



ITALY

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Overview

- Italy is a country in southern Europe.
- It borders a number of countries, including France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, the Vatican City and San Marino.
- It also has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Italy covers an area of 301,340 sq.km
- 62 million people live in Italy.
- It is easy to recognise Italy on any map, as it looks like a high-heeled boot kicking a ball. The 'ball' is the island of Sicily.



Human Geography

Italy has a long and rich history, and a culture steeped in the arts, family, architecture, music and food. Its natural beauty and warm climate also make it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world.

Population



-The population of Italy is around 60 million people. This makes it the fifth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 207 people per square kilometre. This is the 11th highest population density in Europe.

Settlements



-The most populous cities in Italy are Rome, Milan and Naples. Other large settlements include Turin, Palermo and Verona. Many people visit Rome each year to see its Roman history, including the famous Colosseum.

Economic Activity



-Italy is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. Italy has a strong tourism trade – cities like Venice and Rome are amongst the most-visited in the world, and it also has a number of holiday locations.

Resources/ Trade



-Automobiles and machinery dominate Italian trade. It is also a strong world power in manufacturing. Italian wine grains, and olive oil are exported across the world.

Key Vocabulary

Italy

Europe

Mediterranean

Rome

Roman

Vatican City

Sicily

Sardinia

Etna

Vesuvius

Mt. Blanc.

Lake Garda

Catholic

Euro

Tourism

Physical Geography

- The northern region of Italy is the most mountainous. Its Dolomites region is a part of the Alps, and is popular for alpine skiing.
- The highest peak is Monte Bianco (Mount Blanc), which is 4,807m high.
- The Apennines is another mountain range, which separates east Italy from west Italy.
- The north of the country contains large lakes, for example Lakes Garda and Como.
- The longest river in Italy is the Po River, which is about 405 miles long.
- Aside from the mainland, Italy contains two large islands: Sicily and Sardinia, and many smaller islands.
- There are three active volcanoes – Vesuvius near Naples, Etna on Sicily and Stromboli, on an island near the southern tip of Italy. Etna is the most active volcano in Europe.



Comparison with the UK

- Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe & Italy in southern Europe.
- Due to its more southerly position (closer to the Equator) Italy is warmer than the UK. On average, Rome is 7°C hotter than London.
- Italy is slightly larger than the UK – 301,340sq km compared to 243,610sq km.
- Slightly more people live in the UK – 66 million compared to 60 million.
- London has a much larger population than Rome. 8.4 million compared to 2.9 million.
- Italy has higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Blanc is 4,807m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at 1,345m.
- The UK has no active volcanoes, whereas Italy has three (Vesuvius, Etna, Stromboli).



Italy Timeline

2000 BCE Bronze Age begins in Italy.	800 BCE Iron Age begins.	753 BCE According to legend, Romulus founds Rome.	500-100 BCE Roman Republic founded. Begins to take over much of Europe.	45 BCE Julius Caesar is dictator.	27 BCE – 476 CE The Roman Empire controls much of Europe & around Mediterranean.	79 CE Pompeii is destroyed as Vesuvius erupts.	1300 CE The Renaissance begins in Florence.	1348 CE Black Death kills millions across Europe.	1503 CE Da Vinci paints the Mona Lisa.	1861 CE Kingdom of Italy established.	1939-45 CE Italy fights with Axis powers in WWII.	2002 CE The Euro becomes the official currency.
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