

# 1.1 GEOGRAPHY OF GERMANY

## What can physical land features reveal about the geographic patterns found in a country?

<p><b>C3 Framework Indicator</b></p>	<p><b>D2.Geo.1.3-5.</b> Construct maps and other graphic representations of both familiar and unfamiliar places.</p> <p><b>D2.Geo.6.3-5.</b> Describe how environmental and cultural characteristics influence population distribution in specific places or regions.</p>	
<p><b>Staging the Compelling Question</b></p>	<p>Students will become familiar with the primary location of Germany and German states; its location on the European continent and with surrounding nations; the location of major water and landforms; and what geographic patterns can be found in relation to major cities and landforms or water.</p>	
<p><b>Supporting Question 1</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Question 2</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Question 3</b></p>
<p>What are Germany's physical land features?</p>	<p>How do physical land features impact where people choose to live?</p>	<p>What physical land features make a region most habitable?</p>
<p><b>Formative Performance Task</b></p>	<p><b>Formative Performance Task</b></p>	<p><b>Formative Performance Task</b></p>
<p>Using various maps, student pairs will identify Germany's nine neighbors, its <i>Länder</i>, major water sources, landforms, and cities.</p>	<p>Using maps, student pairs will complete the Germany Map Challenge.</p>	<p>Students will examine their completed maps and discuss patterns of human settlement based on the topography. Where would they like to live?</p>
<p><b>Featured Sources</b></p>	<p><b>Featured Sources</b></p>	<p><b>Featured Sources</b></p>
<p><b>Source A:</b> Handout 1.1.1  <b>Source B:</b> Handout 1.1.2  <b>Source C:</b> Germany Physical Map  <b>Source D:</b> Political Map of Europe  <b>Source E:</b> Political Map of Germany</p>	<p><b>Source A:</b> Completed Outline Map of Germany  <b>Source B:</b> Handout 1.1.3  <b>Source C:</b> Handout 1.1.4  <b>Source D:</b> Germany Population Density Map  <b>Source E:</b> Political Map of Germany</p>	<p><b>Source A:</b> Completed Outline Map of Germany  <b>Source B:</b> Political Map of Germany</p>
<p><b>Summative Performance Task</b></p>	<p><b>Argument:</b> Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical or contemporary sources while acknowledging competing views.</p> <p><b>Extension:</b> Have students write a letter or postcard to a friend or family member that explains some of the physical land features that surround their new home and potential activities associated with them. Their goal is to persuade their friend or family to move there as well.</p>	
<p><b>Taking Informed Action</b></p>	<p><b>Understand:</b> Know the physical features in your area so that you can better understand your community, its demographics, and the local economy.</p> <p><b>Assess:</b> Determine if a geocaching club exists in your area.</p> <p><b>Act:</b> Join or create a geocaching club that will encourage interest in the physical environment.</p>	

## ❓ COMPELLING QUESTION

- What can physical land features reveal about the geographic patterns in a country?

### INQUIRY OVERVIEW

Students will become familiar with the primary location of Germany and German states (*Länder*); its location on the European continent and with surrounding nations; the location of major water and landforms; and geographic patterns in relation to major cities and landforms/water.

### TEACHER BACKGROUND

Germany (officially, The Federal Republic of Germany) is situated in the heart of Europe and is bordered by Denmark on the north; Poland and the Czech Republic on the east; Austria and Switzerland on the south; and France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands on the west.

Germany has coastlines on the North and Baltic Seas on the north. The northern part of the country is mostly flat, and the terrain is hilly in central and southern Germany. The Alps run along the border with Austria; the rugged Black Forest lies in the southwest; the Bohemian Forest is along the Czech border. Major rivers include the Rhine in the west, the Danube in the south, the Elbe and Weser in the North, and the Oder in the east. In area, Germany is the sixth largest country in Europe, and the fourth largest in the European Union (EU). Its territory encompasses roughly 357,581 square kilometers or 138,062 square miles. As of the end of 2019, 50.7 percent of the country's area was arable (an increase of 27 percent since 1990); 29.8 percent was covered with forests; 14.4 percent comprised urban areas; 2.3 percent consisted of surface water, and 2.8 percent was devoted to other uses.

Politically, Germany is a federal parliamentary republic of sixteen states or *Länder*. The territory of former East Germany (divided into five new *Länder* in 1990) constitutes almost one-third of united Germany's territory and one-fifth of its population. In 1990, Berlin became the capital of Germany once again, and in 1999 it became the official seat of government. The twelve most densely populated cities in Germany are Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt am Main, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Leipzig, Dortmund, Essen, Bremen, and Dresden.

After reunification in 1990, Germany became a founding member of the EU and has the largest population (approximately 83 million people) in the EU. Germany is home to the world's fourth largest economy, and it is one of the largest exporters of goods to other parts of the world.

#### ► Sources

- BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V. (2020). Wiesen und Weiden in Bayern - Wichtig für Mensch und Natur. <https://www.bund-naturschutz.de/natur-und-landschaft/wiesen-und-weiden-in-bayern>.
- Facts about Germany. (2021). <https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en>.
- Statistisches Bundesamt. (2019). Daten aus dem Gemeindeverzeichnis Städte in Deutschland nach Fläche, Bevölkerung, und Bevölkerungsdichte. <https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Laender-Regionen/Regionales/Gemeindeverzeichnis/Administrativ/05-staedte.html>.
- Umweltbundesamt. (2019) Struktur der Flächennutzung. <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/daten/flaeche-boden-land-oekosysteme/flaeche/struktur-der-flaechennutzung#die-wichtigsten-flaechennutzungen>.



 **TIME:** One to two 45-minute periods

## INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- Blank Outline Map of Germany (**Handout 1.1.1**)
- Map Fill-In Instruction Sheet (**Handout 1.1.2**)
- Germany Map Challenge: Physical Features and Population Density (**Handout 1.1.3**)
- Germany Map Challenge: Physical Features and Population Density Answer Key (**Handout 1.1.4**)
- freeworldmaps.net. Germany Physical Map. Retrieved January 22, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/germany/map.html>.
- vividmaps.com. (2021). Germany Population Density. <https://vividmaps.com/germany-is-still-divided-by-east-and-west/germany-population-density-2/>.
- freeworldmaps.net. Political Map of Europe. Retrieved April 02, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/political.html>.
- mapsofworld.com. (2015). Political Map of Germany. <https://www.mapsofworld.com/germany/germany-political-map.html>.
- Sticky notes
- TUBS. (November 30, 2011). *Relief Map of Germany*. Wikipedia Commons. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Relief\\_Map\\_of\\_Germany.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Relief_Map_of_Germany.svg).



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## INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

**Option 1:** Display images of different ecosystems (desert, rainforest, coastline, plain, etc.). Students should answer the following:

- Which area would be the best place to live?
- What makes you say that?

**Option 2:** Divide students into small groups. Each group should rank the ecosystems displayed from most to least livable. Each group must explain their rankings.

## SUPPORTING QUESTION 1

### *What are Germany's physical land features?*

#### ► Formative Performance Task

Using the Political Map of Europe, student pairs identify the nine nations that are Germany's neighbors and label each on their own Blank Outline Map of Germany (**Handout 1.1.1**).

Using the Political Map of Germany and the Germany Physical Map, the student pairs should label each German *Land* and locate and label the major water sources, landforms, and cities in Germany on their own **Handout 1.1.1**, as listed on the Map Fill-In Instruction Sheet (**Handout 1.1.2**).

#### ► Resources

- Blank Outline Map of Germany (**Handout 1.1.1**)
- Map Fill-In Instruction Sheet (**Handout 1.1.2**)
- freeworldmaps.net. Germany Physical Map. Retrieved January 22, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/germany/map.html>.
- freeworldmaps.net. Political Map of Europe. Retrieved April 2, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/political.html>.
- mapsofworld.com. (2015). Political Map of Germany. <https://www.mapsofworld.com/germany/germany-political-map.html>.

## ? SUPPORTING QUESTION 2

### *How do physical land features impact where people choose to live?*

#### ► Formative Performance Task

Using the Population Density Map, the Political Map of Germany, and the completed **Handout 1.1.1**, student pairs will complete the Germany Map Challenge (**Handout 1.1.3**).

Note: Based on student learning needs, the teacher should model how to complete questions on the map challenge worksheet. As students become more familiar with how to answer questions on the map challenge, they can begin to work independently or in pairs.

#### ► Resources

- Completed Outline Map of Germany (**Handout 1.1.1**) from **Formative Performance Task 1**
- Germany Map Challenge: Physical Features and Population Density (**Handout 1.1.3**)
- Germany Map Challenge: Physical Features and Population Density Answer Key (**Handout 1.1.4**)
- vividmaps.com. (2021). Germany Population Density. <https://vividmaps.com/germany-is-still-divided-by-east-and-west/germany-population-density-2/>.
- mapsofworld.com. (2015). Political Map of Germany. <https://www.mapsofworld.com/germany/germany-political-map.html>.

## ? SUPPORTING QUESTION 3

### *What physical land features make a region the most habitable?*

#### ► Formative Performance Task

Ask students to examine their completed maps (**Handout 1.1.1**) with a partner, and discuss what the patterns of human settlement might be based on the topography. What issues might arise from these human–environmental relationships? For example, why are there fewer major cities located in mountainous areas? What human-made settlements might be located in these areas?

Display the Political Map of Germany. Give each student a sticky note and ask them to write down where they would live and why, based on the physical land features in Germany. Have students place their sticky notes on the map.

#### ► Resources

- Completed Outline Map of Germany (**Handout 1.1.1**) from **Formative Performance Task 1**
- mapsofworld.com. (2015). Political Map of Germany. <https://www.mapsofworld.com/germany/germany-political-map.html>.
- Sticky notes

## ✓ SUMMATIVE PERFORMANCE TASK

### *What can physical land features reveal about the geographic patterns found in a country?*

Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources while acknowledging competing views.

## ✚ EXTENSION (OPTIONAL) TASK

Tell students to imagine that they have moved to a city in Germany. Have students write a letter or postcard to a friend or family member that explains some of the physical land features that surround their new home and potential activities associated with them. Their goal is to persuade their friend or family to move there as well.

## ★ TAKING INFORMED ACTION

**Understand:** Know the physical features in your area so that you can better understand your community, its demographics, and the local economy.

**Assess:** Determine if a geocaching club exists in your area.

**Act:** Join or create a geocaching club that will foster interest in the physical environment.

## CONCEPTS LIST

- Physical land features
- Population density (urban vs. rural)
- Map skills
- Atlas
- Mountains
- Rivers
- Plateau
- *Land/Länder*
- Border
- Political boundaries
- Habitable
- Ecosystem
- Topography
- Demographics
- Arable