

West Central Europe

TODAY

Bell Activity Page 49

What happens when cultures collide?

Learning Objectives

- List characteristics of West Central Europe's rich cultural heritage.
- Explain West Central Europe's ties to international partnerships such as the EU.
- Identify main ideas and details about life in Central Europe.
- Label West Central Europe's countries on a map.

MAP Western Central Europe

Austria
Belgium
France
Germany
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Monaco
Netherlands
Switzerland

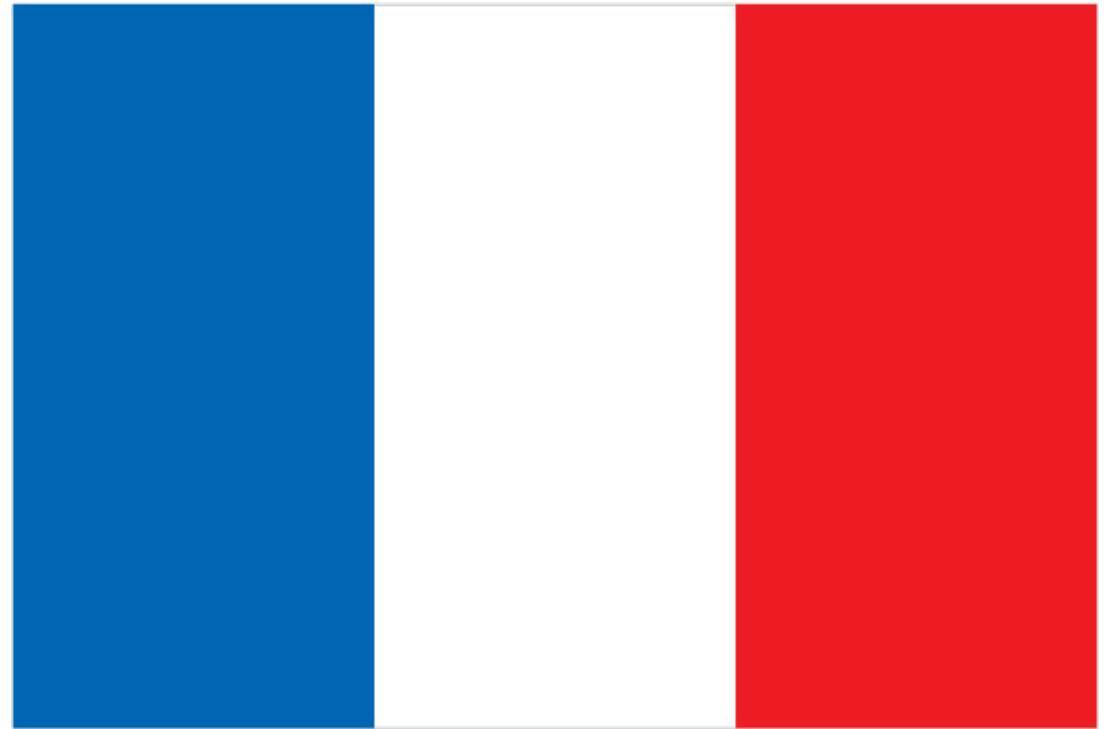


West Central Europe

- All Central Western European countries are a part of the EU except Switzerland, Monaco and Liechtenstein.
- France and Germany are the largest EU members by population.
- Why do the larger countries have more of an advantage in the EU?
- The nations that started the EU are in Central Western Europe.

France

- Fertile Soil
- Mild Climate
- Large areas of level land
- Produce wines, cheeses and grains reaching many countries around the world with the help of the EU.
- Largest Industry: Tourism
- Republic with centralized government



Paris

- Paris is the capital and known as the City of Light.
- Population of Paris is over 2 million people
- Over 5 million immigrants live in France and 200,000-400,000 are living in the country illegally. Many come from N and W Africa.



- France offers money to immigrants to return home.
- France was historically Catholic but with the influx of immigrants from Africa, there is a large population of Muslims whom practice Islam.



Belgium

- All small in size but politically and economically powerful
- EU and NATO have headquarters located in Brussels, the capitol of Belgium.
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Very little natural resources so relies on trade.



Belgium

- High standard of living and high GNP (gross national product)
 - Annual income of a nation's companies and residents
- 97% of Belgians live in cities
- Made of three regions
 - Flanders in the north where people speak Flemish
 - Wallonia in the south where people speak French
 - Brussels, where people speak both Flemish and French



Luxembourg

- Tiny and landlocked
- One of Europe's oldest and smallest countries
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Member of NATO and EU
- Most Citizens speak French, German and Luxembourgish which is a German dialect



Luxembourg

- Key industries of banking and media
 - Very strict banking laws so many people use Luxembourg banks



Netherlands aka Holland

- People are referred to as Dutch
- Sea Trading Nation
- More than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Netherlands is below sea level
 - Built dikes or levees a lot like dams.



- The Dutch live on Polders which are areas of reclaimed land from lakebeds or sea bottoms.
- The Dutch live in a fragile balance with the environment.
- Dutch Windmills aide in irrigation for farming.



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3Dzz0vSabl>