

Is Europe in crisis?

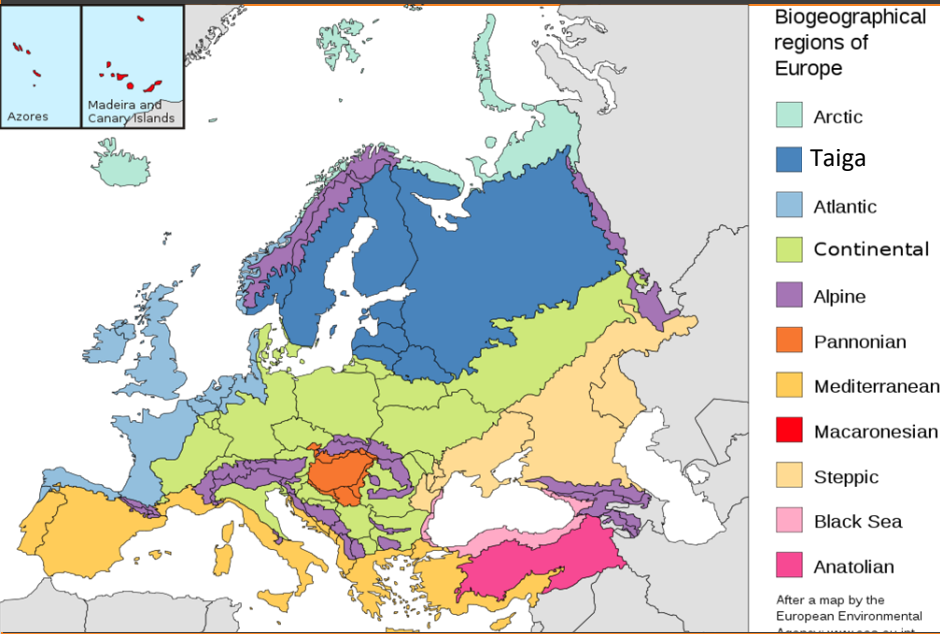
Is Europe in a climate crisis?

- 2019 was Europe's warmest year on record.
- The European data shows that, 11 of the 12 warmest years on record on the continent have occurred since 2000.
- In July 2019 temperatures across Europe were 3-4C warmer than average.
- The summer was followed by one of the wettest Novembers on record, with rainfall almost four times the normal amount in western and southern Europe.

Is Europe in a political crisis?

- In June 2016 the UK held a public vote (known as a referendum) when 17.4 million people voted for Brexit. This gave the Leave side 52%, compared with 48% for Remain.
- The UK's economy rate of growth has been lower than the average growth of the EU. Without the UK the EU's economy may actually grow faster.
- Currently, with the UK as members the average GDP of the EU is \$42,200 dollars per person, without the UK this will decrease to \$41,800 per person.
- Could the UK leaving the European Union be the beginning of the end of the organisation?

European Ecosystems



Adaptations in the Mediterranean

Lavender	Cork Tree	Gecko
Waxy leaves to retain moisture. Deep roots to reach under water supplies.	Thick bark that recovers quickly to protect from wildfire.	Light coloured. They stay underground during the hottest time of the day.

Key Terms

Crisis	A time when a difficult or important decision must be made.
Mediterranean	An area of southern Europe characterised by a distinctive mild climate. The area is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea.
Adaptation	A change that helps an organism, such as a plant or animal, survive in its environment.
Tourism	Tourism is an industry that encourages people to travel for leisure. The growth of tourism has had an economic, environmental and social effect on many countries.
Overtourism	Overtourism describes destinations where locals or visitors feel that there are too many visitors and that the quality of life in the area is being threatened.
Dark Tourism	Tourism that involves travelling to places associated with death and suffering.
Biome	A large scale ecosystem. A community of plants and animals that interact with each other and their physical environment.
Permafrost	Ground that is permanently frozen. Found in the tundra and taiga biome. In the short summer months a layer will melt and some plants can grow (active layer).
Taiga	The largest biome in Russia. The land is mainly made up of coniferous forest.
Fragile environment	An environment that is both easily disturbed and difficult to restore if disturbed.
Indigenous	People who are native to an area. Their ancestors have lived in the area for generations.
Natural resource	Materials found in nature that we need to live. These include: clean drinking water, fuel for energy, fertile soil for growing crops.

Overtourism in Spain

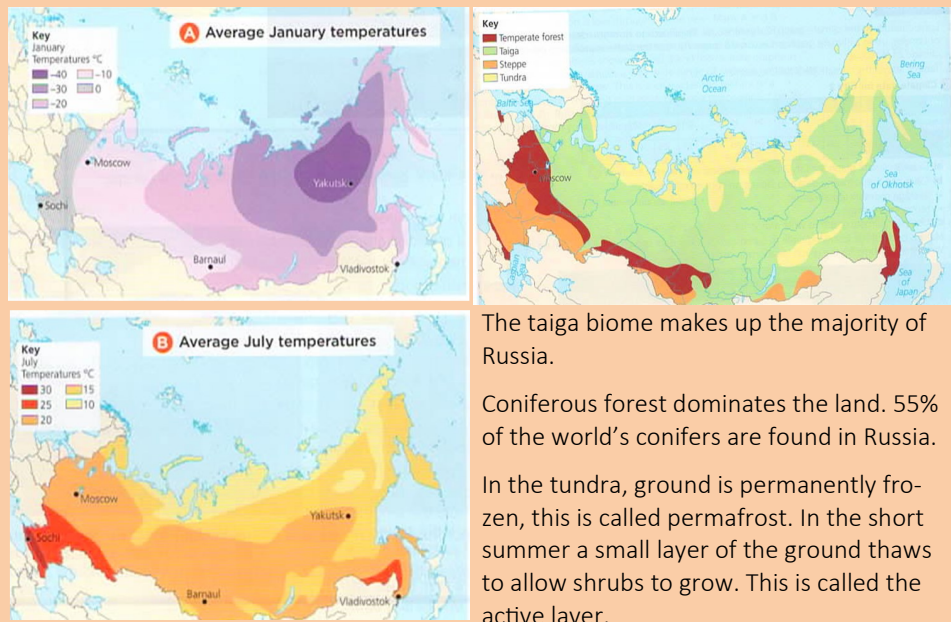
Local People	National Economy	Environmental impact
Local people benefit from employment in the tourism industry.  Tension can rise between tourists and locals who feel their daily lives are threatened.	Tourism accounts for around 11 per cent of the economy.  Traditional industries may be threatened.  Day trippers to Barcelona do not contribute to the economy.	Barcelona has the busiest port in Europe.  'Beauty spots' are overwhelmed by tourists and native wildlife may be driven out.

How is Barcelona making tourism more sustainable?

- Locals have free access to tourist sites. (eg Park Güell )
- An app warns locals when there is an event involving over 10,000 people so that they can avoid the area if they wish.

A focus on Russia

The physical geography of Russia shows it to be a diverse place



Rising global temperatures are causing the permafrost to melt. This could double the amount of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today.

Is the physical geography of Russia a blessing or a curse?

- Russia has an abundance of natural resources. It produces 20% of the world's natural gas and is the world's leading producer of oil.
- Russia is self-sufficient in all major industrial raw materials and contains the eighth largest crude oil reserves. Russia also exports steel and aluminium and about 20% of the world's timber: pine, fir, spruce and cedar.
- The Nenets are indigenous reindeer herders. In mid-July, the group of herders trek 400 miles to lead their deer to summer pastures. They have been taking this journey for centuries and it is one of the longest migration paths in the world. Reindeers now struggle to make the journey due to melting permafrost.
- Gas fields also block the path of the herd made up of 255,000 reindeer and 6,000 herders. The herders struggle to make their way through a maze of gas pipes and roads.
- The vastness of Russia makes it incredibly challenging to transport materials.

Why is Russia claiming the North Pole?

- The Arctic contains about 30% of the world's unexploited oil.
- In 2007, Russian explorers carried out scientific research on the ocean floor below the North Pole. Two mini submarines planted a titanium Russian Flag on the sea bed below the North Pole.
- As global warming causes the sea ice to melt, this creates more economic opportunities for Russia as oil and gas reserves become more accessible.