


FINLAND

Republic

 338,000 km²

 1995

 5.5 million

Standard of living: **110/100**
100 = EU average



A buffer state between Russia and Sweden down the centuries, Finland is one of a select few countries which is naturally gaining land (approximately 10 km² a year) from the Baltic Sea. This phenomenon is the result of a rise in the Earth's crust in Northern Europe after the melting of the ice caps which covered much of this part of the continent 40,000 years ago.

OLAVINLINNA CASTLE

SAVONLINNA

1475-1485 – Gothic military style

Olavinlinna Castle's importance lies in its strategic position on the canal linking many lakes and forming a defensive front against Russia. Today, it has become a popular spot for the organisation of operas in the summer.

Did you know that there are more saunas in Finland than there are cars?

No clothes are allowed in the sauna, except for peffetti (small towels). Nudity and naturism are for that matter legal in all locations and in all circumstances.




Beyond the Arctic Circle, total night falls between November and January. From May to July, the sun shines all day long. In Savonlinna, the nights are therefore very short in summer...






LITHUANIA

Republic

 65,300 km²

 2004

 2.8 million

Standard of living: **75/100**
100 = EU average



In the 16th century, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was a major power. Together with Poland, it formed the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which stretched almost as far as the Black Sea.

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY* VILNIUS

1579 – Renaissance and Baroque styles

Vilnius University was founded by the Jesuits in the centre of the old city. At the top of the building you will find the coat of arms of Bishop Valerianus Protasevicius, who invited the Jesuits to build this institution to fight Protestant Reform.

* Monument donated by the Lithuanian Government

The geographical centre of Europe is about 25km north of Vilnius.


The inside of the university can be viewed through a telescope.





The daughter of the Duke of Milan (Italy), Bona Sforza became Queen of Poland and Grand Duchess of Lithuania. It was she who spread Renaissance culture in these two countries and this is the reason why Vilnius University was subsequently built in an Italian style.

FRANCE

Republic

 675,000 km²

 1952

 67.2 million

Standard of living: **107/100**
100 = EU average



France, the largest country in Europe, is also the country that has the most territories outside of Europe. However, only the overseas departments (DOMs) and the overseas collectivity of Saint-Martin belong to the European Union. From the 11th century to the start of the 14th century, French was spread throughout the world and was spoken in all the courts of Europe. Today, it is spoken every day by 235 million people worldwide.



Champagne bubbles... the work of the devil? That is what the French believed until the 18th century. Louis XIV's doctor would not let him drink it on the pretext that it would have a bad effect on his gout.

EIFFEL TOWER PARIS

1887-1889 – Industrial style

A symbol of the City of Light, the Eiffel Tower was built according to the plans of Gustave Eiffel on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1889. 300 metres tall, little by little it silenced its critics and became a true national emblem.



On 1/25 scale, the Eiffel Tower weighs 1,800 kg and is 13 metres high.

THE HERITAGE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (18th - 19th century)

Capitalism was born in the early 18th century. Technology experienced a revolution and productivity increased. Factories and a multitude of machines like the spinning machine and weaving machine made their appearance. Charcoal gave way to new forms of energy and the first railways were built. Through its exports, Europe became a world economic power. The fall in the cost of products was to affect the way in which we consumed them. Society was split between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie and saw the emergence of trade unions and socialist thinking.

1807
Steamship

1825
1st photograph

1843
Electric telegraph

1856
Manufacture of steel

1876
Telephone

1879
Filament lamp

CENTRE POMPIDOU PARIS

1977 – Post-Modern style

French President Georges Pompidou, a great lover of modern art, gave his name to this National Centre of Art and Culture, called the Centre Beaubourg. This institution dedicated to modern and contemporary art is an architectural innovation: the supporting structure and flows are positioned on the outside the building. Result: freeing up of an entire inner space dedicated to works of art and activities.



Every building colour has a code: red for circulation of people, blue for air-conditioning, green for water and yellow for electricity.



ARC DE TRIOMPHE PARIS

1806-1836 – Neoclassical style

The Arc de Triomphe was built in the middle of Place Charles de Gaulle on Napoleon's orders, to commemorate the glory of the armies of the Revolution and of the Empire. In all, there are 600 names of generals and 150 references to battles engraved into the stone. The construction is inspired by the Roman arch but differs from it with its very large dimensions. The Arc de Triomphe is almost 50 metres tall.

The unknown soldier to which the Arc de Triomphe refers is an allusion to the citizen who protects his nation and who can therefore volunteer.

THE HERITAGE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION - 1789

Consolidating the Age of Enlightenment, the French Revolution mobilised the middle classes, raised political awareness and caused a drastic transformation in the way things were done in France but also in Europe: universalisation of the concept of meritocracy, control by the authorities (Court of Auditors) and democratic concepts such as the French constitution, the Napoleonic Code, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and secondary schools for all.

1776
American Revolution

1789

1804
Napoleon



INTERACTIVE ANIMATIONS



Who will win the race, the policeman or the robber? From the other side of Paris, take part in the bicycle race but watch out for the pushchair!



AIRBUS FLEET

A European company based in France, Airbus is one of the world leaders in aeronautic construction. On the runway, see if you can identify the different types of Airbus: A320, A330, A340 and the imposing A380, which can transport up to 555 passengers.

SACRÉ-CŒUR BASILICA IN MONTMARTRE

PARIS

1875-1923 – Roman-Byzantine style

The basilica was requested by the population after the end of the Franco-Prussian War. Explaining the defeat as a form of divine punishment, the population wanted in this way to make honourable atonement. The statues of Louis IX and Joan of Arc guard the entrance.



The white colour of the stone is particularly striking. It comes from Château-Landon, in the Seine-et-Marne Region. What are its qualities? It goes white and hardens when in contact with air.

NOTRE-DAME-DU-HAUT CHAPEL

RONCHAMP

1951-1955 – Modern style

Le Corbusier designed this Catholic chapel in the Burgundy-Franche-Comté Region. The architect wanted it to be in tune with nature and drew inspiration from a crab's shell for his roof design. The building is also in harmony with the hills of the Vosges and its asymmetrical windows produce a special lighting effect in its austere interior.

Le Corbusier, the famous Franco-Swiss architect, wrote several controversial works on architecture and urban planning. He is seen as the pioneer of modern architecture.



CLOS VOUGEOT CASTLE

VOUGEOT

12th -16th century – Cistercian and Renaissance styles

Burgundy wine has been produced here since the 12th century... At that time, the monks of the large Cîteaux Abbey cultivated the vineyard which became prestigious. A few medieval presses are still in existence today. In the 15th century, a monastic barn was built, followed by the lord's castle in the 16th century.



CHENONCEAU CASTLE

16th century – Gothic and Renaissance styles

Among the famous châteaux of the Loire, Chenonceau is known as "the Castle of Ladies" as it has been marked by women over the centuries. Among the best known, Diane de Poitiers inherited the castle thanks to her status as a favourite of King Henry II. On his death, the legitimate Queen Catherine de Medicis chased her away and restored the castle to the crown. Today, the characteristic building with its bridge built as a gallery is one of the most visited private historic monuments in France.



This French stone model and the gardens that border the building required two years of work.

PORT AREAS

Some European ports were the departure points for caravel boats in search of the New World, as was the case of Le Havre in France. Today, the ports mainly fulfil a commercial function, serving as a transit point for millions of tons of merchandise in containers. Europe is the continent with the longest coastline to area ratio: 1 km of coastline for 60,000 km² of land.



WHAT ARE THE LARGEST EUROPEAN PORTS?

- Rotterdam (the Netherlands) - Hamburg (Germany)
- Antwerp (Belgium) - Helsinki (Finland)
- Marseille (France)



In the time of Christopher Columbus, the international fleet was the equivalent of 3 supercargo ships.



THALYS

1hr 22 between Brussels and Paris, or 315 km. The Thalys high-speed train has been the fastest transport link between the two cities since 1996. In addition to France and Belgium, the TGV also provides service to Germany and the Netherlands. In all, the European Union is criss-crossed by over 140,000 km of railways.

During the winter of 1944-1945, the Saline Royale was used as a prisoner of war camp by the Germans.



SALINE ROYALE ARC-ET-SENANS

18th century – Industrial style

Until 1895, white gold – i.e. salt – was produced here. Salt was then an essential factor in the preservation of perishable foods. In addition, the salt tax was a major source of income for the monarchy. Built in the reign of Louis XVI by architect Ledoux, La Saline was designed as an ideal example of an industrial village. The Manager, clerk and other workers all stayed there independently. Housing and workshops formed an inseparable whole.

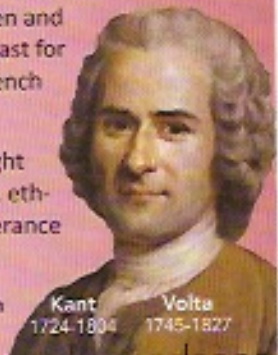


THE LEGACY OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT (18th century)

The thinkers of the Enlightenment favoured science over religion, defended the idea that the human condition could improve itself through critical thinking and praised among other values the separation of the temporal from the spiritual, individual freedoms and the emancipation of slaves and women.

The literary salons witnessed the emergence of a more enlightened, more critical and more politicised population that preferred what was chosen and decided for themselves and – by defying the authority of the past for the benefit of plans for the future – sowed the seeds of the French Revolution and the other revolutions that followed it.

All of them, from Rousseau, Kant and Voltaire to Diderot brought about progress in a large number of fields: philosophy, politics, ethics, science and the arts. They incarnate reason, humanity, tolerance and scientific progress.



Newton	Voltaire	Von Linné	Diderot	Rousseau	Adam Smith	Kant	Volta
1643-1727	1694-1778	1707-1778	1713-1784	1715-1778	1723-1790	1724-1804	1745-1827



SPAIN

Monarchy



506,000 km²



1986



46.7 million

Standard of Living:
100 - EU average

91/100



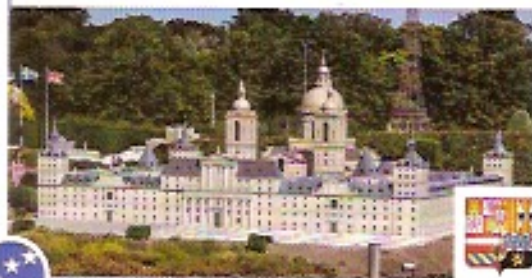
Under the Habsburgs, Spain was a state with tremendous influence in Europe and owned a huge number of colonial territories. In modern-day Spain, considerable regional autonomy has been granted. Where?

In the Basque country, Galicia, Andalusia... Each region notably has its own language(s) that are spoken in addition to Spanish, the main language of the country.

EL ESCORIAL MADRID

1563-1584 – Renaissance style [UNESCO]

The royal site of Escorial is located 50 km from Madrid. Its basic construction plan is inspired by the temple of Salomon in Jerusalem. In the 16th century, King Philip II added a pantheon, a basilica, a convent, a school and a library containing nearly 35,000 books. Inside the Escorial there are 26 tombs of kings and queens as well as some 7,000 relics. The building symbolises the ideological and artistic splendour of the Spanish Catholic monarchy in the Golden Age (early 16th- late 17th century).



Why is the national holiday celebrated on October 12? On this date in 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered America.



DON QUIXOTE OF LA MANCHA

Don Quixote and his faithful companion Sancho Panza crossing the desolate plains of La Mancha... A reference to the literary masterpiece written by Cervantes in 1605. Behind them are the windmills that the knight fights, wanting to bring justice to the world. The novel is a parody of medieval manners, chivalrous ideals and the rigid social structures of the Spanish Golden Age.

Admire the coat of arms of Philip II at the centre of the Escorial. It symbolises his vast empire, as he was King of Spain (1556-1598), Portugal (1581-1598), Naples and Sicily (1554-1598), England and Ireland (1554-1558). In 1555, he also became Duke of Milan and lord of the 17 provinces of the Netherlands. That is all!



PLAZA DE TOROS SEVILLE

1881 – Baroque style

During a traditional corrida, 3 matadors kill 6 bulls.

How? After tiring out the animal using a red cape known as a "muleta", the matador gives the bull the death blow by thrusting his sword between the shoulder blades to strike at the heart. Some consider this spectacle barbaric, whilst others see it as heritage or even an art form. In Seville, corridas are still held at the Plaza de Toros today.



How many people are seated in the arena model? 6,000! And they were all hand painted.



COLUMBUS MONUMENT BARCELONA

1888

Built for the Universal Exhibition in Barcelona in 1888, this column is a homage to explorer Christopher Columbus, who was the first European to dare to attempt to reach the "Indies" via the West. From the top of the 57 metre tall monument, there is an unobstructed view of the port of Barcelona.

LA SANTA MARIA 1492

The Santa Maria is a caravel, a relatively small ship that was easy to manoeuvre and allowed for navigation on the high seas. This construction illustrates the exploratory genius of Europeans, guided by the spirit of the Renaissance. 70 years earlier, Chinese admiral Zeng He had a much larger fleet and crew. However, no major discoveries have been attributed to him.

COLONIALISM

There were many reasons behind colonialism (trade, power etc.). Colonialism and decolonisation led Europeans to a new view of the world and their positive or negative responsibilities. The immigration of colonised people still affects large European cities today. Is this also one of the reasons why Europeans give so much aid to the rest of the world?



Did you notice the demonstration in the port of Barcelona? The European countries are now faced with the challenges posed by local independence movements.

CATHEDRAL OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA*

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

11th-13th century – Romanesque, Gothic, Plateresque and Baroque styles

Santiago de Compostela Cathedral was built on the very spot where the relics of Saint James the Greater, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ, were found. Together with Rome and Jerusalem, this site is one of the main Christian sanctuaries and places of pilgrimage. Pilgrimages were often a way of (re)conquering and occupying territories.



A LITTLE EUROPEAN HISTORY AT THE HEART OF MINI-EUROPE.

Do you remember Bruges (p. 24) in Flanders (Belgium)? This city was a starting point for the Saint James of Compostela pilgrimage (p. 41) which aimed at recapturing the Iberian peninsula from the Moors. As recognition for his involvement in the reconquista (reconquest), Henry of Burgundy was given the county of Portugal where he ordered the construction of Guimaraes Castle (p. 38). His son Afonso Henriques became the first king of Portugal and drove the Moors out of Lisbon in 1147.

The reconquista was completed in 1492. The soldiers (guerillas), now unemployed, embarked on the expeditions following the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus (p. 40). The riches brought back from these expeditions allowed the construction of the Escorial by Phillip II, who built the roofs in the Flemish style as a reminder of the time he spent in Flanders. They are reminiscent of those in Bruges, Belgium.




* Monument donated by the Galician Government.

Take a break at the European tavern if you are hungry or very thirsty!




POLAND

Republic

 313,000 km²

 2004


 38 million

Standard of living: **68/100**
100 = EU average



Poland, with its territories highly coveted for their central positioning, is one of the European countries that has experienced the most changes in its borders. It was even completely broken up in 1795 and its territory shared between its three neighbours: Austria, Prussia and Russia.




 Astronomer, canon, doctor and mathematician, Nicolas Copernic (1473-1543) marked the history of Poland, which was at the time Royal Prussia. He revolutionised the way people thought about the world with his theory of heliocentrism, which states that the Earth goes around the Sun and not the other way around. His claim literally changed the opinion of the scientists, philosophers and religious figures of his time... to such an extent that we now speak of the Copernican revolution.

ARTUS COURT GDAŃSK

1348-1350 (rebuilt in 1616-1617) – Northern Mannerism style

Artus Court was built by a Dutchman to house the rich merchants of the Hanseatic League (northern European association of merchant cities). Its façade presents the statues of kings and mythical characters. Located opposite the manor, Neptune's fountain (17th century) symbolises the port city.

 The name Artus, as a reference to King Arthur and the knights of the round table, was given to several places where the assemblies of nobles or merchants of the Hanseatic League were held.

MONUMENT TO SHIPYARD WORKERS WHO DIED IN 1970 GDAŃSK - 1980

This steel construction, over 42 metres tall, commemorates the murder of over 1,000 shipyard workers during a strike against the Communist Government in December 1970. The 3 crosses symbolise the fight for freedom of association and democracy.



In 1980, the trade union struggles of Solidarnosc (Solidarity) shook up Poland and led it to independence. At its head was Lech Walesa (Nobel Peace Prize in 1983), who was president of Poland from 1990 to 1995. He visited Mini-Europe in 2004.



FRANCE

(CONTINUED)

ARIANE LAUNCHER

To facilitate communication and the study of our planet, the European Space Agency (ESA) has been launching satellites into space since 1979. Where is the launch base? Kourou in Guyana, a French overseas territory that is a member of the European Union. What is the next launcher to be designed? It is Ariane 6, which should be finalised in 2020.

