

## Important facts

- Europe is one of the seven continents and is the second smallest in size.
- There are 51 countries in Europe including England, France, Italy, Poland and part of Russia. The borders and existence of some of these countries has changed over the years, due to wars. 743 million people live in Europe. Most European countries use the Euro as their currency and the most common religion is Christianity.
- Russia is the largest country in the world by size.
- There is a huge variety of natural features in Europe: the Alps mountain range crosses France, Switzerland and Italy. There are also some volcanoes – more active ones include Vesuvius and Mount Etna in Italy. The longest river is the Volga, which runs through Russia. It is 2294 miles long! The capital of Russia is Moscow and its most famous landmark is St Basil's Cathedral, on Red Square. It was built in the 1500s.



## Key Vocabulary

border	A line separating two countries
currency	Money used in a country. British currency (pounds and pence) is called Sterling
Equator	An imaginary line of latitude which circles the Earth. It lies halfway between the North/ South Poles. It splits Earth into the Northern/ Southern Hemispheres.
independent	On its own, not tied to another country
Tropic of Cancer	An imaginary line of latitude which circles the Earth. It lies at 23 degrees north.
Tropic of Capricorn	An imaginary line of latitude which circles the Earth. It lies at 23 degrees south.
landmark	An object or feature that can be recognised from a distance

Latitude and longitude are a system of lines that are used to describe the location of any place on Earth.

### Latitude

-Lines of latitude run in an east-west direction across the Earth.

### Longitude

-Lines of longitude run in a north-south direction. Although lines of longitude and latitude are only imaginary, they exist on maps and atlases to help to show us where different places are.

