



GREECE

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Overview

- Greece is a country in south-eastern Europe.
- It borders a number of countries, including Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria and Macedonia.
- It also has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Greece covers an area of 131,957 sq. km. It is the 15th largest European country by area.
- About 10.8 million people live in Greece. The capital city is Athens.
- Greece has around 6,000 islands, although only around 227 of these are habited.



Human Geography

Greece has a long and rich history, and a culture which has developed over thousands of years from the time of the Ancient Greeks. Its warm climate also makes it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world.

Population



-The population of Greece is around 10.8 million people. This makes it the fourteenth most populous country in Europe. The population density is 82 people per square kilometre. This is the 30th highest population density in Europe.

Settlements



-The most populous and capital city of Greece is Athens. It has a population of over 3 million people. Other large settlements include Thessaloniki, Patra, Piraeus and Larisa. Most settlements were founded around the coast, as Greeks historically were seafaring people.

Economic Activity



-Greece is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. Greece has suffered many financial problems in recent years, and have had to be helped by other countries. Tourism is a large source of income for Greece.

Resources/Trade



-Greece have many natural resources, and are a large trader of petroleum products. In terms of food, Greece exports high quantities of fresh fish, olive oil, tomato-based products and wine.

Physical Geography

- Greece is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. The northern mainland region is the most mountainous. The highest peak is Mt Olympus, which is 2,917m high.
- Greece also contains thousands of islands in the Aegan, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas. The largest island is Crete.
- Greece has a warm and sunny climate. The temperature averages around 33°C in summer and 14°C in winter.
- Rainfall is heaviest in the northern mountains. Some islands receive very little yearly rain.
- The longest river entirely in Greece is Haliakmon, which is about 185 miles long.
- There are many volcanoes. The most famous are those of Santorini, Kos, Milos and Nisyros.
- Lakes of a large size include Trichonis, Vegoritis and Volvi.



Comparison with the UK

- Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe & Greece in southern Europe.
- Due to its more southerly position (closer to the Equator) Greece is warmer than the UK. On average, Athens is 9°C hotter than London.
- Greece is smaller than the UK – 131,957 sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.
- Significantly more people live in the UK – 66 million compared to 10.8 million.
- London has a much larger population than Athens: 8.4 million compared to 3.1 million.
- Greece has higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Olympus is 2,917m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at 1,345m.
- Greece is made up of many more islands than the UK. It has a much longer coastline.



Key Vocabulary

Greece
Europe
Mediterranean
Athens
Ancient
Crete
Aegean Sea
Ionian Sea
Mt. Olympus
Euro
Tourism
Volcanoes
Seafaring
Santorini
Milos

Greece Timeline

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| 3000 BCE Bronze Age begins in Greece. | 1240 BCE The Trojan War takes place. | 1130 BCE The Iron Age begins. | 800-700 BCE The city-states of Rome and Sparta emerge, becoming major powers. | 776 BCE The first Olympics takes place at Olympia. | 570 BCE Pythagoras is born. He creates Pythagoras' theorem. | 336 BCE Alexander the Great becomes King. | 324 CE Greece becomes part of the western Roman Empire. | 1453 CE Greece becomes part of the Ottoman Empire. | 1821 CE Greek War of Independence | 1832 CE First modern King of Greece. | 1946-52 CE Greek Civil War takes place. | 1981 CE Greece joins European Union. |
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