

To complete the
comprehension
activities.

Wednesday 20th January 2021



Europe isn't a country but a continent. There are seven continents on Earth and each is divided into countries. Europe contains over 40 different countries, all of which have their own histories, traditions and cultures. France, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Norway and Spain are some of the countries in Europe.

Each individual country's culture is deeply rooted in different forms of art, architecture, literature, music, sport and even behaviour. Cultures have developed differently throughout Europe, while sharing some common themes.

Let's look at just a few of them.

German culture

German is the official language of Germany. Many other native languages are spoken too though, such as Polish, Kurdish and Danish, which shows how multi-cultural the country is. Many German classical musicians are world-famous, having composed some of the most recognisable concertos and symphonies in history. They include the composers Ludwig van Beethoven, Richard Wagner, Richard Strauss and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Sport in Germany is hugely important, too. The German men's football team has been ever-present in major competitions: they won World Cups in 1954, 1974, 1990 and 2014, and European Championships in 1972, 1980 and 1996. In motor sports, Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel have also won 11 Formula 1 World Championships between them.

Some of Germany's most famous exported foods are its delicious sausages: bratwurst, currywurst, bockwurst – and many more! Germany is also world-famous for its beer. Both sausages and beer are celebrated at its annual festival, Oktoberfest.

Danish culture

When you hear 'Denmark', you may think immediately of Vikings: fierce warriors who savagely invaded and raided other countries. However, Denmark nowadays has a strong culture promoting the arts and intellectual

pursuits. Theatre, music, sculpture, photography and film receive large amounts of government funding in comparison to other countries. Involvement in the arts is believed to have a great positive impact on people's happiness.

Cycling also plays a major role in many Danes' lives. In many cities, cycle lanes are clear and wide, meaning people can cycle as a mode of transport, cycle for fun and train to cycle competitively for teams. Over 1.3 million people cycle in the city of Copenhagen each day, while Odense was named 'bicycle city of the year' for its 350-kilometre network of cycle lanes.

Greek culture

When you think of Greece, you might think of its ancient legends: perhaps of Zeus, the king of the gods; Poseidon, god of the seas; and Hades, god of the underworld. Perhaps you think about the stories of the Trojan War, Theseus and the Minotaur, or Cerberus, the three-headed dog who guarded the gates of hell. Greek culture certainly remembers its mythical past, but strongly embraces the present.

Greece holds the record for the most gold medals won at the Olympics per person in the population, and its basketball team is successful: they even beat the USA's 'dream team' in the 2006 World Cup.

Greece is also famous for its cuisine. Fresh fish from the Mediterranean sea, sun-ripened vegetables, creamy feta cheese and lashings of olive oil also make it one of the healthiest in the world.

Symbols of culture

European culture is recognised around the world and is symbolised by some historic, iconic buildings. The Colosseum in Rome, Italy, symbolises military and theatrical prowess. The Louvre Museum, in Paris, France, embodies the French love of art and all things beautiful. The Parthenon, in Greece, illustrates the country's respect for its ancient culture and gods. In London, United Kingdom, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace represent democracy and the royal family.

Read the text and make sure you understand the language within it.

You are using this text for 3 days!

 **FIND AND COPY**



These questions are about *European culture*.

Look at paragraph one. Find and copy a word that suggests that continents are made up of more than one country.

Look at the 'German culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests the music that classical musicians wrote was familiar and well-known.

Look at the 'German culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that musicians wrote music.

Look at the 'German culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that German food is eaten in lots of other countries.

Look at the 'German culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Oktoberfest happens every year.

Look at the 'Danish culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that the Vikings took things from other places.

Look at the 'Greek culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that Cerberus protected hell.

Look at the 'Symbols of culture' section. Find and copy a word that suggests that the Parthenon shows others about Greece's respect for the gods.

Task 1:

Find and copy a word.

You must use your scanning and skimming skills to find a (one) word to complete the task.

 UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

Read the paragraphs below and then follow the instructions.

German is the official language of Germany. Many other native languages are spoken too though, such as Polish, Kurdish and Danish, representing how multi-cultural the country is. Many German classical musicians are world-famous, having composed some of the most recognisable concertos and symphonies in history. They include the composers Ludwig van Beethoven, Richard Wagner, Richard Strauss and Johann Sebastian Bach.

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Underline or highlight a word that means approved by a country's government.

Underline or highlight a word that means a very pleasant taste.

Underline or highlight a word that means honoured and marked publicly.

Underline or highlight a word that means linked to a particular place..

Underline or highlight a word that means sold to other countries.

Underline or highlight a word that means someone who plays an instrument as a hobby or job.

Task 2 – underline or highlight

Read the passage and follow the instructions. You are looking for words that mean something in the text.

Try not to use a dictionary for this, you need to identify words and meanings through reading only.



Answers on next slide

Please do not use answers unless you are finished!

FIND AND COPY

divided
recognisable
composed / composers
exported
annual
raided
guarded
illustrates

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

official
delicious
celebrated
native
exported
musician

