

Lesson 2**Focus Question #2****How does Germany compare with the other countries of Europe and with the United States?**

- How do the profiles of other European countries compare with the profile of Germany?
- What are the commonalities and differences of the countries of Europe?
- How are the United States and Germany/Europe interdependent?

Background Information

A working knowledge of the relative location and size of the nations of Europe, both members and non-members of the European Union, is an important component in understanding the political and economic relationships among these countries. Even though the twenty-five member nations of the European Union share a common geographic location, many significant differences exist among them, including availability of natural resources, population concerns, and economic pressures. These factors play a role in influencing the political relationships within the Union.

West Germany was a prime mover in and promoter of the European Community in 1957. Later, when the movement toward European unity was threatened, a united Germany was instrumental in realigning the focus of the European countries toward unity. Germany remains at the center of this process today.

Essential Content ✎

Note: The following words/concepts are essential to an understanding of this lesson. Put the words on your Word Wall and use them in context as you teach the lesson.

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| ✎ Life Expectancy | ✎ Population Density |
| ✎ GDP Real Growth Rate | ✎ Literacy Rate |
| ✎ Profile | ✎ GDP per Capita Income |
| ✎ Currency | ✎ Unemployment |
| ✎ Natural Resources | ✎ Inflation |
| ✎ Exports/Imports | ✎ Industry |
| ✎ Urbanization | |