



Where in the world is Italy?

Italy is a country in the **continent** of Europe. Most people recognise the country on the map because it looks a little bit like a boot. Italy is made up of different regions and it's capital city is Rome. Sardinia and Scicily are also a part of Italy although they are separate islands. Italy is known as a **Peninsula** as it is mostly surround by Sea.

Temperature and Weather

The temperature and climate of Italy depend on where in the country you are. In the north it can be very cold in winter, but warm in the summer. The north is the wettest part of the country too. In the south, the climate is warmer all year round, and in summer can become very hot due to the warm winds from Africa and the Mediterranean.



The mountain range that runs for 1200km along the top of Italy and through all of the bordering countries (as well as Germany, Liechtenstein and Monaco) is the Alps.

The mountain range that runs 1200km along the length of Italy (and is often called the 'backbone' of the country) is the Apennines.

Physical Geography

Italy is a very mountainous country with lots of mountains. It has 2 main Mountain ranges – The Alps and the Apennines.



Vocabulary

Definition

Continent	Large area of land. Earth has 7 continents.
Region	Part or section of a country.
Peninsula	Surrounded by Sea's and Oceans.
Volcano	A mountain with opening where hot lava can erupt from.
Physical features	Naturally occurring features of the land such as mountains and rivers.
Human features	Population, landmarks made by humans.



Human Features

Italy has plenty of famous cities and landmarks. Rome is famous for the Colosseum, Venice famous for the Grand Canal and gondola's. The Leaning tower of Pisa, Ponte Vecchio and Piazza Del Duomo are also popular tourist attractions.



Rome



Venice



Milan



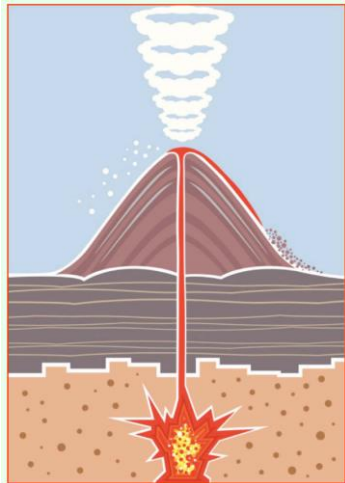
Florence



Pisa

Italy – The Culture

Food	Italy is famous for its simple yet delicious food. Pasta, Pizza and wine are all famously known as part of Italian culture.
Religion	The main religion in Italy is Roman Catholic. Most people who follow this religion are known as 'Catholics'
Carnivals	Italy is known for hosting carnivals. Most famously, carnival of Venice where people wear decorated masks.
Music	Italy is famous for its music – most commonly known 'opera' music. Many early composers of music were Italian and this is why many musical words are Italian (eg Adagio)



These are the ruins of the Roman city of Pompeii. Mount Vesuvius looms in the background.



Mount Vesuvius & The destruction of Pompeii!

Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano in Italy. In 79AD, Mount Vesuvius violently erupted close to the city of Pompeii. A Volcano erupts when heat and pressure from the earth's core builds up underground. The pressure becomes too much and finds a way out via the crater in a volcano mountain. Hot lava, molten rock, gas and rock showered over Pompeii, completely destroying the city and killing all who could not escape. Today, the ruins of Pompeii are a popular tourist attraction for people to visit.