

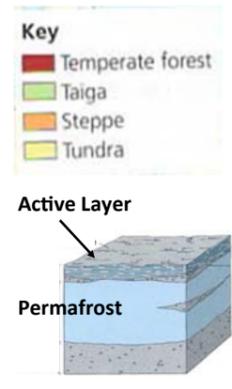


## In depth study of Russia

<b>Ecosystems</b> 	<p>Russia is the largest country in the world and has a unique physical geography. Two of Russia's largest <b>ecosystems</b> (biomes) are the <b>tundra</b> and the <b>taiga</b>.</p> <p>The Tundra is located in northern Russia, the taiga is located south of the tundra. Both biomes experience very cold temperatures.</p> <p>The Russia taiga contains <b>55% of the world's coniferous trees</b>. Most of the ground in the tundra is <b>permafrost</b>. This is permanently frozen ground with a thin top layer that melts in the summer.</p>
<b>Fragile environments</b> 	<p>Permafrost is very fragile. Recently the permafrost in Russia is melting rapidly. This is creating problems.</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Permafrost prevents dead plants and animals from decomposing (breaking down). When the ice melts, things in the ice begin to rot. This releases a lot of greenhouse gases. Permafrost in the Arctic is estimated to hold nearly twice as much <b>carbon</b> as there is in the <b>atmosphere</b> now.</p> <p><b>Social:</b> When things begin to decompose, this can release old <b>diseases</b> from the past. Recently there has been an outbreak of <b>anthrax</b>, a deadly infectious disease.</p>
<b>Natural resources</b> 	<p>Russia produces 20% of the world's natural gas and is the world's leading <b>producer</b> of oil. Russia's natural resources are valued at 60% of country's <b>GDP</b>.</p> <p>To take advantage of melting sea ice, Russia has invested \$27-billion in the <b>Yamal natural gas plant</b>. This is the most northerly industrial site in the world. This provides Russia with a national economic opportunity and over <b>15,000 people work</b> at the site.</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	
<b>Natural resources</b> 	<p>The Nenets are <b>indigenous</b> people of the Siberian arctic. They are reindeer herders. Each year they undertake a <b>migration</b> of over a thousand kilometres where they move gigantic herds of reindeer from summer pastures in the north to winter pastures just south of the Arctic Circle.</p>
<b>Challenges</b> 	<p>New infrastructure (roads and pipes) linked to the extraction of natural gas is disrupting the Nenets' <b>migration</b> routes. Melting permafrost makes it challenging to travel by sled.</p>

## Keywords

<b>Pull factor</b>	Something that attracts people to a place.
<b>Tourism</b>	Tourism is an industry that encourages people to travel for leisure. The growth of tourism has economic, environmental and social impacts.
<b>Overtourism</b>	Overtourism describes destinations where locals or visitors feel that there are too many tourists. This means that the quality of life of local people has decreased.
<b>Dark tourism</b>	Tourism that involves travelling to places associated with death and suffering.
<b>Ethical</b>	Morally acceptable, an acceptable choice based on what is right and wrong.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	A community of living and non-living things in a particular place. A biome is a large ecosystem e.g. tundra and taiga.
<b>Natural resource</b>	Natural resources are materials found in nature that we need to live. These include: clean drinking water, fuel for energy, fertile soil for growing crops.
<b>Fragile environment</b>	An environment that is both easily disturbed and difficult to restore if disturbed.
<b>Indigenous</b>	People who are originally from a place; native. The Nenets are an indigenous group of reindeer herders.



**Trinity TV**  
 For more help, visit Trinity TV and watch the following videos: Year 8 > Geography > Term 2 > What challenges does Europe face?

## Why is Europe a tourism hotspot?

**Pull factors** are reasons that would make a tourist want to visit a place. Spain is a popular destination for tourists. In 2019, 83.7 million tourists holidayed in Spain.

Tourists from the UK visit Spain due to the pull factors such as fantastic beaches, and the fact the country is just a short distance from the UK. The average flight time from England to Spain is 2 hours 10 minutes.

People also visit Spain due to the **Mediterranean climate**. In July and August temperatures can reach between 20-30°C with very little chance of rain.

## Does Barcelona have a tourism crisis?



Barcelona is a city on the coast of north eastern Spain. And a popular tourist destination.

12% of Barcelona's income is created through tourism, however **overtourism** is creating challenges for both local people and the environment.

While just 1.6 million people live in Barcelona home, over 32 million people visit each year. This means that there is a high demand for hotels which makes property too **expensive** for residents to afford.

Everyday shops are being replaced by souvenir stands, shops and cafes which may be unaffordable – or simply unnecessary – for many local residents.

## Is dark tourism ethical?

On the 26th April, 1986, reactor number four at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine suffered a catastrophic explosion, throwing clouds of radioactive material over the surrounding area.



All **49,000 inhabitants of Pripyat** were evacuated and have never returned due to the high levels of radiation that still exist today.

In 2021, an estimated 73,000 tourists visited Chernobyl in 2021. Tourists are fascinated by the event that has turned Pripyat into a **'ghost town'**.

Many people believe that it is disrespectful for people to visit Chernobyl as a tourist. Other people believe that visiting Chernobyl allows people to pay their respects and learn about an important event in recent history.