Knowledge Organiser: **Europe**

Key Physical Geography

Mountain Ranges: Alps, Pyrenees, Carpathians, Urals.
Rivers: Danube, Rhine, Seine, Thames, Volga.
Seas: Mediterranean, Baltic, North Sea, Black Sea.
Peninsulas: Iberian, Balkan, Scandinavian.
Islands: British Isles, Iceland, Sicily, Crete.

Climates of Europe

Mediterranean: Hot, dry summers; mild, wet winters (e.g. Spain, Italy).
Continental: Hot summers, cold winters (e.g. Poland, Hungary).
Marine West Coast: Mild and wet all year (e.g. UK, France).
Subarctic/Polar: Very cold (e.g. Northern Scandinavia, Russia).

Natural Hazards

Earthquakes: Common in southern Europe (e.g. Greece, Italy).
Volcanoes: Mount Etna, Vesuvius, Stromboli (Italy).
Flooding & Heatwaves: Increasing due to climate change.

Human Geography

Population: Densely populated in western and central Europe.
Languages: Over 200 languages spoken (e.g. French, German, Russian).
Religions: Christianity (dominant), Islam, Judaism.
Economies: Mixture of high-income and lower-income countries.

East vs West Europe

West Europe: Wealthier, older democracies, high standard of living.
East Europe: Former communist states, rapid change, lower average incomes.

Russia and Turkey

Russia: Transcontinental (Europe and Asia); politically and culturally mixed.
Turkey: Mostly in Asia but has a small European section (Istanbul); historically tied to Europe.

European Union (EU)

What: A political and economic union of 27 countries.
Aims: Promote peace, free trade, movement of people.
BREXIT: The UK left the EU in 2020.

Migration in Europe

Causes: War (e.g. Syria), poverty, climate change, opportunity.
Impacts: Pressure on services but also contributes to workforce and diversity.

Climate Change in Europe

Impacts: Melting glaciers, rising sea levels, heatwaves, drought.
Responses: Renewable energy, green cities, international agreements.

Sustainable Cities

Freiburg, Germany: Renewable energy, green spaces, eco-housing.
Copenhagen, Denmark: Bike-friendly, low emissions, efficient transport.

Spain's Agriculture

Vegetable Production: Almería greenhouses produce year-round crops.
Issues: Water scarcity, plastic waste, poor migrant worker conditions.

Living in Europe

Germany: Strong economy, high living standards, renewable focus.

Croatia: Coastal tourism, EU member, traditional lifestyles.

Norway: Wealth from oil, high taxes, excellent quality of life.

Key Terms

Continent: A large landmass; Europe is one of seven.

Climate: The average weather conditions over time.

Natural Hazard: A natural event that causes damage.

Migration: The movement of people from one place to another.

Sustainability: Meeting current needs without harming future generations.

Revision Questions

1) Name two mountain ranges in Europe.
2) What type of climate does Spain have?
3) Why is Italy prone to volcanoes?
4) What are two differences between eastern and western Europe?
5) Why is Freiburg considered sustainable?
6) Name one challenge and one benefit of migration in Europe.
7) Which European country is not in the EU anymore?
8) Why are greenhouses common in Almería, Spain?
9) What natural hazard affected parts of Europe in 2003 and 2022?
10) What makes Norway a wealthy country?