

Lesson 1

Focus Question One

Step #2: Extending and Refining Information

Strategy: Reconstructive Responses

- How does Germany compare to the United States and the rest of Europe in land size, GDP, and relative population?
- What is the significance of the location of Germany?

Activities

Have the students work in four groups. Give each group a resource folder. Use the resources provided to make up the folders:

- 🌐 **Transparency #1:** Topic 1, Lesson 1 (Country Size by Land Area)
- 🌐 **Transparency #2:** Topic 1, Lesson 1 (Country Size by Population)
- 🌐 **Transparency #3:** Topic 1, Lesson 1 (Country Size by Gross Domestic Product)
- 🌐 **Teacher Resource #1:** Topic 1, Lesson 2 (Population Statistics on the European States)

Have each group review the information in the resource folder. Assign each group a different transparency to review in depth. Have the group use one of the reconstructive response techniques to elicit clear concise information from the transparency. For example:

- ▶ **Summary Response** – have the group come up with the basic message of the transparency. Have the students create one or two summary statements about what the transparency says about Germany in relation to other nations.
- ▶ **Precise Response** – Briefly state in a paragraph the key information from the transparency with all unnecessary words removed. The result is a factual reinterpretation of the transparency in paragraph form.
- ▶ **Question Response** – Put the main points of the transparency in question format. Have the students create one question that will lead to a discussion of the main points of the transparency.

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Activities (Continued)

Have each group report back to the rest of the class Record the statements/ questions on the board. Focus the discussion so that the following statements are clearly made:

- ▶ Geographically, Europe is small compared to other cultural regions of the world.
- ▶ The relative size of Europe in terms of population is increasing, but is still relatively small.
- ▶ The economic power of Europe is enormous compared to its land size and population

 Use **Transparency #4** (Why Study Germany) to summarize the discussion.