West Central Europe

TODAY
What happens when cultures collide?
Learning Objectives

• List characteristics of West Central Europe’s rich cultural heritage.
• Explain West Central Europe’s ties to international partnerships such as the EU.
• Identify main ideas and details about life in Central Europe.
• Label West Central Europe’s countries on a map.
MAP Western Central Europe

Austria
Belgium
France
Germany
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Monaco
Netherlands
Switzerland
West Central Europe

• All Central Western European countries are a part of the EU except Switzerland, Monaco and Liechtenstein.

• France and Germany are the largest EU members by population.

• Why do the larger countries have more of an advantage in the EU?

• The nations that started the EU are in Central Western Europe.
France

• Fertile Soil
• Mild Climate
• Large areas of level land
• Produce wines, cheeses and grains reaching many countries around the world with the help of the EU.
• Largest Industry: Tourism
• Republic with centralized government
Paris

• Paris is the capital and known as the City of Light.
• Population of Paris is over 2 million people.
• Over 5 million immigrants live in France and 200,000-400,000 are living in the country illegally. Many come from N and W Africa.
• France offers money to immigrants to return home.
• France was historically Catholic but with the influx of immigrants from Africa, there is a large population of Muslims whom practice Islam.
Belgium

• All small in size but politically and economically powerful
• EU and NATO have headquarters located in Brussels, the capitol of Belgium.
• Constitutional Monarchy
• Very little natural resources so relies on trade.
Belgium

• High standard of living and high GNP (gross national product)
  • Annual income of a nation’s companies and residents
• 97% of Belgians live in cities
• Made of three regions
  • Flanders in the north where people speak Flemish
  • Wallonia in the south where people speak French
  • Brussels, where people speak both Flemish and French
Luxembourg

- Tiny and landlocked
- One of Europe’s oldest and smallest countries
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Member of NATO and EU
- Most Citizens speak French, German and Luxembourgish which is a German dialect
Luxembourg

- Key industries of banking and media
  - Very strict banking laws so many people use Luxembourg banks
Netherlands aka Holland

• People are referred to as Dutch
• Sea Trading Nation
• More than ½ of the Netherlands is below sea level
  • Built dikes or levees a lot like dams.
• The Dutch live on Polders which are areas of reclaimed land from lakebeds or sea bottoms.
• The Dutch live in a fragile balance with the environment.
• Dutch Windmills aide in irrigation for farming.
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3Dzz0vSabl