

1.4 GERMANY AND ITS NINE NEIGHBORS

How do shared regional characteristics enhance connections between neighboring countries?

<p>C3 Framework Indicator</p>	<p>D2.Geo.4.6-8. Explain how cultural patterns and economic decisions influence environments and the daily lives of people in both nearby and distant places.</p> <p>D2.Geo.5.6-8. Analyze the combinations of cultural and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from other places.</p> <p>D2.Geo.6.6-8. Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and cultures.</p>	
<p>Staging the Compelling Question</p>	<p>With a focus on regional characteristics, both physical and human, use the mapping activities to help students become more familiar with similarities and differences between Germany and its nine neighbors.</p>	
<p>Supporting Question 1</p> <p>How do physical land features shape Germany's relationship with its neighbors?</p>	<p>Supporting Question 2</p> <p>What do shared regional characteristics tell us about the human characteristics of neighboring countries?</p>	<p>Supporting Question 3</p> <p>How do countries in close proximity promote and enhance connections with their neighbors?</p>
<p>Formative Performance Task</p> <p>On a map, students will identify Germany and its nine neighbors. They will then identify shared physical features.</p>	<p>Formative Performance Task</p> <p>Using the resources, students will determine the official languages and religions of Germany and its nine neighbors.</p>	<p>Formative Performance Task</p> <p>Using the maps listed in the resources, students will complete the Follow the Clues: Travel Itinerary between Germany and the Nine Neighbors handout.</p>
<p>Featured Sources</p> <p>Source A: Handout 1.4.1</p> <p>Source B: Europe Physical Map</p> <p>Source C: Germany Physical Map</p>	<p>Featured Sources</p> <p>Source A: Handout 1.4.2</p> <p>Source B: Handout 1.4.3</p> <p>Source C: Map of most spoken foreign languages in the EU</p> <p>Source D: Official Languages Map</p> <p>Source E: The largest religions in Europe</p>	<p>Featured Sources</p> <p>Source A: Handout 1.4.4</p> <p>Source B: Handout 1.4.5</p> <p>Source C: Europe Physical Map</p> <p>Source D: Germany Physical Map</p> <p>Source E: Germany Map</p>
<p>Summative Performance Task</p>	<p>Argument: 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>Extension: Create a travel brochure for a German city, region, or the whole country that encourages Germany's neighbors to visit.</p>	
<p>Taking Informed Action</p>	<p>Understand: Frequently, areas of the United States are designated by region, for example, the northeast or southwest.</p> <p>Assess: What features do the states in your region have in common (physical land, human characteristics). What unique features does your region have that separates it from other regions?</p> <p>Act: Contact your local or state tourist organization to learn how these features encourage tourism.</p>	

❓ COMPELLING QUESTION

- How do shared regional characteristics enhance connections between neighboring countries?

INQUIRY OVERVIEW

Students will research Germany's nine neighboring countries and analyze each country's connections with Germany. With a focus on regional characteristics, both physical and human, mapping activities will be used to help students become more familiar with similarities and differences between Germany and its nine neighbors.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

Germany is a country located in Central Europe, bordered by nine neighbors: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, and Switzerland. Germany enjoys strong political, social, and economic ties with its neighbors. Germany and its neighbors, except for Switzerland, are part of the European Union (EU).

Germany shares various physical characteristics with its neighboring countries, such as the North European Plain, the North and Baltic Seas, the Rhine, the Alps, many forests including the Mundat, and lakes such as Lake Constance. It also shares several human characteristics with its neighbors: languages, religions, cultures, and political and economic systems.



German is the official language of Germany. English is the most widely spoken second language in the country, as is also the case for the majority of Germany's nine neighbors. When it comes to the second and third most spoken second languages in Germany and its neighbors, the differences are greater, usually depending on geographic location and influences.

To this day, Germany is still largely geographically divided between the Protestant north and the Catholic south, with over 50 percent of Germans adhering to one of these two Christian faiths. As of 2020, there were approximately five million people who practiced the Muslim faith, and about 200,000 people practicing Judaism. A large portion of Germans, around 37.8 percent, are nonreligious or do not profess a particular faith.

 **TIME:** Two to three 45-minute classes

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- Blank Map Germany and Its Neighbors (**Handout 1.4.1**)
- Regional Human Characteristics (**Handout 1.4.2**)
- Regional Human Characteristics Answer Key (**Handout 1.4.3**)
- Follow the Clues: Travel Itinerary between Germany and the Nine Neighbors (**Handout 1.4.4**)
- Follow the Clues: Travel Itinerary between Germany and the Nine Neighbors Answer Key (**Handout 1.4.5**)
- D-maps.com. (n.d.). Map Europe. Retrieved April 03, 2021, from https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=30082&lang=en.
- FreeWorldMaps. (n.d.). Europe Physical Map. Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/>.
- FreeWorldMaps. (n.d.). Germany Physical Map. Retrieved April 24, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/germany/map.html>.



- German National Tourist Board. (n.d.). Germany: The Travel Destination. Retrieved May 18, 2021, from https://www.germany.travel/media/pdf/dzt_marktforschung/DZT_ZahlenFlyer_Mai2019_EN_WEB1.pdf.
- Jakubmarian. (n.d.). Map of the most spoken foreign languages in the EU by country. Retrieved April 17, 2021, from, <https://jakubmarian.com/map-of-the-most-spoken-foreign-languages-of-the-eu-by-country/>.
- Jakubmarian. (n.d.). Official Languages. Retrieved May 10, 2021, from <https://jakubmarian.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/official-languages-europe.jpg>.
- Vividmaps. (2021). The largest religion in Europe. <https://vividmaps.com/religion-in-europe/>.
- WorldAtlas.com. (n.d.). Germany. Retrieved May 26, 2021, from <https://www.worldatlas.com/r/w960-q80/upload/e8/a1/2c/de-01.jpg>.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

Display a map of the United States. Identify your state on the map and ask the following:

- What do you notice about the location of your state compared to your neighboring states or territories?
- Do they share any common land or water features?
- What might be the advantages or disadvantages of these shared features?

? SUPPORTING QUESTION 1

How do physical land features shape Germany's relationship with its neighbors?

► Formative Performance Task

Provide students with the blank political map of Germany and its neighbors (**Handout 1.4.1**). Identify Germany and its nine neighbors, and have the students to label them on their maps.

Ask the following:

- What do you notice about Germany's location in Europe compared to its neighbors?
- Predict how Germany's relative location in Europe will shape its relationship with neighboring countries.

Have students share their answers to the class or in pairs. Explain that students will revisit their predictions throughout the inquiry.

Students may work independently or in pairs using the Europe Physical Map and the Germany Physical Map to identify, draw, and label the following on **Handout 1.4.1**:

- One mountain range that Germany shares with a neighboring country(ies)
- Two seas that Germany shares with a neighboring country(ies)
- Three rivers that Germany shares with a neighboring country(ies)

Note: The completed **Handout 1.4.1** will be used for **Formative Performance Task 3**.

► Resources

- Germany and Its Neighbors Blank Map (**Handout 1.4.1**)
- FreeWorldMaps. (n.d.). Europe Physical Map. Retrieved April 3, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/>.
- FreeWorldMaps. (n.d.). Germany Physical Map. Retrieved April 24, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/germany/map.html>.

❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 2

What do shared regional characteristics tell us about the human characteristics of neighboring countries?

► Formative Performance Task

Distribute Regional Human Characteristics (**Handout 1.4.2**). Using the resources below, have students work independently or in pairs to identify the most common spoken languages and the widely practiced religions across Germany and its nine neighbors. Students will then answer the questions below the chart in **Handout 1.4.2**.

Teachers should use the questions as part of a guided class discussion about regional human characteristics in Central Europe.

► Resources

- Regional Human Characteristics (**Handout 1.4.2**)
- Regional Human Characteristics Answer Key (**Handout 1.4.3**)
- Jakubmarian. (n.d.). Map of the most spoken foreign languages in the EU by country. Retrieved April 17, 2021, from <https://jakubmarian.com/map-of-the-most-spoken-foreign-languages-of-the-eu-by-country/>.
- Jakubmarian. (n.d.). Official Languages. Retrieved May 10, 2021, from <https://jakubmarian.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/official-languages-europe.jpg>.
- Vividmaps. (2021). The largest religion in Europe. <https://vividmaps.com/religion-in-europe/>.

❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 3

How do countries in close proximity promote and enhance their connections with their neighbors?

► Formative Performance Task

Using the maps listed in the resources below, as well as the completed handout from **Formative Performance Task 1**, students will complete Follow the Clues: Travel Itinerary between Germany and the Nine Neighbors (**Handout 1.4.4**).

Based on students' learning needs, teachers may model how to use maps and handouts to complete **Handout 1.4.4**.

► Resources

- Follow the Clues: Travel Itinerary between Germany and the Nine Neighbors (**Handout 1.4.4**)
- Follow the Clues: Travel Itinerary between Germany and the Nine Neighbors Answer Key (**Handout 1.4.5**)
- FreeWorldMaps. (n.d.). Europe Physical Map. Retrieved April 3, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/>.
- FreeWorldMaps. (n.d.). Germany Physical Map. Retrieved April 24, 2021, from <https://www.freeworldmaps.net/europe/germany/map.html>.
- WorldAtlas.com. (n.d.). Germany. Retrieved May 26, 2021, from <https://www.worldatlas.com/r/w960-q80/upload/e8/a1/2c/de-01.jpg>.

☑️ SUMMATIVE PERFORMANCE TASK

How do shared regional characteristics enhance connections between neighboring countries?

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

In 2018 Germany was the second most popular destination for Europeans for the ninth year running.¹ Create a travel brochure for a German city, region, or the whole country that encourages Germany's neighbors to visit.

Be sure to include photos to catch tourists' attention and a description that lets the reader picture it as a place they want to visit—and be colorful! Suggestion: Use a template included with your word processing program or an online template.

TAKING INFORMED ACTION

Understand: Frequently, areas of the United States are designated by region, for example, the northeast or southwest.

Assess: What features do the states in your region have in common (physical land, human characteristics). What unique features does your region have that separates it from other regions?

Act: Contact your local or state tourist organization to learn how these features encourage tourism.

CONCEPTS LIST

- Region
- Physical characteristics
- Location
- Cooperation
- Human characteristics

¹ German National Tourist Board. (n.d.). Germany: The Travel Destination. Retrieved May 18, 2021, from https://www.germany.travel/media/pdf/dzt_marktforschung/DZT_ZahlenFlyer_Mai2019_EN_WEB1.pdf.