

## EUROPE

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**T**HE map shows the great North European Plain that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains in Russia. This huge area of lowland has most of Europe's best farmland, and many of the biggest cities.

To the north of the plain are the snowy mountains of Scandinavia. To the south are even higher mountains: the Pyrenees, the Alps and Carpathians, and the Caucasus Mountains. Southern Europe has hills and mountains by the Mediterranean Sea. The areas of lowland are carefully farmed.

### PUZZLE



The most important building in Europe?  
• Where is it found?  
(Answer on page 97.)

### EUROPE FACTS

**AREA** 10,531,000 sq km (including European Russia)  
**HIGHEST POINT** Mt Elbrus (Russia), 5642 metres  
**LOWEST POINT** By Caspian Sea, minus 38 metres  
**LONGEST RIVER** Volga (Russia), 3690 km  
**LARGEST LAKE** Caspian Sea\*, 371,000 sq km  
**BIGGEST COUNTRY** Russia\*, 17,075,400 sq km (total area – Europe and Asia)  
**BIGGEST ALL-EUROPEAN COUNTRY** Ukraine, 603,700 sq km  
**SMALLEST COUNTRY** Vatican City\* (in Rome, Italy), less than half a square kilometre!  
**MOST CROWDED COUNTRY** Malta  
**LEAST CROWDED COUNTRY** Iceland  
\* A world record as well as a European record



These stamps are from countries that are in the European Union. Can you name them? (Answers on page 97.)