Chapter 11 Physical Geography
Pages 332 to 341
WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- **Countries of Western Europe**
  - UK, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Monaco, and Liechtenstein

- **Benelux Countries**
  - Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg

- **Northern European Plain**
  - France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, and most of Germany
  - Glaciers left behind very fertile soil
  - Fertile soil was good for building cities
WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

• Mountains
  • 2 mountain ranges
    • Pyrenees and the Alps
    • Both divide the cooler climates of the north from the warm, dry climates of the Mediterranean region.

• Pyrenees
  • Form a natural barrier between France and Spain
  • Stretching 270 miles
  • Pico de Aneto
    • Tallest mountain in Pyrenees at 11,169 feet

• Alps
  • Stretch 750 miles across France, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany
  • Mont Blanc is the Alps tallest mountain at 15,771 feet
WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- North Sea
  - Is part of the Atlantic Ocean but shallower
  - Separates Britain from the rest of Europe
  - It is a Rich fishing ground for the Netherlands and the UK
  - Important water way for trade
  - It has large oil and natural gas reserves
WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

• North Sea & The Netherlands
  - 25% of the country is below sea level
  - To adapt the Dutch have built **dikes**
    - Walls or barriers to hold back the water.
    - The Dutch call the land they reclaim from the sea **polders**
      - Land is used for farming and settlement
      - Can be dangerous if dikes break.

• British Isles
  - Also called the Atlantic Archipelago
  - Made up of the islands of Britain and Ireland
  - Great Britain also known as United Kingdom
    - Has 4 parts: England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland
  - Ireland is also called Eire
• **English Channel**

• Part of the Atlantic that separates Southern England from Northern France

• Busy sea route connecting the North Sea with the Atlantic

• The Chunnel is a tunnel that allows high speed trains to go under the English Channel and connect Britain to mainland Europe
WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- **Rivers**
  - Determined the location of:
    - **Cities**
      - Such as London, Paris, and Hamburg
    - **Provide transportation routes**
      - For goods and people
    - **Form political borders**
      - By linking canals they provide transportation networks deep into the continent
    - **Provide water**
      - Farming and electric power

- **Thames River**
  - 205 miles long
  - Flows through London
  - It becomes an ESTUARY toward the end
    - Where the sea connects to the lower end of a river
WESTERN EUROPE – PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- **Rhine River**
  - Busiest waterway in Europe
  - Begins in the Swiss Alps and empties into the North Sea
  - Connects industrial areas to the port of Rotterdam.
  - Makes up part of the boundary between France and Germany
  - Runs through the most populated region of Europe

- **Danube River**
  - Only major river in Europe that flows West to East
  - Eastern Europe's most important waterway
  - Empties into the Black Sea
• Western Europe is located at northern latitudes, but it has a milder climate than other places at the same latitudes.
• Why?
  • Location near the Atlantic Ocean
  • Warm winds off the ocean are the primary factor that shapes the region’s climate

• **Westerlies** – strong winds that travel from west to east blowing a constant stream of warm air from the sea to the land

• Why are winds warm? Gulf Stream moves warm tropical water up from the Equator to the coast of Europe. Also known as the North Atlantic Current.
Energy Sources
- Coal – used to fuel machines invented during the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, but in modern Europe it is declining in use.
- Peat – Used for heat, large masses of vegetable matter decay in the poorly drained soil.
- Oil and natural gas
  - United Kingdom and Norway are leading producers from the North Sea
- Hydroelectricity
Rich Soil

- Northern European Plain has the richest soils in Europe.
  - It contains humus, which is decomposed plant and animal material that makes soils rich and fertile and great for growing crops and raising livestock.

- France devotes more surface area to agriculture than any other country in the region.

- Deciduous –

- Coniferous --