

Resources of Europe

Even though Europe is a small continent it has good supplies of natural resources. The people of Europe have been using their natural resources for centuries, especially at the beginning of the industrial revolution of the late 18th and early 19th centuries when machinery was first used in the manufacture of goods.



At that time the Ruhr Valley of western Germany became famous for the production of steel from local iron ore deposits using local coal reserves. The coal and steel production of the area declined after World War II. Today Germany continues to mine coal and iron ore as well as copper and nickel.

Germany's neighbor to the southwest is France. The Alsace-Lorraine region of France was a prize in countless wars between the days of the Julius Caesar and the Roman Empire and World War I. This region is a fertile plain that has a climate suitable for growing grapes which are used to produce wine. It also has valuable deposits of coal and iron in the mountains surrounding the plains.

Italy has long had a reputation for its reserves of fine marble that has been used for buildings and carved statues for centuries. Some of the most famous statues in the world have been carved from Italian marble.

Ukraine is now an independent country in Eastern Europe after belonging to Soviet Russia. Ukraine has an abundance of fertile black soil and produces grain, sugar beets, sunflower seeds, vegetables, beef, and milk. Romania lies south of Ukraine and its most valuable natural resource is its fertile land. About 62% of the land is used for agriculture and another 30% is forested.

Poland is located between Germany to the west and Ukraine to the east. Over the centuries Poland's borders have changed many times due to wars and territorial changes. Today's Poland is a major source of both hard and soft coal within Europe. Poland is a leading world producer of hard and soft coal,copper, zinc, lead, sulphur,rock salt and construction minerals. Poland continues to have a large supply of amber, a substance prized as a gemstone.

The Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark are generally lacking in natural resources. Norway, however, is able to export oil and fish. Sweden has vast coniferous forests that are used as a source for paper and building materials. Sweden exports 60% of its forest products.

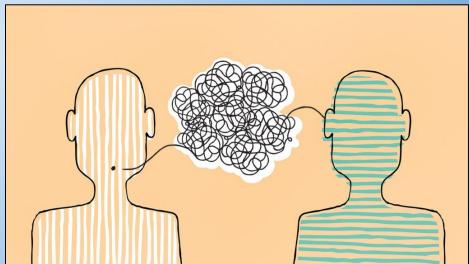


Reading Activities



- 1) Read the text and <u>underline</u> all the words that you don't know;
- a) make a list of 5 words and try to explain the meaning thru the context;





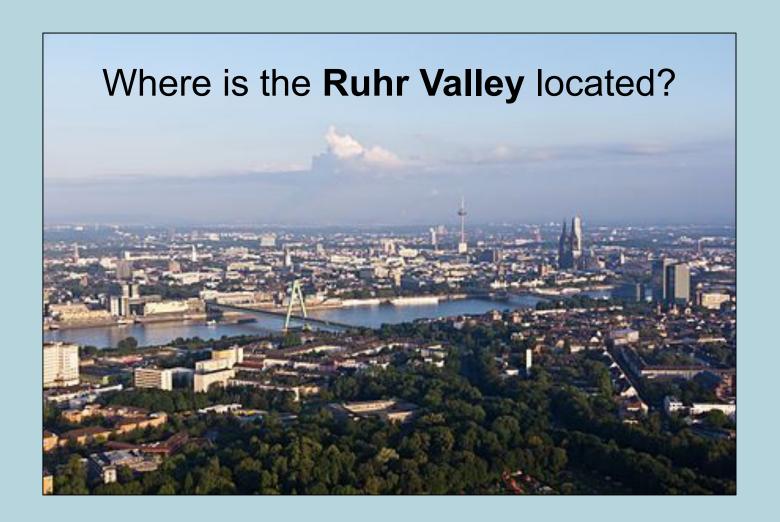
2) Make a list of the words <u>you know</u>, at least 5 and <u>make a list</u>; Use them in a sentence to **explain the meaning**;





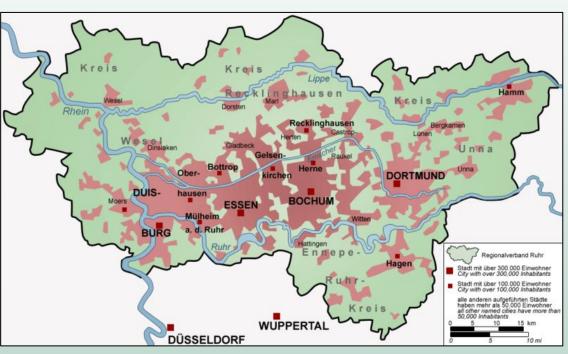
3) From the list of words you don't know make at least 3 sentences self explanatory;





The **Ruhr Valley** is located in the western of Germany.





Map of the Ruhr within Germany

Map of the Ruhr

What is a *major product* of the **Alsace-Lorraine** region?



The **Alsace-Lorraine**, region of France, is a fertile plain which has a suitable climate for growing grapes which are used to produce wine.



It also has valuable deposits of **coal** and **iron** in the mountains surrounding the plains.





Coal Iron

Italy is famous for which <u>natural resource</u>?



Italy has long had a reputation for its reserves of *fine marble* that has been used for <u>buildings</u> and <u>carves statues</u> for centuries.



Carrara marble



David, Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1501-1504, marble, Florence



Ukraine has an abundance of <u>fertile black soil</u> and produces *grain*, sugar beets, sunflower seeds, vegetables, beef and milk.

Romania lies south of Ukraine and its the most valuable natural resource is its fertile land.





Forest products are a major export of which country?



Forest products are a major export of which country?



Forest products are a major export of Sweden which has a vast coniferous forest that are used as a source for paper and building materials.

Sweden exports 60% of its forest products.

