



### What should I already know?

- The world is made of seven continents
- The world has five oceans
- We live in the United Kingdom
- The United Kingdom is in the continent of Europe
- An atlas is a series of maps of the world

### Overview

- Italy is a country in southern Europe
- It borders a number of countries, including France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, the Vatican city and San Marino.
- It also has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- Italy covers an area of 301,340 sq.km
- 62 million people live in Italy
- It is easy to recognise Italy on any map, as it looks like a high-heeled boot kicking a ball. The 'ball' is the island of Sicily.

### Physical Geography

- The northern region of Italy is the most mountainous. Its Dolomites region is part of the Alps, and it is popular for alpine skiing.
- The highest peak is Monte Bianco (Mont Blanc), which is 4,807m high.
- The Apennines is another mountain range, which separates east Italy from west Italy.
- The north of the country contains large lakes, for example Lake Garda and Como.
- The longest river in Italy is the Po River, which is about 405 miles long.
- Aside from the mainland, Italy contains two large islands, Sicily and Sardinia, and many smaller islands.
- There are three active volcanoes- Vesuvius near Naples, Etna on Sicily and Stromboli, on an island near the southern tip of Italy. Etna is the most active volcano in Europe.



### Human Geography

- Italy has a long and rich history, and a culture steeped in the arts, family, architecture, music and food, Its natural beauty and warm climate also make it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world.
- **Settlements**-The most populous cities in Italy are Rome, Milan and Naples. Other large settlements include Turin, Palermo and Verona. Many people visit Rome each year to see its Roman history, including the famous colosseum.
- **Economic**-Italy is a part of the European union and its currency is the Euro, Italy has a strong tourism trade- cities like Venice and Rome are amongst the most-visited in the world and it also has a number of holiday locations.
- **Trade**- Automobiles and machinery dominate Italian trade, It is also a strong world power in manufacturing. Italian wine, grains and olive oil are exported across the world.

### Technical vocabulary

Italy	A country
Europe	A continent
Mediterranean	The countries surrounding the Mediterranean ocean
Rome	The capital city of Italy
Roman	This refers to Ancient Rome, the Roman civilisation
Vatican City	An independent city-state within Rome, rules by the pope. This is the smallest state in the world.
Sicily	The largest island in the Mediterranean sea
Sardinia	The second largest island in the Mediterranean sea
Mount Etna	An active volcano in Sicily
Mount Vesuvius	The most dangerous volcano in the world- this is on mainland Italy
Mt. Blanc.	The highest mountain in the Alps
Alps	The highest and widest mountain range that lies in Europe
Lake Garda	The largest lake in Italy
Catholic/Roman Catholic	The main religion in Italy- the pope is the chief pastor of the Catholic church
Euro	The currency used in Italy

### Comparison with the UK

- Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe and Italy in Southern Europe.
- Due to its more southerly position (closer to the Equator) Italy is warmer than the UK. On average, Rome is 7 degrees hotter than London.
- Italy is slightly larger than the UK
- Slightly more people live in the UK- 66 million compared to 60 million in Italy.
- London has a much larger population than Rome. 8.4 million compared to the 2.9 million.
- Italy has higher mountains than the UK. Mt Blanc is 4,807m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at 1,345m
- The UK has no active volcanoes, whereas Italy has three.