



TOPIC: Capitals of European countries

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

LEVEL/AGE: 12-14 YEARS OLD

FOREKNOWLEDGE: Knowledge of general geography (difference between continent, country and territory) and some knowledge of European countries

LENGTH: 5 PAGES (DURATION: 50 MINUTES)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the lesson, students will know the names of European countries and their capital cities.



RESOURCES

Map of Europe, video projector or screen, electronic device with Wi-Fi connection, YouTube video, GeoGuessr game

TEACHING METHODS

Explanatory videos
Repetition exercises
Visual documents
Games

ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION (3 minutes)

Every country has a capital, often its most populated and tourist city, representing the culture, traditions, architecture, and History of the nation.

Depending on definitions, Europe is composed of between 44 and 50 countries, along with several territories and dependencies. Some European countries and territories are also geographically part of Asia (such as Russia) or North America (such as Greenland which is considered a part of Denmark).

REVISION (15 minutes)

Organise a brainstorming session in which students should name as many European countries as possible and their capital cities if they know them. Write down each country and capital they name on the board or screen. You can keep the list incomplete based on what they suggest and add the missing names later during the “Theory part”.

Do not write down the countries that are not a part of Europe (but include the European ones that are also part of other continents – i.e. Greenland, etc.)

THEORY PART (10 minutes)

Play a video showing each European country and its location and capital.

Examples:

“[EUROPEAN CAPITALS - Learn Countries and Capital Cities of Europe with Flags](#)” by Kiddopedia

“[Master European Geography: Learn Countries and Capitals in 5 Minutes!](#)”
by Begrepen Be

You can either provide a full list of the countries and capitals or ask students to take notes during the video in order to create a common document afterwards based on what they have written down.

HANDS-ON PART (10 minutes)

Using a blank map of Europe, ask the students to write the name of the capital of each country. Depending on their knowledge of European geography, you can provide a map with or without the country names and with or without the specific location of the capital city.

To make this activity more motivating, have students form groups (of 3-4 individuals) and give points to each group for each capital they correctly place on the map. The team that gets the most points in the specified timeframe wins and could earn a form of reward.

Download a blank map of Europe (2 versions) [here](#).

EXERCISE PART (10 minutes)

[GeoGuessr - Map Quiz Game](#)

As an additional practice, students can play this game, which provides a map of Europe with 39 capital cities to identify, listed at the top.

The names of the countries (and their flags) appear at the bottom once the correct city has been selected. If some students struggle with not knowing the geographical locations of each country, you could provide them with a map that displays the country names (without the capitals) while they play.

A timer at the top adds a bit of challenge: you can suggest that the students who complete the game the fastest with the least amount of mistakes (red dots) and with the best final score (%) could earn a form of reward.


Europe: Capitals (Easy Version) - Map Quiz Game

 Amsterdam, Athens, Belgrade, Berlin, Bern, Bratislava, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Chisinau, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Kyiv, Lisbon, Ljubljana, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Minsk, Moscow, Oslo, Paris, Podgorica, Prague, Pristina, Reykjavik, Riga, Rome, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Stockholm, Tallinn, Tirana, Vienna, Vilnius, Warsaw, Zagreb (39)

[CREATE CHALLENGE](#)

13/39 | 50% | 01:12 | [Click on Warsaw >](#)



 Netherlands Capital: Amsterdam (The Hague holds the seat of the States General, Cabinet, and Supreme Court)

Game mode: Pin Type

[LEARN](#)

[RESTART](#)



At the bottom of the map, you can select "Type" instead of "Pin", which, rather than asking students to click on the dot for the corresponding capital, asks them to type in the name of the highlighted city.

In order to check an overview of all the correct answers, the bottom tab “Learn” allows users to show all the names of the cities across the map, specifying the country name and flag when clicking on the capital.



Note: The website provides several other games on countries and flags, which you can find in the “Map games” section at the bottom of the linked page.

SYNTHESIS/SUMMARY (2 minutes)

Provide students with a full list of all the country names and their capital cities, along with a completed map with each name in the correct location.

RESOURCES

- EduGraal project. (2023). *European capitals - Adventure and lesson - Blank map.pdf*. Google Drive. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ggXk-CLyBhylDLwEYSFuqU9jbaaOEjrh/view>
- Kiddopedia. (2019, April 12). *EUROPEAN CAPITALS - Learn Countries and Capital Cities of Europe with Flags* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZV7NC3TPs>
- Begrepen.be. (2022, December 9). *Master European Geography: Learn countries and capitals in 5 minutes!* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxdTdjW-KQA>
- GeoGuessr, *Europe: Capitals (Easy Version) - MaP Quiz Game - Seterra*. (n.d.). <https://www.geoguessr.com/vgp/3051>