

Chapter 6

Federal Republic of Germany (Bundersrepublik Deutschland)

pages 116-143

Section 1

The Geography of Germany
Pages 122-127

Section 2

A Brief History of Germany
Pages 128-134

Section 3

The Government of Germany
Pages 135-136

Section 4

The Economy of Germany
Pages 137-139

Section 5

U.S.-German Relations
Pages 140-141

Chapter Review

Pages 142-143

Engagement: Vocabulary Trading Card

Assign each student a vocabulary term from the list. Using the Trading Card template provided in the workbook activity sheets, instruct students to do the following for their term:

1. Define the term.
2. List two synonyms.
3. List one antonym.
4. Identify the social science (including history) most closely connected to the term.
5. Draw an image related to the term.
6. Rate the importance of the term in the chapter (one to five stars).

When the cards are completed, have the students share their trading card information with the class.

NOTE: Websites and their URLs are continuously changing. The Internet addresses included throughout this program were operative when the text was published.

Chapter 6

Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesrepublik Deutschland)

CHAPTER PREVIEW

People

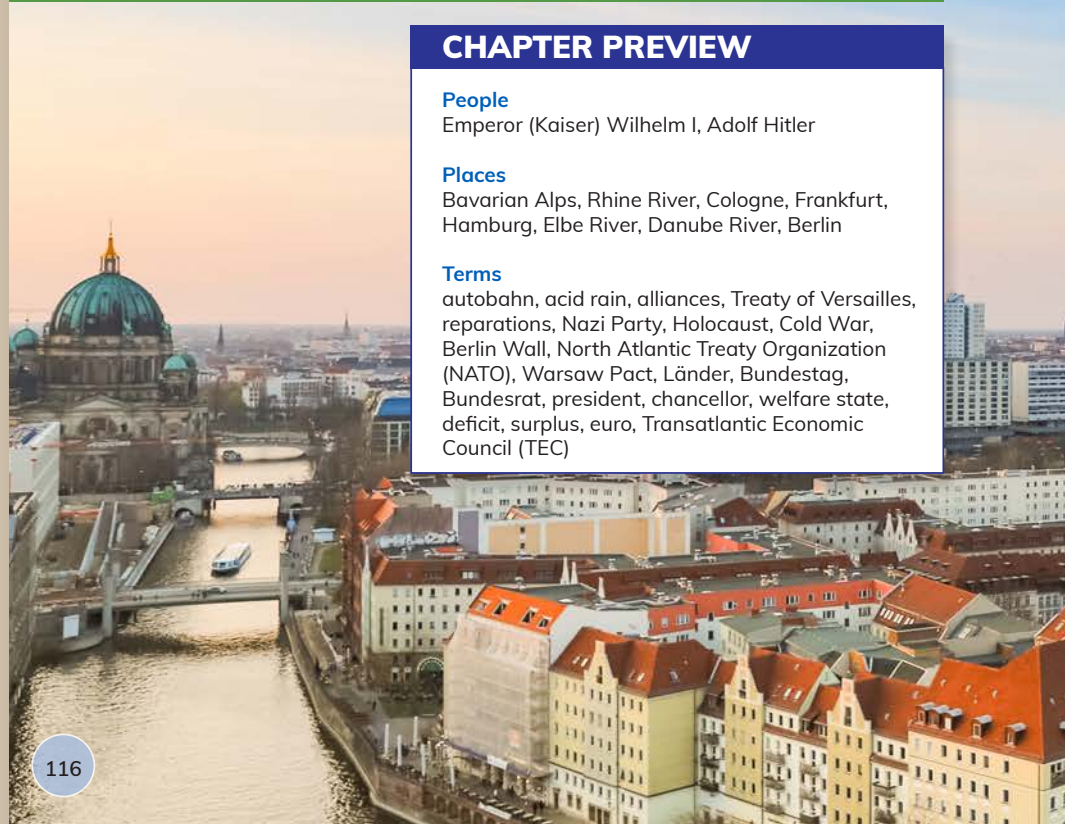
Emperor (Kaiser) Wilhelm I, Adolf Hitler

Places

Bavarian Alps, Rhine River, Cologne, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Elbe River, Danube River, Berlin

Terms

autobahn, acid rain, alliances, Treaty of Versailles, reparations, Nazi Party, Holocaust, Cold War, Berlin Wall, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Warsaw Pact, Länder, Bundestag, Bundesrat, president, chancellor, welfare state, deficit, surplus, euro, Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC)



116

Notes

Germany is one of the world's most prosperous countries. Its people enjoy a high standard of living. The Germans are well educated and have a reputation for quality. Their scientific community is world class. Germany's location in the central part of Europe along the European Plain has been an encouragement to trade. The country is sometimes recognized by its huge pretzels and cuckoo clocks, or by the traditional clothing—*lederhosen* and *dirndl*—worn in the southern part of the country. Bach and Beethoven are two of its famous musicians. Fairytale castles dot the landscape, and *Grimm's Fairy Tales* such as *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Rapunzel*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *Cinderella* are known by children around the world. In sports, Germany is one of the top medal winners in the Olympic Games, and its favorite sport is football (soccer). Germany is also a modern country that is similar to the United States in many ways.

You may recognize some of its largest companies such as automobile makers Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, and Volkswagen. Adidas and Puma are famous for athletic clothing, and Bayer is known for its aspirin and other pharmaceuticals. In fact, Germany has Europe's largest economy. The United States is its fourth-largest source of imports and its largest customer for products made in Germany. Germany trades about \$12.8 billion in goods each year with Georgia.

It is hard to imagine that this clean, strong, and developed nation was in ruins only 70 years ago. World War I saw the death of 2-1/2 million Germans. Only a few years later, World War II ended with the death toll in Germany over 7 million. Its cities were rubble and highways, railroads, bridges, and water supplies were destroyed. Even today, the piles of debris from the war form hills near many German cities. Berlin's Teufelsberg is one such hill and is the city's second-highest point.

Since World War II, the United States and Germany have developed a strong political and military partnership. The United States and other countries worked to rebuild Germany after the war, and the leaders of West Germany took a strong stand against the Soviet Union and communism during the Cold War. Both countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other organizations that work to settle disputes between countries and promote security. Germany has assisted the United States in the war on terror since 9/11 and has itself been a victim of terror attacks.

"For Germany, Europe is not only indispensable, it is part and parcel of our identity. We've always said German unity, European unity and integration, that's two parts of one and the same coin. But we want, obviously, to boost our competitiveness."

—Angela Merkel,
chancellor of Germany
2005-2021



Background: The Spree River flows through the city of Berlin, capital of Germany.

Lesson Launch: Class Discussion

Ask students: What do you know about Germany? What have you learned about Germany in the past? Students should have some prior knowledge of Germany's involvement in World War I and World War II. Have them review the German companies mentioned in the text and have them make a list of products they use made by those companies.

Questioning

Ask students: Why would the United States be committed to helping rebuild Germany after World War II destroyed much of the country?

Reading Quotations

The quotation on this page is from Angela Merkel, who served as Chancellor of Germany from 2005 to 2021. Why do you think she would focus on unity in her quote? Discuss how Germany was divided after World War II until it was reunified in 1990.

Notes

Answer to Map 6.1 Skill

The countries that share a border with Germany are the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, Czechia, Poland, and Denmark. The bodies of water that share a border with Germany are the North Sea, the Bay of Kiel, the Baltic Sea, and the Bay of Pomeranian.

Questioning

Ask students: Why are port cities vital to Germany? What advantage do navigable rivers give Germany?

Connecting to Prior Learning

Ask students: What connections are there between the environmental issues in Germany and the environmental issues in the United Kingdom?

Questioning

Ask students: What impact do you think Germany's variety of natural resources will have on Germany's economy?

Building Background Knowledge

The Brandenburg Gate was once a symbol of Berlin's division, as it was located in a restricted area during the time of the Berlin Wall. However, after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Brandenburg Gate became a symbol of unity and reconciliation.

MAP 6.1 GERMANY

Map Skill: Name the countries and bodies of water that border Germany.



Area: 137,847 square miles
Area Rank: 63

Natural Resources: coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, construction materials, timber, arable land

Environmental Issues: emissions from coal-burning utilities and industries contribute to air pollution; acid rain, resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions, is damaging forests; pollution in the Baltic Sea from raw sewage and industrial effluents from rivers in eastern Germany; hazardous waste disposal; government phased out use of nuclear power in 2023; government working to meet EU commitment to identify nature preservation areas in line with the EU's Flora, Fauna, and Habitat directive

Background: The Brandenburg Gate, built in the 19th century, is one of Berlin's most famous landmarks.

Notes

Figure 6.1 Timeline of Germany

1800

- 1870 Franco-Prussian War began
- 1871 Unification of Germany under Emperor (Kaiser) Wilhelm I

1900

- 1914 World War I began
- 1919 World War I officially ended with Treaty of Versailles
- 1933 Adolf Hitler became leader of Germany
- 1936 Hitler sent troops into former German territory
- 1938 German troops controlled Austria and Czechoslovakia
- 1939 Germany invaded Poland; World War II began
- 1945 World War II ended; Germany and Berlin divided into 4 zones
- 1948 Russian zone renamed East Germany under Soviet control
- United Nations passed Genocide Convention
- Israel opened its borders to Jews
- 1949 NATO formed; Warsaw Pact formed
- 1961 Berlin Wall built
- 1989 Berlin Wall torn down
- 1990 Reunification of East and West Germany
- 1992 Main-Danube Canal completed

2000

- 2005 Angela Merkel, the first woman chancellor elected
- 2011 Shutdown of 8 nuclear reactors after Japan's nuclear disaster
- 2015 Minimum wage law took effect
- 2029 Expected completion of 11-mile Fehmarnbelt Tunnel under the Baltic Sea

Building Background Knowledge

Have students pick two or more events from the timeline that they are unfamiliar with and have them research the event.

Comparison and Contrast

Compare and contrast the beginning and end of World War I and World War II with students.

Questioning

Ask students: Why do you think the Berlin Wall was built? What were the reasons for removing the wall in 1989?

Building Background Knowledge

The Fehmarnbelt Tunnel will connect Germany with the rest of Scandinavia, significantly decreasing the time required to travel between countries.

Notes

Building Background Knowledge

Adolf Hitler consolidated power after the Reichstag (pictured on this page) mysteriously burned in 1933. The fire was blamed on Dutch communist Marinus van der Lubbe, leading to the arrests of 4,000 communists. Hitler called for a new election and many more Nazis were elected, leading to the end of democracy in Nazi Germany.

Questioning

Ask students: Based on what you know about parliamentary democracies, how would you predict that the chancellor is selected in Germany?

Building Background Knowledge

After World War II, Germany was divided into four zones of occupation, each controlled by one of the Allied powers. In 1949, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France combined their occupation zones to form West Germany, while the Soviet Union's occupied zone became East Germany.



PASSPORT



Official Name: Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesrepublik Deutschland)
Capital: Berlin
Form of Government: parliamentary democracy
Head of Government: Chancellor
Head of State: President
Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal
Currency: Euro (€)



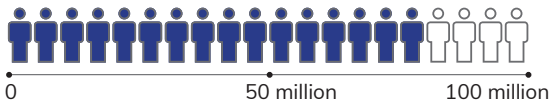
Top: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.
Above: The Reichstag building in Berlin is the seat of the German Bundestag. The inscription over the entrance reads "To the German people."

120

Notes

CULTURE CONNECTION

POPULATION



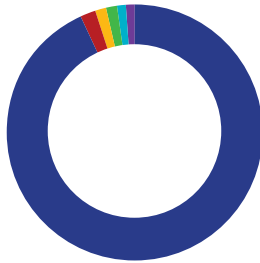
Germany
84,119,100 (2024 est.)
Population Rank 19

United States
341,963,408 (2024 est.)
Population Rank 3

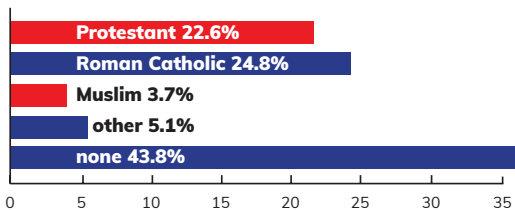
ETHNIC GROUPS

- German 85.4%
- Turkish 1.8%
- Ukrainian 1.4%
- Syrian 1.1%
- Romanian 1%
- Poland 1%, other/state less/unspecified 8.3% (2022 est.)

other 6.1% (made up largely of Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish)



RELIGION (2022 est.)



FUN FACTS

Germany has nearly 700 zoological gardens, wildlife parks, aquariums, bird parks, animal reserves, or safari parks, including 414 registered zoos. Berlin's Zoologischer Garten is the largest zoo in the world, both in terms of number of species (1,500) and animal population (14,000).

Official Language:
German

Hello – Hallo
Goodbye – Auf wiedersehen
Good morning – Guten morgen
Good afternoon – Guten nachmittag
Thank you – Danke
You're welcome – Bitte
Yes – Ja
No – Nein



LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average 81.9 years (2024 est.)
Male 79.6 years
Female 84.4 years



EDUCATION

Education Expenditures
4.7% of GDP (2020 est.)
Rank 89

Connecting to Prior Learning

After students have examined Germany's life expectancy and education information, ask them to predict what they think Germany's standard of living would be.

Questioning

Ask students: What impact does Germany's location have on the distribution of ethnic groups in Germany?

Collaboration

Instruct students to visit and explore the official German government website (www.bundesregierung.de/). Have them write down ten facts that stood out to them as interesting to share with a collaborative partner.

Notes

Section 1

The Geography of Germany

Outline

- A. Location and Size of Germany
- B. Climate of Germany
- C. Distribution of People in Germany
- D. Natural Resources of Germany
- E. Physical Features of Germany
- F. Environmental Issues of Germany

Materials

Textbook, pages 122-127

Student Workbook

Teacher Tech

Website

Lesson Plan

Guided Reading 6-1

Online Textbook

Lesson Launch:

Illustrated Vocabulary

Have students define the key terms and use them in their own sentences. Then, as they read the section, have them draw a small picture or symbol for each term. Have students share their illustrations with a partner after reading and drawing.

Lesson Launch:

Practicing Map Skills

Instruct students to locate Germany on a globe or map and describe its relative location. Have students then determine the absolute location of Germany's capital.

Collaboration:

Think-Pair-Share

Have students consider this question individually, then pair up with a collaborative partner, and finally share their thoughts with the class. Ask students: What are the benefits and challenges of Germany's location in Europe? Guide students to examine the number of borders and waterways that benefit trade. Additionally, discuss how the area allows for the exchange of not only goods but also ideas between countries.

SECTION 1

Below: This overlay map compares the size of Germany to the contiguous United States.

The Geography of Germany

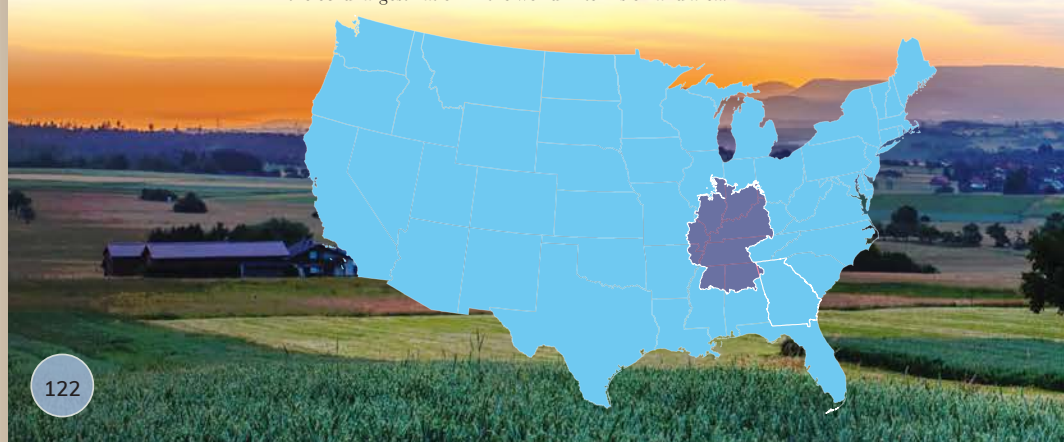
AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR...

- » Germany's location in the world;
- » the type of climate found in Germany;
- » how location and climate affect where Germans live;
- » the major environmental problems facing Germany today;
- » how the physical features of Germany affect the economy
- » terms: **autobahn**, **acid rain**.

Location and Size of Germany

Germany is located in Western Europe, in the northern and central regions. This location places it in the northern and eastern hemispheres. Its latitudes place it in line with the northern United States and Canada. Denmark, the Baltic Sea, and the North Sea lie to the north, while Poland and the Czech Republic are to the east. On the southern border lie Austria and Switzerland, and to the west are France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Germany shares a border with more countries than any other nation in Europe. Germany's location on the North and Baltic Seas allows it to have numerous ports with access to Baltic and North Sea countries as well as the Atlantic Ocean.

Germany is about the size of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama combined. However, four times as many people live in Germany as in these three states. It is the 63rd-largest nation in the world in terms of land area.



Notes



Background: The western Swabian Jura region is a less-populated area of Germany. **Left:** The 19th century Neuschwanstein Castle is located in Bavaria, near the Austrian border.

Climate of Germany

Most of Germany has a marine climate. The waters of the Gulf Stream moving from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic Ocean bring warmth and moisture to the region. This means that the warm waters of the ocean help to keep the land warm in winter. The sea also helps to cool the land in summer. The ocean brings important moisture to the land in the form of precipitation that provides enough moisture for farmers to produce good crops.

The Bavarian Alps have a climate that changes with their altitude. Some parts of the mountains are deep in snow all winter. Eastern Germany is farther from the effects of the sea; therefore this part of the country has longer, colder winters. Summers in this area tend to be longer, hotter, and drier.

Distribution of People in Germany

Germany is Europe's third most populated country with over 84 million people. Germany's average population density is 243 people per square mile, making it one of Europe's most densely populated areas. Approximately 78 percent of Germans live in urban areas, and most live in the country's northern and western parts. The region along the Rhine River near Cologne and Frankfurt is the most heavily populated. This area has the highest level of manufacturing jobs and a large transportation system. Hamburg, on the Elbe River, is Germany's largest seaport. This area in northwest Germany is also densely populated. The former East Germany and the Alps regions are least crowded.



Non-Verbal Representation

Have students create a graphic organizer describing the details of Germany's major climate regions.

Questioning

Ask students: Why do you think the climate has a dramatic effect on where humans choose to live? Do you think technology has affected this?

Comparison and Contrast

Compare the regions of Germany that have higher and lower population densities. How does climate and geography impact the population density? How does economic activity impact population density?

Using Photographs and Illustrations

Compare the images on this page. Ask students: What geographic features do you notice in both pictures? What would the impact of geography be on the people living in these regions?

FEATURED STRATEGY

Looking through the Lens of a Geographer

Remind students that as they study the countries in Europe, they will be using at least four different lenses: that of a historian, a geographer, a political scientist, and an economist. Chapter 6, Section 1 focuses geography. Tell students that when looking at events through the lens of a geographer, they need to ask and answer questions like these:

- » Where is this place?
- » How do people use the land?
- » Why might people stay or leave this place?
- » How has this place changed over time?

Give pairs or small groups of students two minutes to find an image in the book that shows a place. Have them discuss what they notice in the image, then work together to answer the four questions above in the context of the image.

Non-Verbal Representation

Have students create a T-chart to organize Germany's renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

Questioning

Ask students: What is the economic impact of the diverse natural resources found in Germany?

Using Photographs and Illustrations

Have students observe the image of the autobahn and ask them: Based on the image and the facts shared on the page, what impact does the autobahn have on the transportation of goods in Germany?

Comparison and Contrast

Have students compare and contrast the Rhine and Danube rivers in terms of their impact on travel and trade in Europe.



Natural Resources of Germany

Germany has numerous natural resources. Iron ore, coal, and potash are major products from mining. Uranium, which is used for nuclear fuel, is also found in Germany. Nickel, natural gas, and copper are important too. Timber is a renewable resource. This means that, once the timber is harvested, it can be replanted to be harvested again in the future. Many of the forests in the north have been cut away to provide land for farms, villages, and towns, but there are still large amounts of timber in the south. About one-third of the land is arable, or able to be used for agriculture.

Natural resources have shaped the way Germany has developed. For example, natural resources such as coal have helped to build large industrial areas. These areas then became large cities in Germany. Many of these cities developed along the Rhine River. The Rhine is an excellent transportation route for goods and people. For that reason, the Rhine River region is very densely populated.

Above: Germany has the largest solar power capacity and third-largest wind power capacity in Europe. **Bottom:** The German autobahn is one of the best-built highway systems in the world.

Physical Features of Germany

Rivers and waterways are the lifeline of Europe. Travel, trade, and transporting goods are all important to the economies of the European countries. The Rhine River, much of which lies in Germany, is very important for trade. This river is over 800 miles long. That is more than double the length of Georgia's Chattahoochee River. The Rhine begins high in the Alps of Switzerland and flows north through Germany to the North Sea.

In 1992, the Main-Danube Canal was completed. It connects the Rhine and Main Rivers in Germany with Europe's second-longest river, the Danube. Following this route, a ship can travel from the North Sea for 2,200 miles through 15 countries to connect with the Black Sea. Water transportation for trade and tourism has increased along these rivers because of the completion of the canal.

Germany's location in the center of Europe makes it an important crossroads for travel and trade. The country's excellent highway system has helped Germany take advantage of its location. Germany's freeways, known as the **autobahn**, are among the best-built in the world. They connect key cities in Germany with one another and with other cities in nearby countries.

Did You Know?

The US Interstate Highway System was implemented by President Dwight Eisenhower based on the German autobahns he had seen as a general during World War II.

Did You Know?

On over half of the autobahn highways, there is no speed limit for cars and motorcycles.



Notes

Non-Verbal Representation

As students read, have them create a cause and effect chart for acid rain in Germany.

Modeling and Practice

Guide students by showing them how to write a paragraph about the causes and effects of acid rain in Germany. Demonstrate to students how to locate textual evidence in the text, including the use of images and photographs.

Problem Solving

Have students brainstorm some international solutions for acid rain. Ask students: Why is it necessary to find a global solution to the issue of acid rain?

Summarizing

Have students create a bumper sticker or poster to raise awareness about acid rain.



Top: A German forest damaged by acid rain. **Bottom:** Coal Power Plant burning lignite in Weißwasser, Saxony.

When it comes to the problem of acid rain, Germany is its own worst enemy. The main sources of acid rain are smoke from factories and power plants. These facilities burn fuels like natural gas, coal, and oil. Cars and buses that burn gasoline and diesel produce these gases too. Germany, however, depends on manufacturing to provide jobs and income for its people. The industries that produce its leading exports—cars, steel, and chemical products—have many coal-burning factories.

Germans also own more cars than do people of most other countries. This adds to the acid rain problem through auto emissions. Nature also plays a part in this problem. The toxic smoke from manufacturing plants is carried by air currents to other places before it falls to Earth in the form of acid rain.

Because Germany shares its borders with many other countries, acid rain is a more difficult problem to solve. For example, air currents bring the chemical-filled smoke from coal-burning factories in the United Kingdom eastward to Germany. The chemicals fall to Earth in Germany as acid rain (see Figure 5.2 on page 97). Germany has been working on how to solve the acid rain problem. In southern Germany, plants that use water power, or hydroelectric power, from streams and rivers in the region are replacing many coal-burning factories. The German government has passed laws to reduce emissions from factories and automobiles. Factories that are not close to rivers are switching to cleaner fuels. They are also building taller smokestacks that will scrub the smoke, or control the amount of sulfur dioxide particles, before it enters the air.



126

Notes



In 2007, Germany, as a member of the European Union, promised to increase its use of cleaner, renewable energy by 20 percent. Germany's goal is to decrease the use of fossil fuels like coal and oil. Germany is developing new types of energy. It is the world's leading producer of wind turbines and solar-power technology. It is home to the largest wind farm and the largest solar energy plant in the world. Because of these changes, the country's harmful emissions are falling. This is reducing the amount of acid rain.

Electricity production is an important industry for Germany, but Germany had a number of nuclear power plants for this purpose. Following the March 2011 Fukushima, Japan, nuclear disaster, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that 8 of her country's 17 nuclear reactors would be shut down immediately and the remaining plants would close by 2022. Following the closure of its nuclear power plants, Germany produces over 50% of its electricity through renewable energy sources.

Above: The Krughütte Solar Park is a 247-acre solar power station in Germany.

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. How do rivers play an important part in German trade?
2. Where do most people live in Germany? Why?
3. What natural resource can be attributed to creating many industrial areas in Germany?
4. How has the German government responded to the acid rain problem in recent years?

127

Building Background Knowledge

In 2024, Germany was the third-largest producer of wind power globally, behind only the significantly larger China and the United States. Wind power was used to produce over 25 percent of Germany's total electric power.

Comparison and Contrast

Have students compare the methods used to produce cleaner energy in Germany. They should compare solar, wind, and nuclear power, identifying the positive and negative impacts of each energy source.

Answers to Review and Summarize

1. Navigable rivers allow factories located inland near resources to ship larger amounts of goods.
2. Most Germans reside in urban areas, primarily in the northern and western parts of the country. This is because this area has an abundance of manufacturing jobs and an extensive transportation system.
3. Coal has helped to create large industrial areas in Germany.
4. The German government has focused on developing cleaner sources of energy, including hydroelectricity, solar, and wind-powered energy.

Notes

Section 2

Brief History of Germany

Outline

- A. European Rivalries
- B. World War I
- C. The Rise of the Nazi Party
- D. World War II
- E. The Cold War
- F. Reunification of Germany

Materials

Textbook, pages 128-134
 Student Workbook
 Teacher Tech
 Website
 Lesson Plan
 Guided Reading 6-2
 Online Textbook

Lesson Launch: Illustrated Vocabulary

Have students define the key terms and use them in their own sentences. Then, as they read the section, have them draw a small picture or symbol for each term. Have students share their illustrations with a partner after reading and drawing.

Questioning

Ask students: What advantages were there in Germany's unification under Kaiser Wilhelm I?

SECTION 2

A Brief History of Germany

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR...

- » European rivalries that led to World War I;
- » impact of the Treaty of Versailles;
- » how the economic conditions in Germany following World War I led to Hitler's rise to power;
- » how Hitler's views of the Jews led to the Holocaust;
- » Germany's role during the Cold War;
- » how Germany was reunited at the end of the Cold War;
- » terms: **alliances, Treaty of Versailles, reparations, Nazi Party, Holocaust, Cold War, Berlin Wall, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Warsaw Pact.**



Above: Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany. **Opposite Page:** German soldiers on the way to the front in 1914.

European Rivalries

Spain, France, and Great Britain among others continued their rivalry for power and wealth into the 1800s. On the continent of Europe, France was the most powerful, and its leaders wanted to keep it that way. Before 1871, the area known as Germany was not a united country. It was, instead, made of many smaller German-speaking kingdoms and territories. France was worried that all of these German-speaking countries might join together. If they did, France could lose its first-place position on the continent. France went to war in 1870 against Prussia's King Wilhelm and the German-speaking rulers who followed him. France lost the conflict, and a result was the unification of Germany under Emperor (Kaiser) Wilhelm I. Under the Kaiser's leadership, Germany grew wealthier, and more of its people were able to work their way out of poverty.

In order to increase their power and wealth, more countries began to acquire colonies. Britain, France, the United States, Russia, Japan, and Germany were among those nations that wanted to become colonial powers. These countries needed raw materials for manufacturing. Less-developed parts of the world might have what they needed. Africa and parts of Asia were the main areas of this new colonization. In Africa, there was so much competition by the Europeans that it became known as the "Scramble for Africa." Competition increased, as well, for markets for manufactured goods.

Featured Strategy Previewing

Have students take a Picture Walk through Chapter 6, Section 2 by looking at the pictures and reading titles and captions. Have them write a prediction of what they think each section will be about based only on the pictures. Students could also work collaboratively with a partner. Have partners share their thoughts with another partner pair before participating in a whole-class discussion.



World War I

Tensions were high in Europe because of this competition. Many of the countries were connected by **alliances** (agreements to defend each other in case of attack). In June 1914, a group of Serbians assassinated Austria-Hungary's Archduke Franz Ferdinand. This was the spark that ignited the explosion. Germany supported Austria's invasion of Serbia, which was a friend of Russia. By August, Germany had declared war on Russia and France. German troops marched through Belgium on their way to France. This invasion caused Great Britain to join in against Germany as a friend of Belgium. Little by little, more countries entered the war, including the United States in 1917. Germany and the Central Powers surrendered in 1918.

Germany faced many problems after World War I. It had lost lands that contained valuable natural resources. About 2-1/2 million Germans had lost their lives. About 4 million were wounded. Industries and farms in the country had been destroyed. Highways, bridges, and railroads had to be rebuilt. The people were left with little hope.

The German government worked to solve the country's problems. However, the country had another obstacle. The 1919 peace treaty (**Treaty of Versailles**) said Germany had to pay reparations to the Allies. (**Reparations** are monies paid by the losing country to the winners to make up for damages done in the war.) Millions of dollars were leaving Germany for France and Great Britain. Germany was also forbidden to have a large army or navy, so many military people lost their jobs. Prices went up as goods became scarce. Basic items such as food and clothing, which were once plentiful in Germany, were now not always available. Men had trouble finding jobs to support their families.

As things became worse, people blamed the government. They wanted their leaders to find solutions to their problems. Then, the stock market crashed in the United States. This made conditions even worse for Germans. Businesses and people around the world stopped buying as much. Many Germans were without hope. Many were angry.

Figure 6.2 Alliances in World War I

Allied Powers*	Central Powers
France 	 German Empire
United Kingdom 	 Austria-Hungary
Russia 	 Ottoman Empire
United States 	 Bulgaria
Italy 	
Japan 	
*Other associated allies not listed	

Building Background Knowledge

Instruct students to write the acrostic MAIN vertically on a sheet of paper to remember the long-term causes of World War I (Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism). Provide students with a description of each cause.

Non-Verbal Representation

Have students create a graphic organizer illustrating the challenges Germany faced in the aftermath of World War I. They should include the measures Germany took in attempt to overcome the challenges as well.

Quick Write

Have students look at the subsection on World War I on page 129. Ask students to select one of the problems that arose after World War I and explain how it contributed to the rise of Nazism in Germany.

Consider providing some sentence frames for students. Here are some examples:

- » The ____ led to..., which led to...
- » The cause was ____, which resulted in...
- » ____ was caused by ____, which led to...

Notes

Building Background Knowledge

After World War I ended, the Treaty of Versailles required the German government to pay money to the Allied powers in the form of war reparations. To pay these debts, the government printed additional currency. This caused the value of Germany's currency to fall rapidly, making it difficult or impossible for Germans to buy the things they needed.

Collaboration

Have students work with a partner to discuss the following questions: How did the Treaty of Versailles play a significant role in the rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazism in Germany? What might the Allies have done differently at the end of World War I to prevent the rise of Nazism? After sharing with a partner, students should share their answers with the class.

Summarizing

Instruct students to write one or two paragraphs describing the rise of Nazism in Germany and the events that led to Germany's involvement in World War II.

Non-Verbal Representation

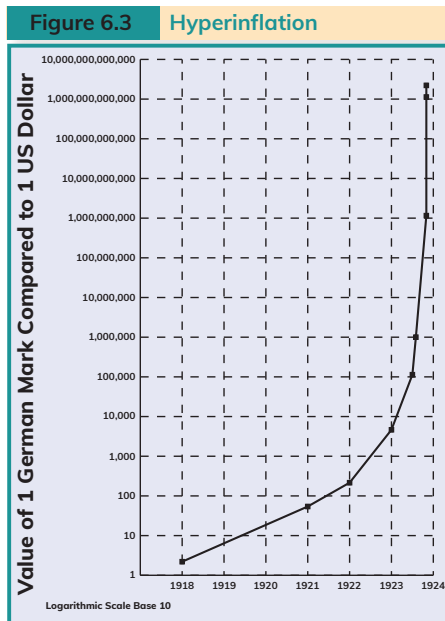
Have students make a timeline of the events that led to World War II.

The Rise of the Nazi Party

Adolf Hitler came on the scene with a big plan. He and his followers, called the National Socialist or **Nazi Party**, said they could fix the problems in Germany. They blamed the Treaty of Versailles for many of the problems. The Nazi Party also said that Jews in the country were controlling the banks and money. They blamed Jews for the fact that many Germans were not able to make a good living. The Jewish people were a minority in Germany, and Hitler used the prejudice some people had toward the Jews to his advantage. One of his quotes about improving Germany was, "We shall regain our health only by eliminating the Jew." His words against the Jews caused some to feel hatred toward their neighbors and provided a target for their anger.

Hitler became the leader of Germany in 1933. He made sure laws were quickly passed to give him more power. Soon he had complete control of the government and acquired the powers of a dictator. He and the Nazis began working to rebuild Germany's military, making it stronger to defy the Allies. He opened factories to build weapons. He put unemployed people to work building a superior highway system. The economy improved for a time, but people lost many of their civil rights. However, many decided it was better to lose rights than to go without food. Hitler gave the people what they wanted: a new Germany where there was hope for a good future. While many disagreed with Hitler's words and ideas, it was risky to speak against him. He and the Nazi Party workers were providing the income and hope the German people needed.

The Nazis continued to build their military power. Germans who spoke against them were put in prison or murdered. As Hitler's strength grew, he made plans to go to war. In 1936, Hitler sent troops into some of Germany's former territory. By 1938, German troops controlled Austria and Czechoslovakia. Other European countries protested but did nothing to stop Hitler. In 1939, Germany invaded Poland. With that, France and Great Britain decided something had to be done. They declared war on Germany, and World War II began. Another part of Hitler's plan to conquer the world was a strategy to systematically kill every Jewish man, woman, and child under Nazi rule. This plan was the **Holocaust**.



Right: Germans give the Nazi salute as Nazi soldiers pass by.



Notes

Answer to Map 6.2 Skill

Germany and the city of Berlin were divided into four occupation zones after World War II, with control assigned to each of the Allied powers. Eventually, the zones of Germany under the control of the United Kingdom, France, and the United States were combined into West Germany, just as the zones of Berlin under their control were combined into West Berlin.

Non-Verbal Representation

Have students create a graphic organizer to summarize five major points about World War II and the Cold War.

Building Background Knowledge

Of the 16.4 million veterans who served in World War II, approximately 66,000 are still alive as of 2024. Ask students: Why is it essential to preserve the stories of World War II veterans before it is too late?

Questioning

Ask students: Why did the East German government want to build the Berlin Wall?

World War II

World War II was the bloodiest conflict in human history. It is estimated that over 60 million people lost their lives as a result of the war. That is about the same number of people who now live in the states of Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi combined.

Germany surrendered in 1945, six years after the war began. The United States, France, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union and their allies had defeated Hitler and the Nazis. Intense bombing of Germany had destroyed much of the country. Large portions of its cities were in ruins. The highways, railroads, bridges, and water supplies that supported the work of the country were gone. More than seven million of its citizens had died, including Hitler. The British, French, American, and Soviet allies divided Germany and Berlin into four zones, each under the control of one ally. The goal was to rebuild the country so it would not feel the need to attack its neighbors again.

The Cold War

Beginning in 1945, the **Cold War** was a period of distrust and misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and its former allies in the West, particularly the United States. The Soviet Union was a communist country with a powerful central government that controlled the economy and the government. Its ideas were very different from the capitalism and democracy of the United States. Like the United States, the Soviet Union held elections. However, the candidates running for office were usually all chosen by the Communist Party, and there was only one candidate running for each position.

After World War II, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin formed a “bloc” of many Eastern European countries that were under Soviet control. The line separating the Eastern Bloc from the countries of Western Europe became known as the “Iron Curtain.”

Another concern of the Cold War was the division of Germany. The United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union each continued to control a zone of defeated Germany. In 1948, the Western Allies wanted to reunite Germany, but Stalin disagreed. He declared the Soviet section of the country East Germany; the reunited sections became West Germany. Even the capital of Berlin, which was in East Germany, was divided into East and West. Tensions grew. In 1961, communist leaders built the **Berlin Wall** to prevent people in East Germany and East Berlin (communist-controlled areas) from escaping to West Germany (controlled by the Western Allied countries).

MAP 6.2 DIVISION OF GERMANY

Map Skill: How was the division of Germany similar to the division of Berlin?



132

Notes



With the threat that the Cold War could turn into a nuclear war, the Western European countries and the United States formed the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** in 1949. The Eastern European countries counteracted by forming the **Warsaw Pact** that same year.

Reunification of Germany

By 1985, the economy of the Soviet Union had become unstable because of the country's ever-increasing spending to put down revolts and keep up with the arms race. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reduced government control of business and increased personal freedoms. Relations with the United States began to improve, and people in the Eastern Bloc countries began to demand freedom.

In November 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down, and Germany began the process of reunification. People around the world celebrated. East and West Germany were united as one country in 1990. The Cold War was officially over. By the end of 1991, the Soviet Union split up into 12 independent republics, of which Russia was the largest.



Top: The Warsaw Pact was a defense treaty signed by the Soviet Union and seven other Eastern bloc countries intended as a balance against NATO. **Above:** Teenagers climb the Berlin Wall.

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. How did the Treaty of Versailles damage Germany's economy?
2. How did Hitler use prejudice to get others to support him?
3. How did the Cold War affect the division of Germany?
4. What events led to the reunification of Germany?

Questioning

Instruct students to look at the image of the Berlin Wall. Tell them that this photo was taken as the wall was being torn down. Ask students to discuss the following questions with a collaborative partner: Do you think this image shows the western or eastern side of the Berlin Wall? What role does graffiti play in the expression of speech?

Non-Verbal Representation

Have students create a visual showing the events involved in the reunification of Germany. Have them make a symbol for each event to help the student remember the order of the events.

Answers to Review and Summarize

1. Germany lost land that contained valuable natural resources, it was forced to limit the size of its military, which led to increased unemployment, and it was required to pay war reparations, resulting in hyperinflation.
2. Hitler placed blame for Germany's problems on the Jews, and he used the prejudice some people had against the Jews to his advantage. His propaganda against the Jews caused some people to feel hatred towards their neighbors, and it provided a target for their anger.
3. Germany was divided into East and West Germany. Berlin, the capital, was also divided into eastern and western sections.
4. The economic collapse of the Soviet Union, the relaxation of strict communist economic policy, the Eastern Bloc countries' cries for freedom, and the tearing down of the Berlin Wall all led to the reunification of Germany.

Notes

Special Feature: The Wall

Building Background Knowledge

Ask students to look at the image of the Berlin Wall on page 134.

Tell them you are going to model a See-Think-Wonder. Say, "I see people standing in large numbers on both sides of the wall. I see the graffiti on the Western side of the Wall. I think this is from just before the wall was opened, because I do not see any soldiers. I wonder what it felt like to wait for the gates and checkpoints to be opened." Invite students to continue responding to what they See-Think-Wonder by discussing the image with a partner. Allow some students to share their See-Think-Wonder. Be sure that students notice the gates holding back the crowds on the Western side. Consider projecting the image for the whole class during this activity for discussion.

Research Activity

Have students research the East Germans' creative means of escape, including secret compartments, tunnels, balloons, and other methods. They can write a newspaper article describing one such daring escape. Students should include in their article why they think citizens would be willing to risk their lives to escape.

Questioning

Ask students: What would it be like to have your city divided by a barrier that you cannot cross?

Special Feature The Wall

Sixteen years after the start of the Cold War, East Germans, with the help of the Soviets, built what became an icon of the Cold War: the Wall. Known in German as *die Mauer*, the Wall was officially built to protect East Germans from spies and invaders from the West—including the United States and Great Britain. Actually, the Wall was built by the East Germans to keep its people in. It is estimated that 4 million East Germans had fled to the West. From the East German government's point of view, the migration had to stop!

The Wall began as a barbed wire fence, but it eventually became two walls, sometimes as much as a football field apart. The space between the two walls was guarded by more barbed wire, guard dogs, and heavily armed soldiers. When the Wall went up with little warning in 1961, some people were separated from their family and friends. Some risked crossing the Wall, but guard towers and increased soldiers made crossing a deadly gamble. More than 100 people were killed trying to cross the Wall, but many escaped in creative ways. Cars with secret compartments, tunnels, and balloons were used by East Germans trying to escape to the West. It is estimated that more than 5,000 were successful. Are there any places in the world like *the Wall* today?



Background: Crowds stand on either side of the Berlin Wall.
Above: U.S. President Ronald Reagan gives a speech at the Berlin Wall calling for the Wall's removal.

Notes

SECTION 3

The Government of Germany

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR...

- » the type of government in Germany today;
- » how the head of government in Germany is selected;
- » the rights of citizens in Germany's welfare state;
- » terms: **Länder**, **Bundestag**, **Bundesrat**, **president**, **chancellor**, **welfare state**.

Structure of Government

Germany has a federal government system organized by its constitution, the Basic Law. The states, called **Länder**, share government power with the national government. Giving more power to the states would make it more difficult for a dictator such as Hitler to come to power.

The states and national government have a parliamentary system. The German Parliament is made up of two houses: the Bundestag and the Bundesrat. The more powerful of the two is the lower house, the **Bundestag**, with about 600 members. The citizens of the states elect members of this house. The Bundestag selects the chancellor. The 69 members of the upper house, the **Bundesrat**, are appointed by the individual states and not voted by the general population. Members of the Bundesrat are selected to represent the interests of each state.

The **president** is the head of state. The president has limited powers but has an important role in government as a respected leader who signs laws and treaties, among other duties. The **chancellor** is the chief executive of the German government and head of the military. The chancellor, as the head of government, takes care of the day-to-day business of the nation.



Did You Know?

The German Parliament meets in a building in Berlin called the Reichstag. The dome of the building is made of glass to symbolize that Parliament's work is not to be done in secret. The light of the sun and the eyes of the visitors walking in the dome above them remind leaders that the people are in charge.



FEATURED STRATEGY

Developing Writing Skills

Use the following prompt to begin a writing activity: What comes to mind when you read the word government? Have groups of students work together to create a jot list of short one- or two-word responses. Allow two or three minutes for students to complete their lists. Allow groups to share one of their responses aloud to the class that had not already been shared. Use the following sentence starter to help them begin a paragraph: "When I hear the word government, I think about..."

Have students write and complete the sentence starter independently. Then have them add two to three sentences to complete a paragraph describing the experiences that led them to write the first sentence in the way they did.

Section 3 The Government of Germany

Outline

- A. The Structure of Government
- B. Citizen Participation

Materials

Textbook, pages 135-136
 Student Workbook
 Teacher Tech Website
 Lesson Plan
 Guided Reading 6-3
 Online Textbook

Lesson Launch: Illustrated Vocabulary

Have students define the key terms and use them in their own sentences. Then, as they read the section, have them draw a small picture or symbol for each term. Have students share their illustrations with a partner after reading and drawing.

Non-Verbal Representation

Instruct students to create a diagram illustrating the structure of the German government, including the role of the states, the executive branch, and the legislative branch.

Questioning

Ask students: What benefits and problems might arise from being a welfare state? How are Germany's voting rights similar to those of other democracies?

Comparison and Contrast

Compare the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Consider the personal freedoms and the choices of citizens in elections.

Answers to Review and Summarize

1. Germany's federal system grants more power and authority to the states, while also allocating some power to the federal government. Having more power in the hands of the states helps keep a dictator from coming to power.
2. The chancellor is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the government.
3. The Basic Law is the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany.
4. Germans have the right to vote for members of the Bundestag, which appoints the chancellor, and they also elect representatives to the European Parliament. Germans can vote beginning at the age of eighteen, and some cities and states allow voting at the age of sixteen in local elections.



Did You Know?

In some German cities and states, the voting age is 16 for local elections.

Top: German voting.
Below: The Plenary chamber of the German parliament.



136

Citizen Participation

In Germany, citizens have freedom of religion and expression. All citizens are viewed as equal before the law. Germans have the same basic freedoms as citizens of the United Kingdom and the United States. They have equality, freedom of the press, and protection of the family. The Basic Law also states that Germany is a **welfare state**. This means that the government guarantees people certain benefits when they are unemployed, poor, disabled, elderly, or sick.

Germans have the right to vote for representatives in their government. From the age of 18 years old, Germans are free to vote for the members of the Bundestag. Although they do not directly elect the chancellor, the people use their voting rights to speak through the representatives they elect.

German citizens also elect representatives to the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, and Strasbourg, France. This group is the representative body of the European Union.

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. How does Germany's federal system help to keep a dictator from coming to power?
2. Who is in charge of the day-to-day business of the government?
3. What is the German Basic Law?
4. What role do the German citizens play in selecting the leaders?

Notes

SECTION 4

The Economy of Germany

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR...

- » the type of economy present today in Germany;
- » evidence of strong trading partnerships between Germany and other countries;
- » goods exported from Germany;
- » the standard of living in Germany;
- » the type of currency used in Germany;
- » terms: **deficit**, **surplus**, **euro**.

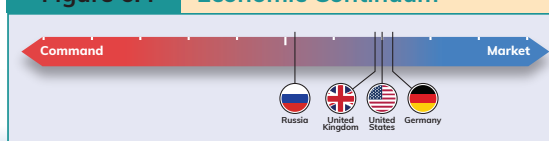
Below: The skyline of the city of Frankfurt includes both skyscrapers and historical buildings.

Economic System Today

Germany has had a strong economy for many years. The government has worked to keep spending under control. Being ranked in the top 20 economies in the world for economic freedom, Germany has stood its ground in the face of hardships. On the economic continuum from pure market economy to pure command economy, Germany has a strong market economy. German businesses have many freedoms and access to free markets with very little government interference. Like most other countries, Germany does impose certain laws of protection for business owners and regulation by government agencies. However, the economy is based on the interaction of consumers and producers to answer the three economic questions that all societies must answer: what to produce; how to produce; and for whom to produce.

The German economy is the third-largest in the world in terms of GDP and is Europe's largest economy. Germany is a leading exporter of machinery, vehicles, chemicals, and household equipment. It benefits from a highly skilled labor force. Germany's economy has faced challenges in recent years. The aging population and low birth rate have decreased the number of workers in Germany. In recent years, the growth in Germany's economy has also slowed.

Figure 6.4 Economic Continuum

Section 4
The Economy of Germany

Outline

- A. Economic System Today
- B. Trade
- C. Standard of Living
- D. Currency

Materials

Textbook, pages 137-139

Student Workbook

Teacher Tech Website

Lesson Plan

Guided Reading 6-4

Online Textbook

Lesson Launch:
Illustrated Vocabulary

Have students define the key terms and use them in their own sentences. Then, as they read the section, have them draw a small picture or symbol for each term. Have students share their illustrations with a partner after reading and drawing.



FEATURED STRATEGY

Looking through the Lens of an Economist

Remind students that as they study Germany, they will be using at least four different lenses: that of a historian, a geographer, a political scientist, and an economist. Chapter 6, Section 4 focuses on the lens of an economist. Tell students that when looking at situations in the past or present through the lens of an economist, they need to ask and answer questions like these:

- » How do people meet their needs and wants?
- » How are goods and services being produced and consumed?
- » What decisions are being made that affect the economy?
- » Is there evidence of scarcity?

Have students work in groups of four to study the pictures on pages 137-139. Have them discuss what they notice in each and what they think is happening. Have students work together to answer the four bulleted questions above in the context of one of the images, writing their answers in complete sentences.

Questioning

Ask students: What are some of the powers and responsibilities that come with Germany having the largest economy in the European Union?

Summarizing

Instruct students to summarize the role of trade for Germany and its major trade partners.

Connecting to Prior Learning

Discuss the role that Germany plays in trading goods with the United Kingdom and other countries in Europe. Ask students: How does specialization benefit the economy of Germany?

Problem Solving

Discuss with the class the importance of a strong German economy to the global economy. What are some of the advantages that Germany has been able to use to strengthen its economy in the years since the end of World War II?



Top: German automaker Mercedes-Benz was founded in 1926.

138

The government also introduced a minimum wage of about \$11.60 (8.50 euros) per hour that took effect in 2015. Stimulus efforts in 2008 and 2009 and tax cuts increased Germany's total budget **deficit** (shortfall). However, slower spending and higher tax revenues reduced the deficit. By 2012, Germany reached a budget **surplus**. In other words, the government had money left over after all the expenses to run the country had been paid. In recent years, the budget fluctuated between a surplus and a deficit.

Trade

Germany is a global power in worldwide manufacturing and trade. In fact, Germany is one of the prominent producers of steel, iron, coal, machinery, tools, electronics, and automobiles. The exports in Germany add up to more than \$2 trillion per year. More than one-fourth of the working population in Germany is employed in manufacturing. The United States, France, and the United Kingdom are among Germany's top trading partners, solidifying the countries' relationship with one another. Imports, exports, and military alliances have been a driving force for these countries since World War II.

Imports are the other side of the trading equation. Imports to Germany from the Netherlands, China, Poland, Belgium, and Italy represent more than \$1.9 trillion in goods and services. With Germany sending out so much technology and manufactured goods, they must import oil and gas, small machinery, and food and agriculture items. With a fairly large percentage of laborers working in manufacturing, only about 1 percent of Germans work in agriculture. This is an example of specialization. Countries spend years studying what goods they can produce efficiently and what items they can import from other countries to balance the economic equation. German cars and machinery have a solid reputation for being well built and dependable. Because Germany produces so many manufactured goods for export, it must import food and other agriculture products to meet the needs of its people.

In 2023, Germany exported goods worth more than \$171 billion to the United States, and the U.S. exported goods to Germany that totaled more than \$72 billion. In 2023, German investment in the United States was worth more than \$472 billion, while U.S. investment in Germany was worth more than \$193 billion.

Standard of Living

Although there is no real price tag on happiness, money has become necessary to achieve a higher living standard. Many things we take for granted as a part of life were once thought of as only luxuries. Televisions, cell phones, air conditioning, and modern plumbing were once reserved for only the richer members of society. Achieving this ever-changing standard of normal in our lifestyle choices requires a higher income level—which requires continuing with education and acquiring the necessary tools for earning high wages.

Notes

Most adults in Germany work outside the home, and there is a high standard of living. Germany is also like many other first-world countries. Education and literacy have a large impact on the types of jobs citizens have. High-paying jobs require a secondary education or additional schooling after high school. More than 95 percent of the German people work in service industries and manufacturing careers. Therefore, additional education is necessary to keep informed of the changes in technology and to compete for the best-paying jobs. When business owners invest in human capital and help their workers continue training in the workplace, German workers can continue to be successful.

Germans tend to save more and borrow less than American workers. The average German saves about 10 percent of income and has little or no debt. Their good economy has kept unemployment low. Their welfare state government pays for most people's university education and medical expenses. Germans typically work fewer hours than workers in other countries. The average is 35 hours per week with an average of 34 days off per year.

Currency

Germany has experienced many changes to its economy and currency since the end of World War I. From the reparations payments demanded by the Treaty of Versailles, to the worldwide depression of the 1930s, to the devaluation of its currency, the German (Deutsche) mark, and then World War II, the Germany economy was hit hard.

At the time of the reunification of Germany, however, the mark was very strong and highly valued as a stable and safe currency. The mark was in place until the introduction of the **euro** in 1999. Currently there are 19 countries using the euro as currency. They are known as the Eurozone countries. With this common currency, purchases are more easily and cheaply made across borders. This promotes trade and encourages people to travel and shop in other countries.



By the Numbers

Germany's currency is the euro. One euro (€) could be exchanged for \$1.07 in 2024.



REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. Describe Germany's position on the economic continuum.
2. What are Germany's main exports?
3. Does Germany's minimum wage law move the country toward the command or market side of the continuum? Explain your thinking.
4. What evidence is given of a strong trade relationship between Germany and the United States?

Top: The University of Freiburg features a modern library finished in December 2015. **Above:** Euro.

139

Notes

Non-Verbal Representation

Have students create a graphic organizer showing the relationship between a well-developed economy and a higher standard of living.

Comparison and Contrast

Compare the saving and spending habits of the average German and the average American worker. Have students research the typical work and savings habits of an average American and compare them to the information in the text.

Developing Writing Skills

Have students write a paragraph about the advantages of Germany switching from the German (Deutsche) mark to the euro.

Answers to Review and Summarize

1. Germany is closer to a market system than the United Kingdom, the United States, and Russia. Germany has a robust market economy, characterized by numerous private businesses and corporations.
2. Germany's main exports are steel, iron, coal, machinery, tools, electronics, and automobiles.
3. Germany has a set minimum wage. This moves Germany towards the command side because it is a government action regulating the marketplace.
4. German corporations produce and sell goods in the United States. The United States is one of Germany's top trading partners. Germany exports more goods to the United States than it imports from the United States.

Section 5

U.S.-German Relations

Outline

- A. Working Together for Security
- B. Bilateral Economic Relations

Materials

Textbook, 140-141
 Student Workbook
 Teacher Tech Website
 Lesson Plan
 Guided Reading 6-5
 Online Textbook

Lesson Launch: Illustrated Vocabulary

Have students define the key terms and use them in their own sentences. Then, as they read the section, have them draw a small picture or symbol for each term. Have students share their illustrations with a partner after reading and drawing.

Bottom: The Group of 7 (or G7) is composed of leaders from the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Germany hosted the group's annual meeting in 2022 to discuss economic and security issues affecting these countries.



SECTION 5

U.S.-German Relations

AS YOU READ, LOOK FOR...

- » ways Germany and the United States work together militarily;
- » evidence of good trade relations between Germany and the United States;
- » term: **Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC)**.

Working Together for Security

The United States is committed to preserving peace and security in Europe, and U.S.-German relations have been important for this goal since the end of World War II. Germany is one of the most important nations when discussing European affairs and is a key partner in U.S. relations with Europeans in NATO and the European Union. The goal of U.S. policy toward Germany is to keep a close relationship, not only as friends and trading partners but also as allies. The security and prosperity of the United States and Germany depend on each other. Political, economic, and security relationships are based on close cooperation.

As allies in NATO, the United States and Germany work side by side to maintain peace and freedom. U.S. and German troops work together in NATO and UN operations worldwide due in part to the joint training carried out at U.S. military installations in Germany. Over 40,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Germany and continue to support the region's NATO troops. According to the German embassy, over 17 million American military personnel have served in Germany since the end of World War II.

FEATURED STRATEGY

Writing to Explain

Have students research the most recent G7 conference and write an article from the perspective of a journalist from Germany. The article should include major talking points of the conference and Germany's position on the issues discussed at the conference.

There are many examples of the two countries working together. Germany was an important part of the UN forces in Afghanistan in the 2000s. German and U.S. naval forces also fought piracy off the Horn of Africa. Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, Germany has been a reliable U.S. ally in efforts to fight global terrorism.

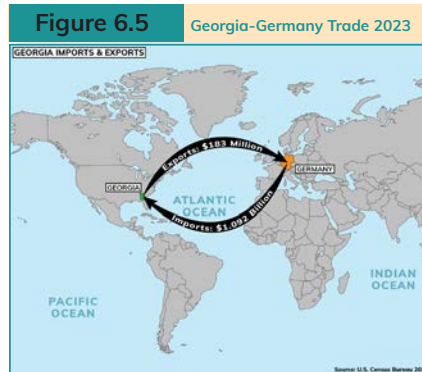


Bilateral Economic Relations

As two of the world's leading trading nations, the United States and Germany share a commitment to an open and expanding world economy. As a member of the European Union, Germany, in 2007, pushed for the creation of the **Transatlantic Economic Council**. This political body, known as the **TEC**, seeks to increase cooperation between the United States and the European Union by promoting economic growth through trade and job creation.

Germany and the United States have a relationship in which both sides contribute and both sides gain. The United States is one of Germany's leading export markets. Combining the total goods traded between the countries, it can be seen that Germany is the fifth-largest trading partner of the United States. The billions of dollars invested by each country in the other also bring mutual benefit. It is to each country's advantage for the other to do well in order to protect these large investments. German investments in the United States focus on manufacturing, retail and wholesale establishments, and finance and insurance. Altogether, German businesses employ over 900,000 American workers, with about 25,000 in Georgia.

Top: Independence-variant littoral combat ships USS Tulsa (LCS 16), left, and USS Jackson (LCS 6), right, transit the Philippine Sea with the German navy frigate FGS Bayern (F 217). Jackson & Tulsa, part of Destroyer Squadron.



REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. What are some benefits of good relations between the United States and Germany?
2. What evidence was given that the military from the United States and Germany work together?

Non-Verbal Representation

Create a graphic organizer showing the products traded between Germany and the United States.

Questioning

Ask students: What is the impact of German businesses employing American workers?

Answers to Review and Summarize

1. The benefits of good relations between the United States and Germany include promoting economic, social, and civil stability in both countries.
2. The militaries have worked together in the war in Afghanistan and fighting piracy off the Horn of Africa. Germany is a reliable ally of the United States in efforts to combat global terrorism.

Notes

Chapter Review

Reviewing the Content: Relay Game

Divide the class into teams and line them up for a relay race review game. After you give a clue, the student at the front of each team's line should go to the word wall and swat the correct person, place, event, or vocabulary word for the given clue.

Answers to Activities for Learning

Reviewing People, Places, and Things

Check the students' sentences to ensure that they use the term correctly and do not define the word.

Understanding the Facts

1. Trains and cars can travel at high speeds because the relatively flat European Plain makes transportation easier in the northern parts of the country. Even in the Alps, Germany has constructed numerous highways, bridges, and tunnels to improve transportation. The autobahn is one of the best freeways in the world.
2. Germany's rivers and waterways, particularly the Rhine and Danube Rivers and the Main-Danube Canal, make it easy to transport goods for trade. Its location in the center of Europe makes Germany a crossroads for trade. Its excellent highway system has helped Germany take advantage of its location.
3. Before 1871, the area that is now Germany was composed of numerous smaller kingdoms and territories. In 1870, France went to war against Prussia's King Wilhelm and other German-speaking rulers. When France lost the war, Germany was unified under Kaiser Wilhelm I.
4. Germany has a federal government system. Its states and the national government have a parliamentary system.

Chapter Review

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Section 1: The Geography of Germany

- Germany's location is good for trade because it borders more countries than any other in Europe and has eight major ports along its coasts.
- The Rhine River has been an important water highway for trade. This has caused densely populated cities to develop along the river.
- Acid rain is a serious problem that has destroyed the country's natural beauty, but Germans are turning to clean energy to decrease the level of harmful emissions that cause acid rain.

Section 2: A Brief History of Germany

- In 1871, many German-speaking kingdoms and territories united under Kaiser Wilhelm I to form the modern country of Germany.
- During World War I, farms and infrastructure were destroyed and many Germans died. After the war, Germans were required to pay reparations. The anger and hopelessness caused by these factors helped Adolf Hitler come to power.
- World War II began when Hitler sent troops into some previous German territories and then invaded Poland. This bloody war ended six years later.
- After World War II, the Allies divided Germany and its capital of Berlin into four zones in an attempt to rebuild the country.
- As part of the Cold War, the Soviets declared their zone of Germany to be East Germany. They built the Berlin Wall to separate their communist section of Berlin from West Berlin. Germany did not reunite until 1990.

Section 3: The Government of Germany

- After Hitler's dictatorship, Germany redistributed power so the states share power with the national government.
- The German Parliament has two houses: the Bundestag and the Bundesrat.
- Germans have a high quality of life with many freedoms, access to benefits, and a strong economy to provide education and jobs.

Section 4: The Economy of Germany

- Germany has a strong market economy that is the fourth largest in the world.
- Over a quarter of Germans work in manufacturing, and German exports are world renowned for their excellent quality.
- The strong economy has contributed to a high standard of living and investment in human capital.
- The adoption of the euro in 1999 made it even easier for German goods and services to be purchased across the Eurozone.

Section 5: U.S.-German Relations

- The United States and Germany have become close allies after World War II in an effort to safeguard global stability, particularly in Europe, and in the fight against terrorism.
- Because the two countries trade extensively and invest in each other, they ensure the other does well politically and economically to guarantee continued trade.

142

Notes

ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Reviewing People, Places, and Things

Use each of the following vocabulary words in a sentence that does not define the word.

renewable resource
acid rain
autobahn
kaiser
reparations
Holocaust
chancellor
welfare state
budget surplus
euro

Understanding the Facts

1. Why can trains and cars travel at such high speeds across Germany?
2. How has Germany's geography encouraged trade?
3. How was the modern country of Germany formed?
4. What is the system of government in Germany?
5. What is the difference between Germany's president and its chancellor?
6. Why did Germany ally with Austria in World War I?
7. Why was Germany central to the Cold War between the Soviets and Western countries?
8. What are Germany's top exports?

Developing Critical Thinking

1. German citizens enjoy a high quality of life—arguably better than that of American citizens because of their welfare state. Based on your knowledge and experiences, use two examples to compare and contrast the quality of life of Germans and Americans.
2. Germany has a market economy, but like most countries, it takes measures to ensure a strong economic future. What are two examples of Germany intervening or investing in the economy? Why are these important for the future of Germany?

Writing across the Curriculum

Many historians believe the poor quality of life for Germans immediately after World War I made World War II almost inevitable. Write a short report on the quality-of-life issues faced after World War I, what emotions these may have stirred in the German people, and how these emotions allowed for World War II and the Holocaust to occur. Be sure to use examples from this book to support your writing.

Applying Your Skills

Create a map of Germany that shows the country's various terrains and geographical features. Include a legend to identify each terrain and properly label geographical features.

Exploring Technology

Use the Internet to research the architecture of the Reichstag, specifically the building's glass dome that was added in 1999. Using specific architectural examples and historical events, explain why the design of the dome is considered to be symbolic of modern German political values.

5. The chancellor is selected by the Bundestag (the lower house) and serves as the chief executive of the German government, as well as the head of the military. The chancellor oversees the nation's day-to-day business. The president is the head of state and has limited powers but is a respected leader who signs laws and treaties, among other duties.
6. Germany allied with Austria because it was bound by an alliance with that country, so it supported Austria's invasion of Serbia, which triggered the outbreak of World War I.
7. Germany was central to the Cold War because Germany was divided after World War II into zones controlled by the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union. In 1948, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin declared the Soviet section of the country East Germany and the other reunited sections West Germany. Berlin was divided in much the same way. Tensions escalated due to the division between democratic and communist areas.
8. Germany's top exports are steel, iron, coal, machinery, tools, electronics, and automobiles.

Developing Critical Thinking

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Check students' reports.

Applying Your Skills

Check students' maps.

Exploring Technology

Check students' research.

Notes
