Mountains. They form the border between the western part of Russia that is in Europe and the eastern part that is Asia.

**Location**

**6. Locate Europe’s Peninsulas**

Europe has several major peninsulas. A peninsula is a piece of land that is almost completed surrounded by water. Which peninsula is farthest north?

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 What bodies of water border this peninsula?

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Name Europe’s other peninsulas.

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Notice that even the continent of Europe itself is one big peninsula.

**Movement**

**7. Plan Geo Leo’s Trip on the Rails**

Geo Leo wants to explore Europe and Russia by train. Read the goals he has set for his trip. Then, use the map below to help him plan generally which route he should take. Estimate the distance of each route.

A. “After my plane lands in Paris, I want to travel to Warsaw by the shortest route.” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. “From Warsaw, I want to go as far north as possible on my way to Moscow.”

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C. “From Moscow, I want to travel to Rome. I want to pass through as many major cities as I can on the way.”

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D. “From Rome, I will need to head straight back to Paris. What’s the shortest route I can take?”

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Bonus: Using the physical map on the previous page and the map below, describe the physical features over which Geo Leo will travel during his train trip.

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**Place**

**8. Compare Population Densities**

Population density is the average number of people living within a certain area. Compare the parts of Europe that have many people to the parts that have only a few people. Do the same for Russia. How would you describe the population densities of the two regions?

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What geographic features might explain the low population density of countries like Finland and Norway?

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What other factors might affect population?

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**Interaction**

**9. Analyzing Population Charts**

Find the five largest cities in Europe on the map. Which cities are located on the coast?

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Which cities are located far inland?

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How do you think life in these cities is different due to their inland or coastal locations?

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Study the chart on the next page. Which two cities are located in Russia?

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How would you describe the rest of the country’s population density?

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**Regions**

**10. Compare Climates in Europe and Russia**

As you can see on the map below, Europe and Russia have a wide variety of climates. Compare Russia’s climates to those in Europe. Does Europe have a greater or lesser variety?

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Look at the Five Most Populated Cities chart. In which climate regions are the two most populated cities in Europe and Russia located?

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