

5

Italy, an EU country

What is Italy like?

What is this unit about?

This unit is about Italy, a country with a long and interesting history and its own customs and way of life. The unit is in two parts. The first looks at Italy's main features and the second at regional differences between the North and the South.

In this unit you will learn about:

- ◆ the European Union (EU)
- ◆ Italy's main physical and human features
- ◆ the country's main regions
- ◆ differences between the North and the South
- ◆ how developed Italy is.

Why is learning about Italy important?

This unit on Italy will give you an interest in and knowledge of people and places that are different from those found in the UK. It will also help you learn more about a country that plays an important role in Europe as well as being one that you may well like to visit in the future.

This unit will also help you to:

- ◆ broaden your knowledge of the world
- ◆ learn about different landscapes and climate
- ◆ understand ways of life that are different from your own
- ◆ recognise differences within a country
- ◆ develop an interest in other countries.

B

Naples and Mount Vesuvius





B Venice

C Tuscany



- ◆ Compared with where you live, how different is:
 - the city and landscape in photo **A**
 - the buildings and activities in photo **B**
 - the countryside in photo **C**?
- ◆ Which of the places:
 - would you most like to visit
 - is most different from where you live?Give reasons for your answers.

What is the European Union?

The European Union, or EU in short, is a group of countries trying to work together. It began when six countries joined together to try to build up their industries and improve their economies following the Second World War. Since then it has expanded in two ways.

- 1 The number of member countries has increased to twenty-five. More countries, mainly in Eastern Europe, are likely to apply to join in the next few years.
- 2 Its activities have grown from trade and industry to include finance, tourism and care of the environment. Other activities are shown in diagram C.



History of the EU

1951 The European Iron and Steel Community was formed

1957 Six countries signed the Treaty of Rome creating the European Economic Community or 'Common Market'

1973 Membership increased to nine countries – including the UK

1981 Ten members

1986 The EC enlarged to twelve countries

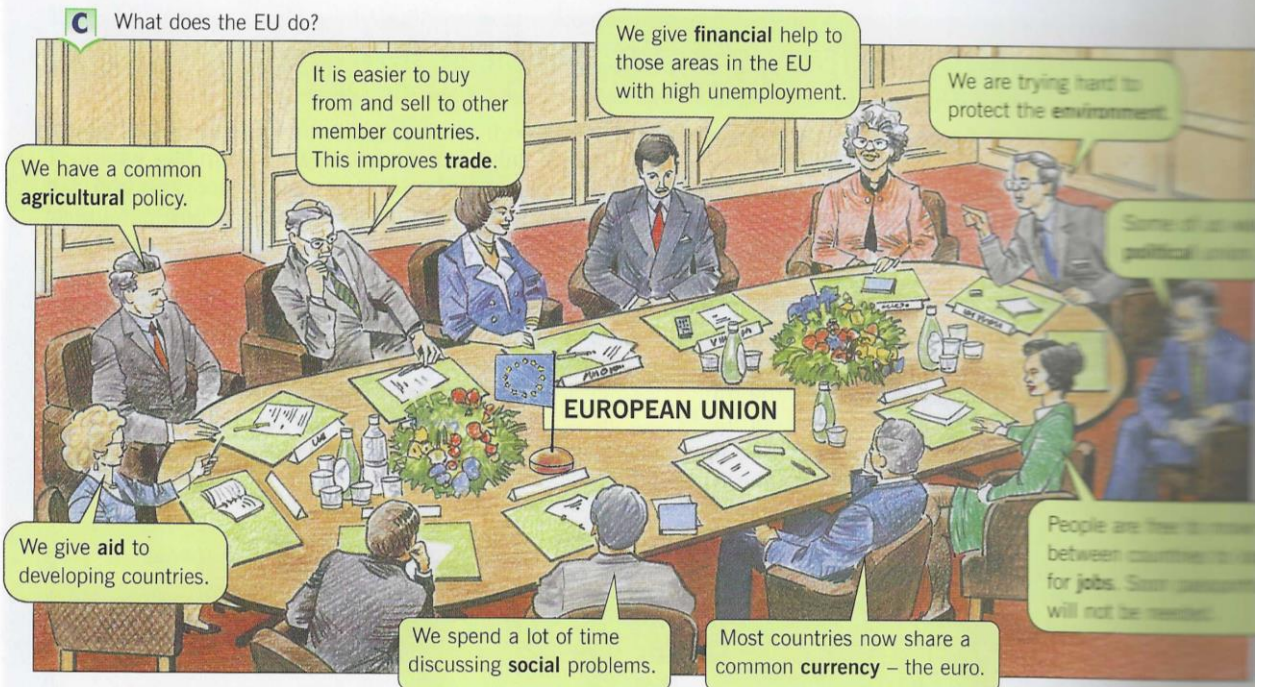
1993 The single market

1995 The EU enlarged to fifteen countries

2005 Enlarged to 25 countries

B Members of the EU in 2006





Activities

- 1** a What is the European Union (EU)?
 b When did the UK join the European Union?
 c List six things that the EU does, according to diagram C.

- 2** a Make a copy of table D. In the second column, name:
 • the first six member countries
 • the nine that joined between 1973 and 1995
 • the ten that joined in 2005.
 b In the third column name the capital city for each of the 25 members.

D

	Name of country	Capital city
First 6 members		
Joined 1973–95		
Joined 2005		

- 3** Diagram E shows two groups of people with different opinions on the EU. Complete the speech bubbles to show:
 a what one group sees to be the advantages
 b what the other group sees as concerns.



Summary

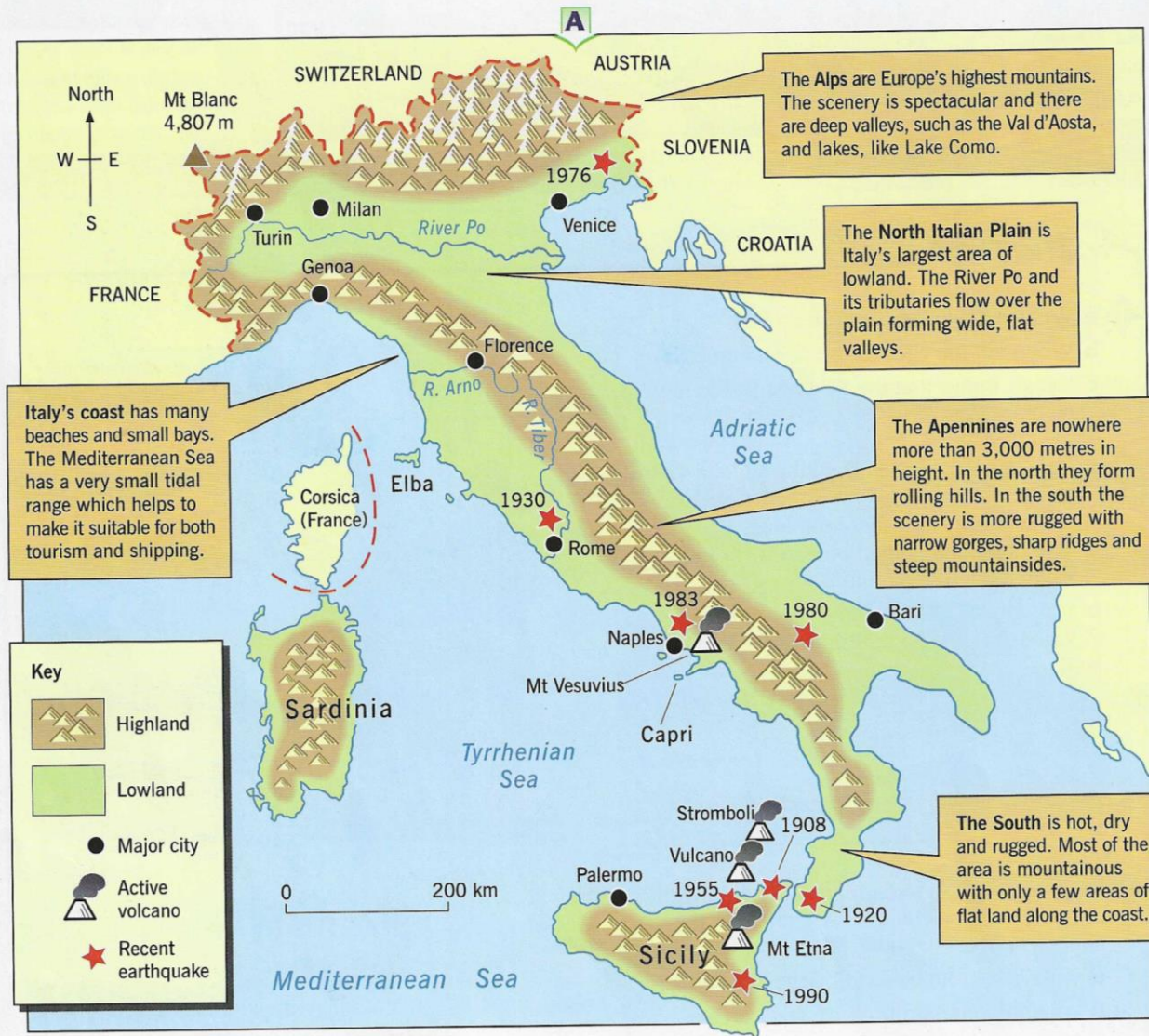
The European Union is, at present, a group of twenty-five countries working together to promote trade and economic, social and environmental policies.

What are Italy's main physical features?

Italy is a long, narrow country that stretches out into the Mediterranean Sea. The islands of Sicily and Sardinia are both part of Italy, as well as several smaller islands such as Elba and Capri.

Over three-quarters of the country is mountainous or hilly. The highest mountains are the Alps in the north. These have a permanent snow cover and glaciers fill the higher valleys. The Apennines are lower and run almost the whole length of the country from north to south.

Parts of Italy lie on an active plate boundary where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are common. The world's fifth largest earthquake struck Messina in Sicily in 1908 killing 160,000 people. Italy has Europe's only active volcanoes. Mount Etna on Sicily and Vesuvius near Naples are the two most famous. Etna has erupted many times in recent years, whilst steam may often be seen rising from the summit of Vesuvius. More about these volcanoes may be found on pages 32 to 35.

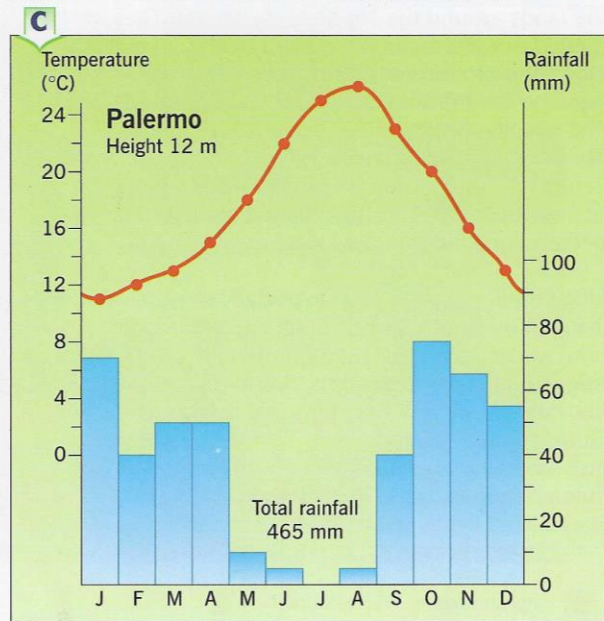
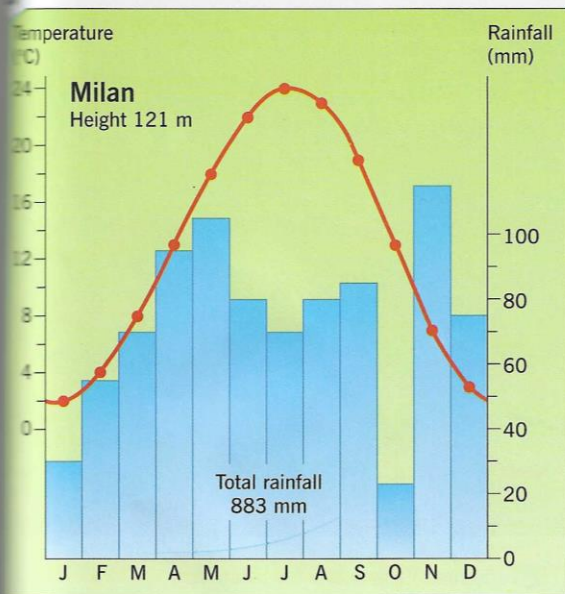


Most of Italy enjoys a pleasant **Mediterranean climate**, described on pages 16 and 17. The summers are hot and dry while the winters tend to be warm and wet.

Climate varies across the country, though. There are two main reasons for this. The first is that Italy is a very long country and stretches over 1,000 km from north to south. This means that the south is both warmer and drier than the north. In Sicily, for example,

the summer drought may last for as long as four months and winter temperatures are, on average, a good 10°C higher than in the north.

The second reason is that Italy is a mountainous country. Temperatures usually decrease with height, so places in the Alps and Apennines are much colder than elsewhere. Villages in the mountain areas may be snow-bound for two or three months in winter.



Activities

- 1 Use map A to complete these sentences.
 - a The highest mountains are
 - b The longest mountain range is ...
 - c Rome is on the River ...
 - d The longest river is the Po. It is ... km in length.
 - e The names of four volcanoes are ...
 - f The dates of the six most recent earthquakes are ...
 - g The hottest, driest and most rugged area is ...
 - h Three features of Italy's coast are ...
- 2 a Copy and complete table D to show the differences in climate between Milan and Palermo.
 b Describe the climates of Milan and Palermo by using the correct statements from drawing E.
- 3 Explain why Palermo is warmer than Milan. The information on page 6 will help you.

		Milan	Palermo
Temperature (°C)	January		
	July		
Rainfall (mm)	January		
	July		

E

- Hot summers
- Some winter rain
- Very dry summers
- Warm winters
- Very hot summers
- Rain throughout the year
- Cool winters

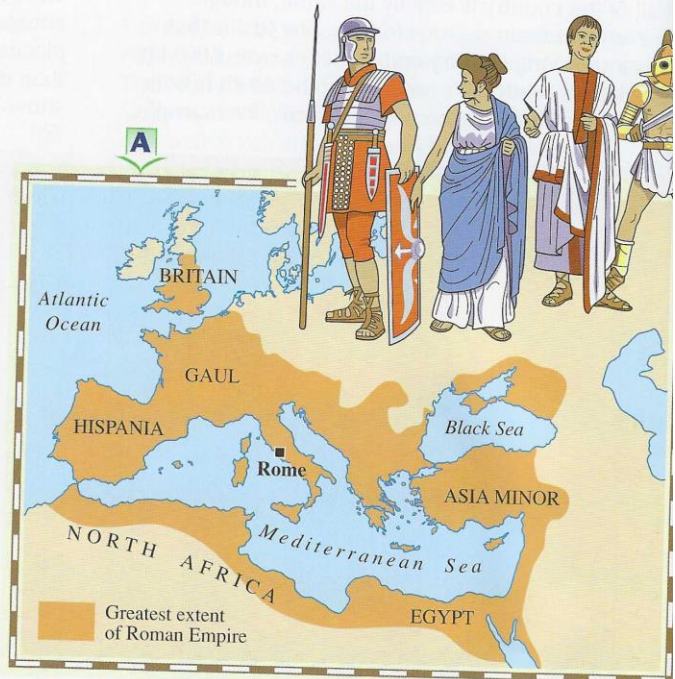
Summary

Italy is a mountainous country with little flat land. The climate varies from place to place but most areas have long, hot summers, warm winters and plenty of sunshine. Winters can be wet.

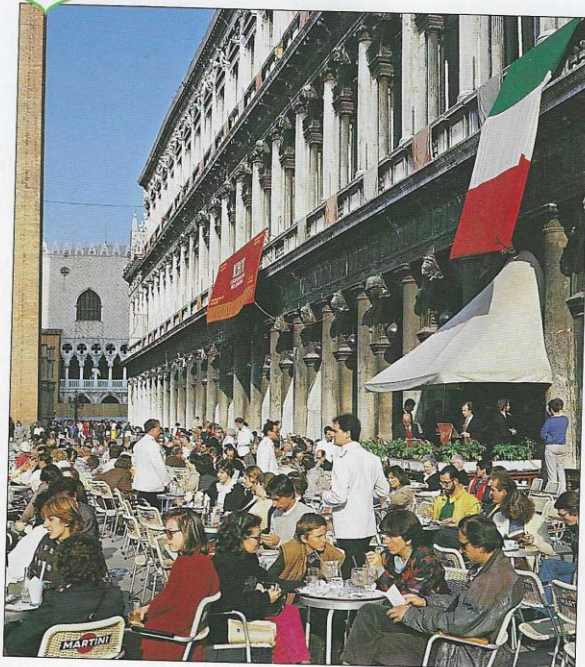
Who are the Italians?

Two thousand years ago the country that is now called Italy was part of the Roman Empire, shown in map A. The Romans brought civilisation to much of Western Europe and the lands around the Mediterranean Sea. They made laws, enforced peace and built roads, cities and monuments. They spoke Latin. This became the official language of their empire and was the origin of the present-day Italian. The Roman Empire collapsed in the fifth century. From then until 1870 Italy was a group of individual states. In 1870 Italy re-united and became one independent country.

Since then, many Italians, especially those living in the south of the country, have found it hard to earn a living. Large numbers have **migrated** to other countries. Some moved to find work in nearby Germany and Switzerland. Others moved to start a new life in America and Australia. They took with them their culture and customs. Today Italy has a high standard of living and a good quality of life.



B Stylish Italians in a restaurant



C Excited Italians at a football match

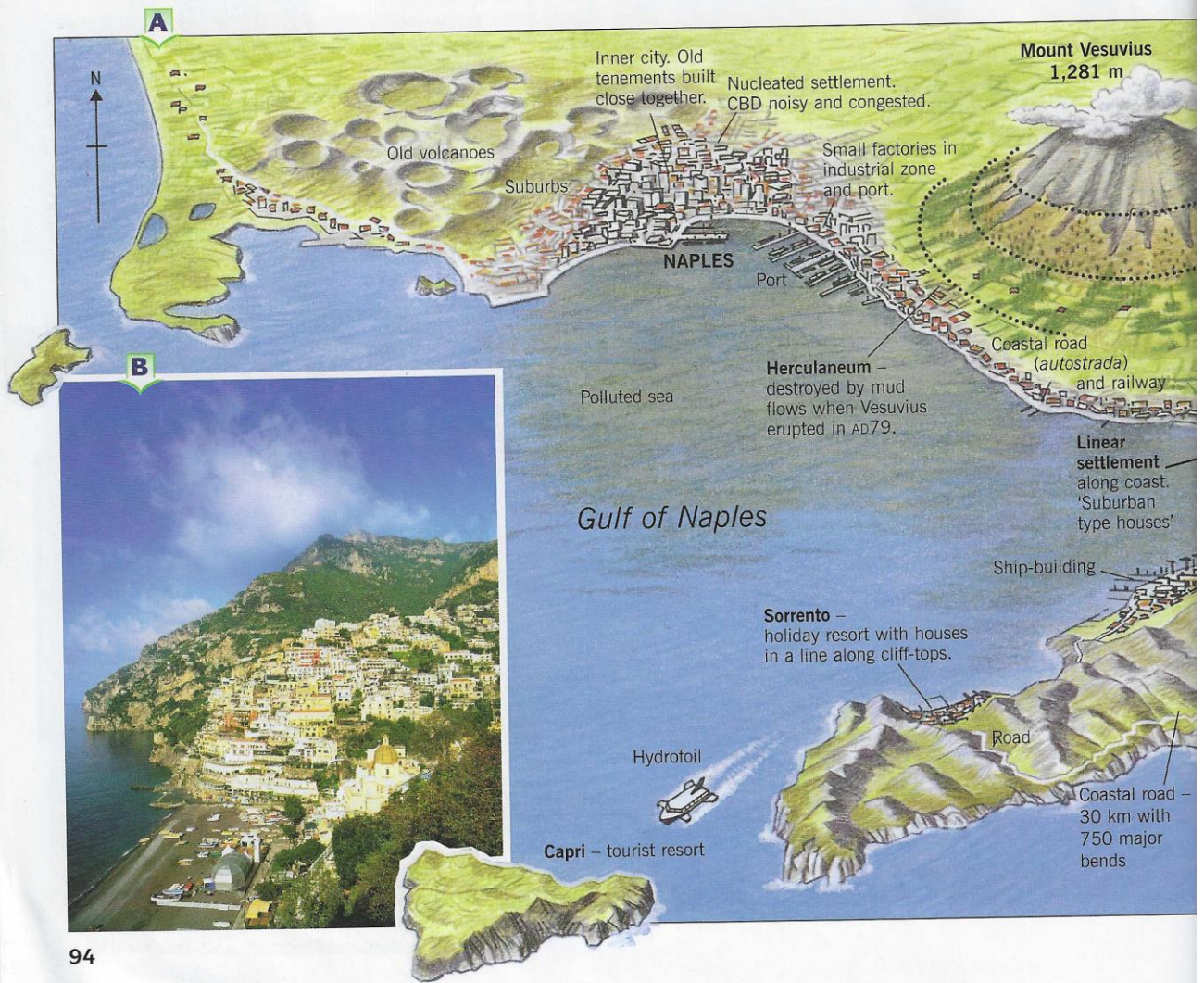


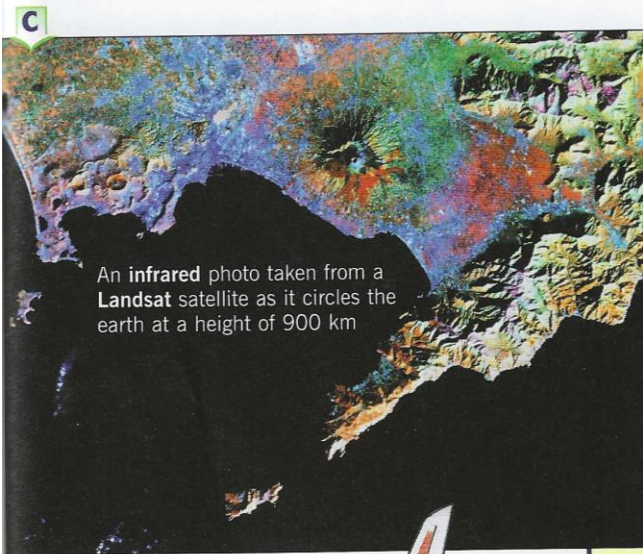
How does the environment affect people?

One of the earliest settled parts of Italy was around Mount Vesuvius and the Gulf of Naples (map A, page 90 and photo A on page 86). The soil around the mountain was perfect for farming and the sea allowed people to trade. It was not until Vesuvius erupted in AD79 and destroyed the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum (sketch A) that people realised it was a volcano. The ruins of these Roman towns and the Mediterranean climate now attract many tourists (page 16). Apart from tourism, most people find jobs as farmers or work in the large city of Naples.

To the south, the Sorrento peninsula is very different. The rock is limestone which gives hilly land and poor soil. Most of the area is covered in typical Mediterranean scrub vegetation (page 18). Along the south coast there is hardly any flat land. Hillsides have been terraced for farming. Several small, attractive holiday resorts cling to the cliffs and are linked by a single narrow, twisting road (photo B).

It is the climate and the local differences in relief and soils which are mainly responsible for the occupations, land use and settlement pattern of the area.

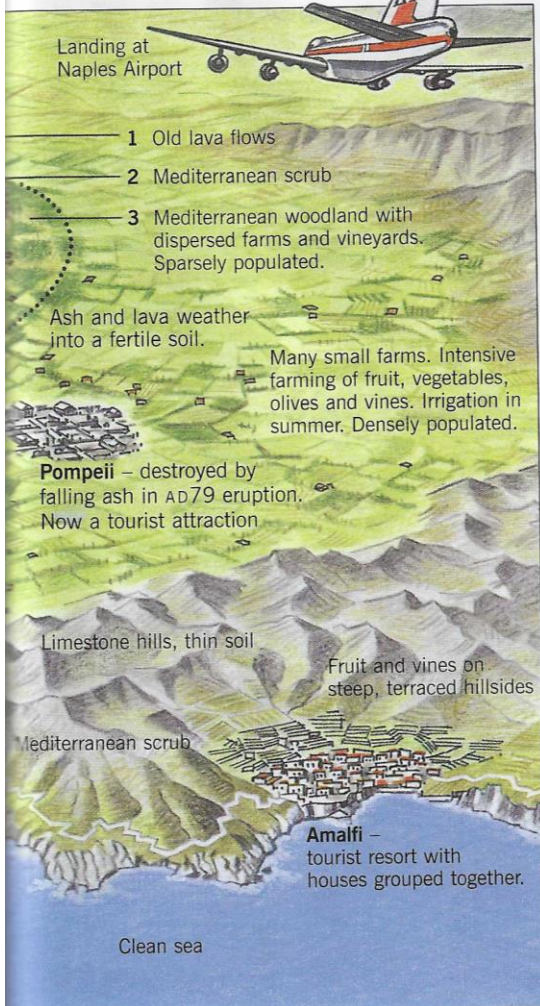
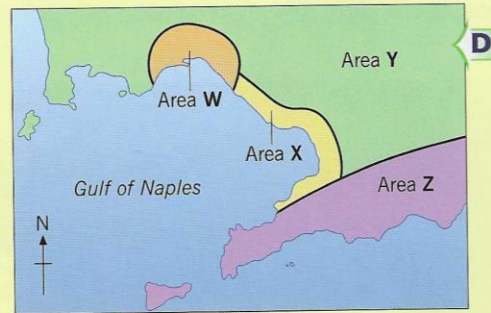




Activities

1 The area shown on sketch A can be divided into four parts. These have been labelled W, X, Y and Z on map D.

a Make a larger copy of table E and complete it by using the information given on these two pages.



	Area W	Area X	Area Y	Area Z
Settlement e.g. dispersed, linear, nucleated				
Land use e.g. built-up, farming, scrub				
Jobs e.g. tourism, farming, factories				

b Give two reasons why farming is better in Area Y than Area Z.

c Suggest why the settlement patterns in Areas X and Z are different.

2 A Landsat photo shows false colours. Using photo C and sketch A, match the following Landsat colours with the correct type of land use.

Black	Volcanic lava
Blue	Built-up areas
Reddish-brown	Rough grazing and scrub
Bright red	Sea and lakes
Pale green/brown	Crops

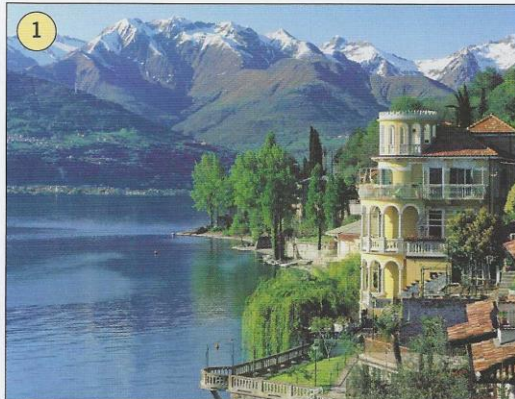
Summary

The main occupations, land use and settlement patterns of a locality can often be explained by its environment.

What are Italy's main regions?

What is a region? The term **region** has been used several times without explaining what it means. A region is an area of land which has common characteristics. It is therefore different from other regions. These characteristics can be:

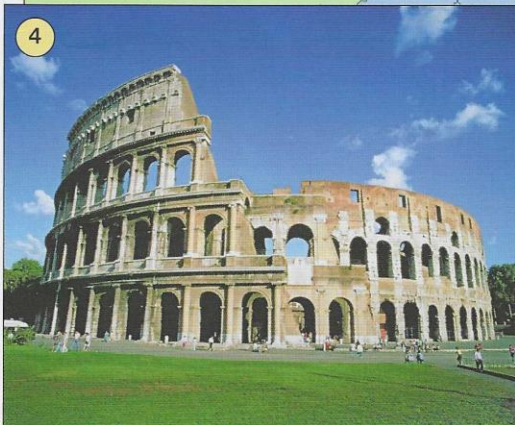
- ◆ **Physical**, where places have the same climate, vegetation or soils.
- ◆ **Human and economic**, such as political areas or places with the same economic activities or level of development.



1 Mountains and lakes. The snow-covered Alps are ideal for skiing in winter and climbing in summer. The peaceful lakes are surrounded by scented pinewoods, high mountains and attractive villages.



3 Italian and Adriatic Rivas. In the west the Alps reach the sea giving headlands, cliffs and sandy bays. The Adriatic coast is noted for its wide golden beaches, watersports, lively nightlife and excellent food.



4 Tuscany and Rome. Famous for its art, history and scenery. Tuscany remains rural with wooded hills and large vineyards. Rome and Florence have numerous art galleries, historic buildings, fine shops and excellent food.

A Tourist regions of Italy



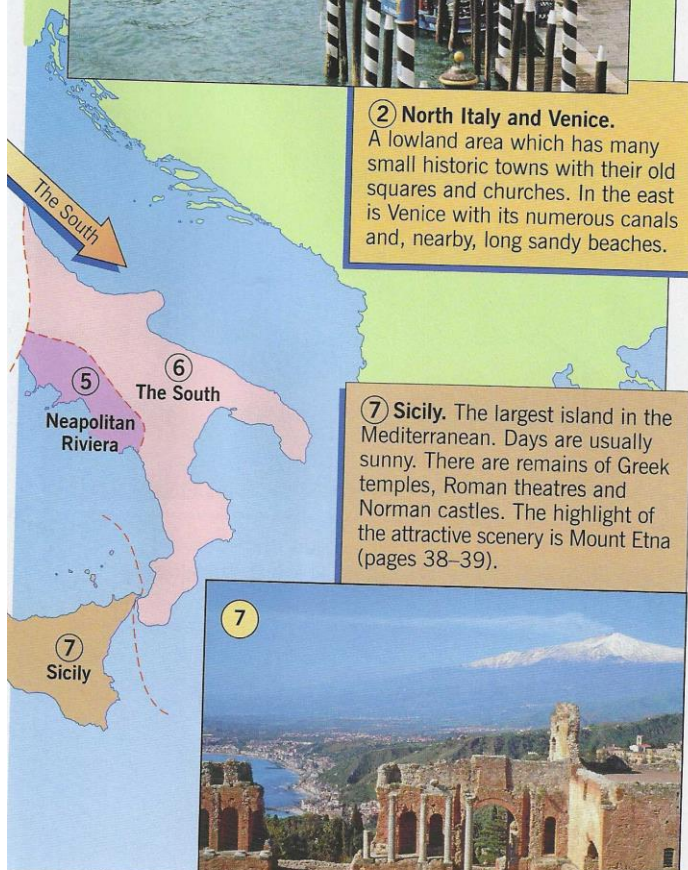
5 Neapolitan Riviera. Blue skies warm and clear sea, attractive scenery, villages clinging to cliffs, and historic ruins (pages 78–79).

6 The South. Inland there are mountains and quiet, unspoilt villages. The coastal white, sandy beaches are quiet. A place to relax (pages 86–87).

What are Italy's regions? Different people using different characteristics can produce different maps showing the regions of Italy. There is no single correct map. For example:

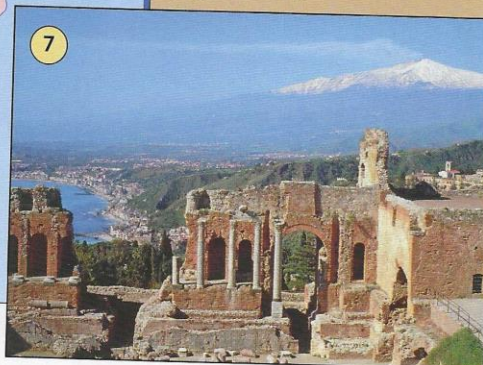
- ◆ There are three main **physical** regions (map A page 90). These are the Alps, the North Italian Plain and the Apennines (peninsular Italy).
- ◆ There are twenty states. These **political** regions are similar to counties in Britain.

- ◆ There are two **economic** regions – the more developed North and the less developed South. The remainder of this unit describes how these two economic regions are different.
- ◆ There are seven tourist regions which are shown on these two pages.



2 North Italy and Venice.
A lowland area which has many small historic towns with their old squares and churches. In the east is Venice with its numerous canals and, nearby, long sandy beaches.

7 Sicily. The largest island in the Mediterranean. Days are usually sunny. There are remains of Greek temples, Roman theatres and Norman castles. The highlight of the attractive scenery is Mount Etna (pages 38–39).



Activities

- 1**
 - a What is a region?
 - b What is the difference between a physical and a political region?
 - c Name three physical regions in Italy.
 - d Name the two economic regions in Italy.
- 2** Which region, or regions, would you visit in Italy if you wanted to:
 - a visit art museums
 - b ski
 - c travel by boat on canals
 - d see a volcano
 - e lie in the sun on a sandy beach
 - f climb mountains
 - g enjoy nightlife
 - h take part in watersports
 - i see quiet villages
 - j visit historic buildings
 - k visit a vineyard?
- 3** Which of the seven tourist regions shown on map A would you most like to visit? Give reasons for your answer.

Summary

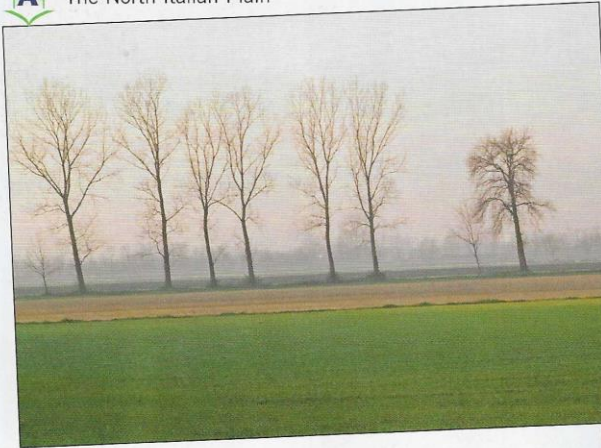
A region is an area of land which has common characteristics. These characteristics, which can be physical or human and economic, make each region different from other regions.

Physical features of North and South Italy

Landforms

The **North Italian Plain** was once part of the Adriatic Sea and lies between the Alps and the Apennines. Fast-flowing rivers from those highland areas brought down **silt** which they deposited in the shallow sea. The silt built up above sea-level forming a very flat and fertile **plain**. When snow in the Alps melts in spring the rivers may flood this low-lying land. The main river, the Po, is continually pushing its **delta** outwards into the Adriatic. Embankments have been built to try to stop it overflowing onto its flood plain. Little natural vegetation remains on the plain. Lombardy poplar trees have been planted to try to reduce the force of the wind.

A The North Italian Plain



The **South** was once part of the Mediterranean Sea. Rocks were formed on the sea bed and later pushed up to form the Apennines. These earth movements still occur today. Sometimes they cause serious **earthquakes** while at others they produce volcanic eruptions.

The steep-sided Apennines were once covered in Mediterranean woodland. When this woodland was cleared the soil was exposed to the heavy winter rain and washed away. Many parts are now either eroded (photo **B**) or covered in scrub vegetation (page 18). There is not much fertile land. The best soils are:

- 1 Where rivers have deposited silt as deltas at their mouths. (Most rivers are seasonal and only flow in winter.)
- 2 Near to volcanoes where the lava and ash soon weather into a deep soil.

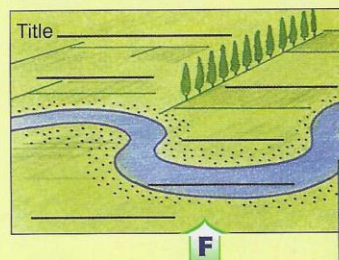
B Soil erosion in the Apennine



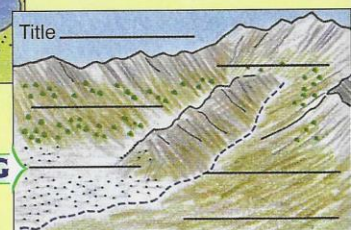
Activities

- 1** Landsketches **F** and **G** show parts of the North Italian Plain and the Apennines. On large copies of these sketches put the following labels in the correct places.

- poplar trees scrub vegetation
- fertile silt flat plain steep hillsides
- thin soil permanent river seasonal river
- possible flooding possible earthquake



Add these titles:
North Italian Plain,
Apennines.



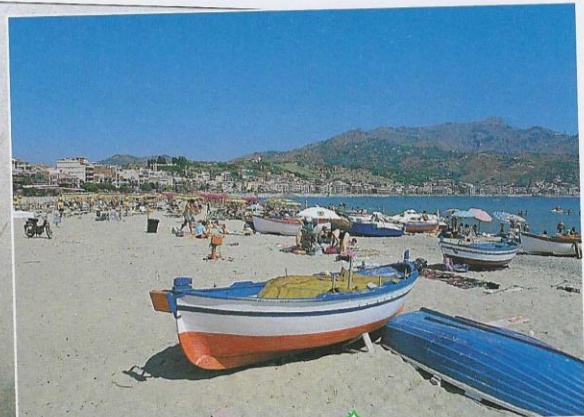
Climate

As we have seen on pages 92 and 93, most of Italy has a **Mediterranean climate** with hot dry summers and warm wet winters. Although the climates of the North Italian Plain and the South of Italy are largely the same, there are also some differences. These are given in table C.

	North Italian Plain	The South
Type of climate	Between a British and a Mediterranean climate.	Mediterranean climate (page 16)
Winter temperatures	Cold. January is between 0° and 2°C.	Warm. January is between 8° and 10°C.
Summer temperatures	Very warm. 24°C in July.	Hot. Over 26°C in July.
Rainfall	800 mm spread evenly throughout the year. Rain is usually not very heavy.	700 mm which nearly all falls in winter. Rain is usually heavy. Very little rain in summer.
Hazards	Frost is common in winter. Fog is very common at any time of year but mainly in winter (photo D). Milan averages 100 days of fog a year.	Drought and heatwave conditions in summer (photo E). Snow on higher slopes in winter.



D Venice in winter



E Sicily in the summer

Make a copy of map H. Add the labels by choosing the correct word from the pair in brackets to show the changes as you move north or south.

Give three differences between the climate of the North Italian Plain and the South of Italy in:

- summer
- winter.

H

Winters get (colder/warmer)
Summers are (hot/very hot)
Rainfall (decreases/increases)
Rain falls (all year/winter only)
(Enough/not enough) rain
(Drought/fog) is a hazard

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Summers are (hot/very hot)
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Rain falls (all year/winter only)
(Enough/not enough) rain
(Drought/fog) is a hazard

Summary

There are more differences than similarities between the landscapes and climate of the North Italian Plain and the South of Italy.

Life on the North Italian Plain

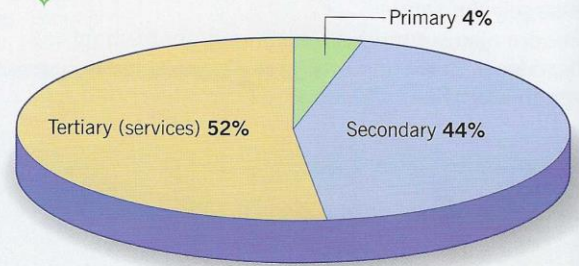
The North Italian Plain is the richest region in Italy. It has a standard of living as high as anywhere in the EU. Most people live in large industrial towns and cities. Industry has attracted large numbers of workers since 1950. Some of these workers came from rural areas of the North Italian Plain (rural-urban migration) but most arrived either from the South of Italy or from poorer countries which surround the Mediterranean Sea.

Land use and jobs

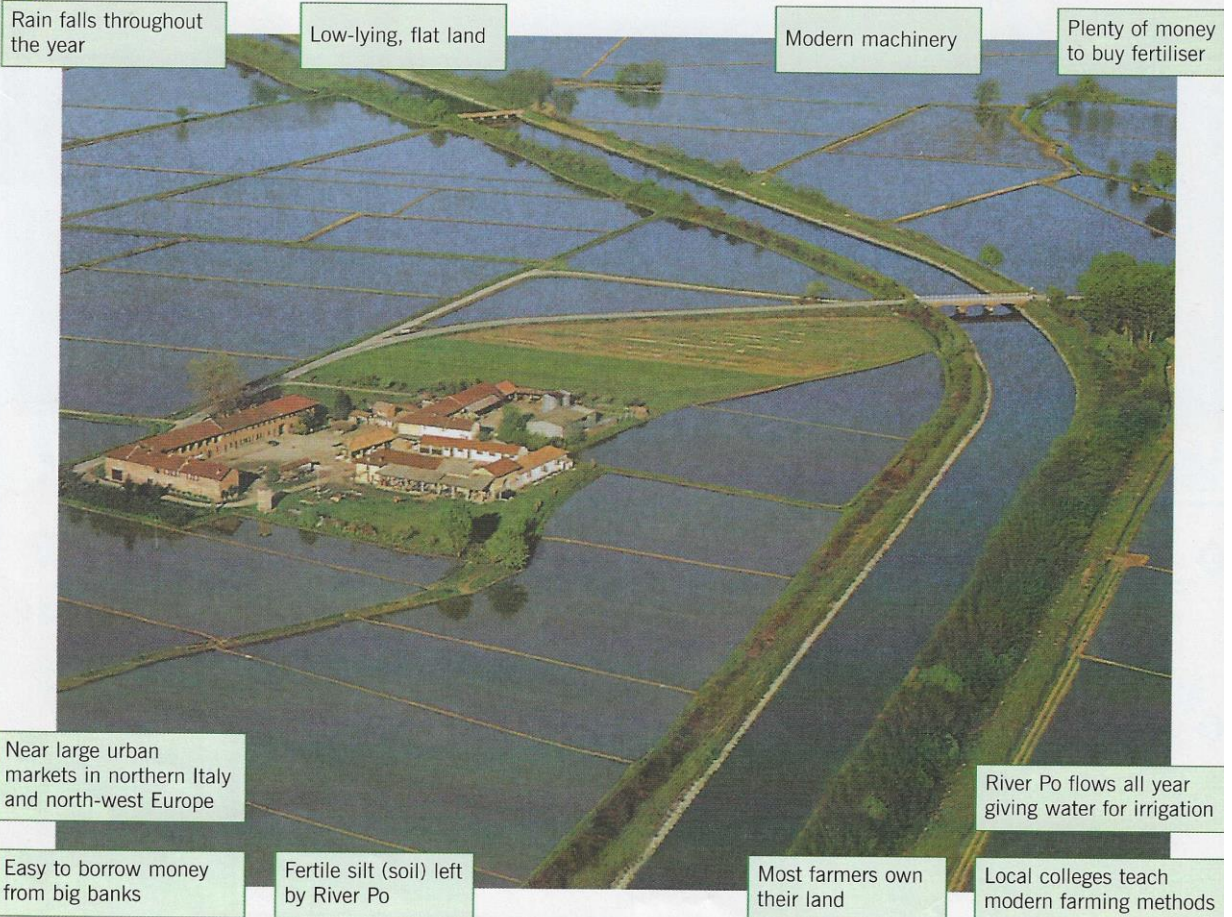
Although only 4 in every 100 workers are farmers, agriculture is still a major type of land use (graph A). Most farms are large and the fields are grouped together, making them easier for the farmer to reach. Farming is **intensive**, meaning that no land is wasted,

and **commercial**, which means that farm produce is sold for a profit. Vines are grown in the west of the region; fruit, wheat and rice in the centre; and maize (corn) in the east.

A Jobs on the North Italian Plain



B Advantages of the North Italian Plain for farming

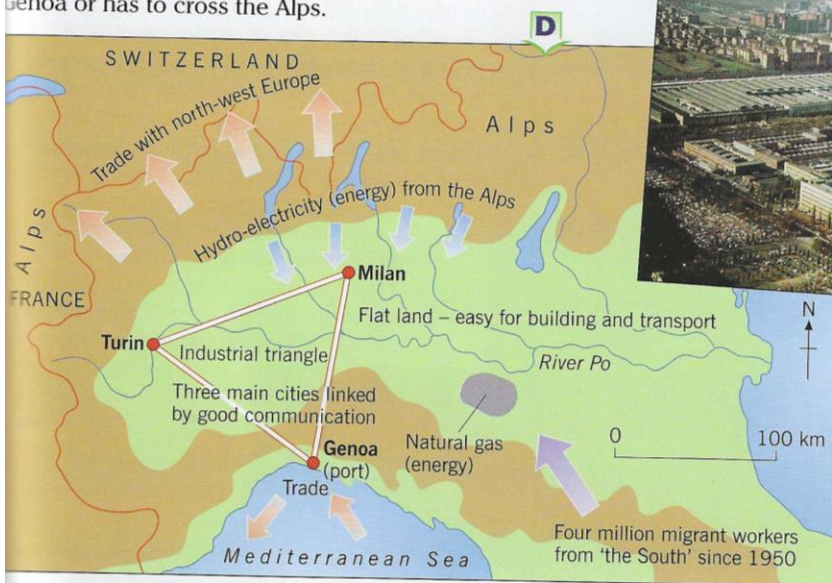


Industry

The west and centre of the North Italian Plain has always been the most important industrial region in Italy. Although at first centred on the 'industrial triangle' between the cities of Turin, Milan and Genoa, it is now spreading outwards into the surrounding regions (map D).

The most important firm is Fiat whose large car assembly plant is in Turin (photo C). The present head of Fiat also owns Turin's daily newspaper and Juventus Football Club. Milan is Italy's largest city and the centre for banking and fashion. Much of the region's trade either has to pass through the port of Genoa or has to cross the Alps.

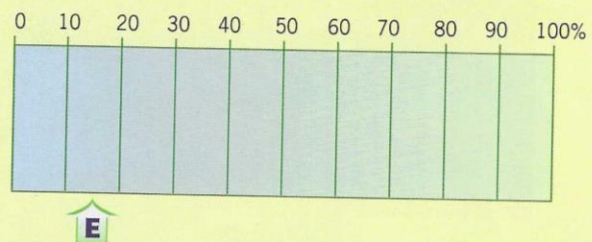
Although this is the richest part of Italy with most of the better paid and skilled jobs, it still has its problems. As more and more land is being built upon there is less for farming and recreation. Towns have grown so quickly that there has not been enough time to plan them carefully. Houses and flats have been built very close together, roads are congested and there is very little open space and parkland. There has been little care of the environment and many pollution problems have developed.



C Fiat factory, Turin

Activities

- 1 Make a large copy of graph E. Add the information from graph A to show the main types of jobs on the North Italian Plain.
- 2
 - a List six advantages of farming in this region.
 - b Sort the advantages under the headings **Physical** and **Human**.
- 3
 - a Name four important industries in this region.
 - b Give three reasons why this is the most important region for industry in Italy.
 - c Draw a star diagram to show some of the problems which have resulted from industrial growth.



Summary

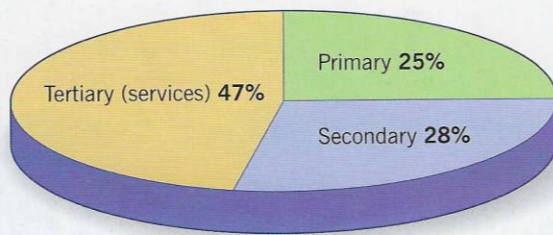
The North Italian Plain is the richest region in Italy. Most of the land is either used for large towns and industry or for commercial farming.

Life in the South of Italy

The South of Italy is the poorest region in Italy. In 2005, one part of it had the lowest standard of living in the EU. Most people still live in hilltop villages in rural areas (photo B). The few towns, which are on the coast, have little industry to attract people.

Many people from the South have had to migrate either to the North of Italy, to other EU countries or even to North America or Australia to find work. Recently even poorer people from south-east Europe and developing countries have moved into this region.

A Jobs in the South of Italy



Land use and jobs

Agriculture is still the major type of land use and 25 in 100 workers are farmers (graph A). Most farms are very small. The fields are often spread out and are a long way from the village where the farmer lives. Farming is at a **subsistence** level which means that farmers grow just enough food for their own needs and have very little left over to sell (photo C). Vines, olives and fruit are grown on the hillsides beneath the village. Wheat is grown where the land is flatter. Sheep and goats graze on the higher and steeper slopes.

B Disadvantages of farming in the South

Much of the land is high and steep

Few big banks from which to borrow money

Little money to buy fertiliser

Most rain falls in winter. There is a summer drought

Rivers often dry up in summer. Often there is not enough money or water for irrigation schemes

Few local colleges, which means that farming methods are still traditional

Little soil on hills due to erosion

Few farmers own their own land

Far away from urban markets in northern Italy and north-west Europe

Animals are often used instead of modern machinery

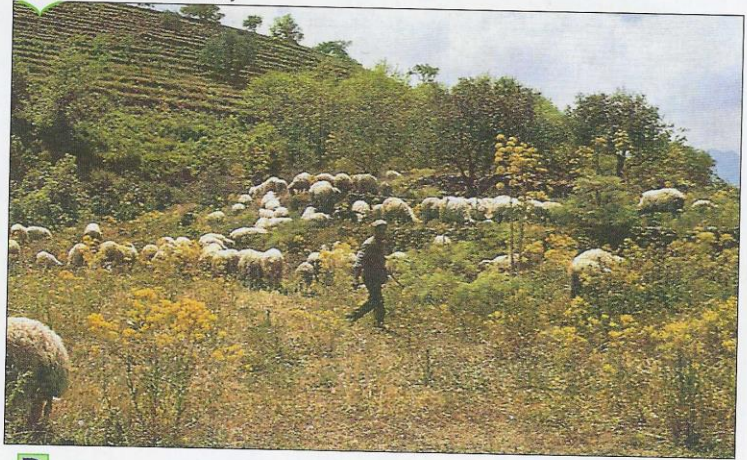
Industry

The South of Italy has never been an important industrial region. It is isolated from the rest of Europe by poor transport links. The area has very few natural resources, little money and limited skills. The high birth rate means there are too many people looking for few available jobs. Large numbers, therefore, have had to leave the region in order to find work.

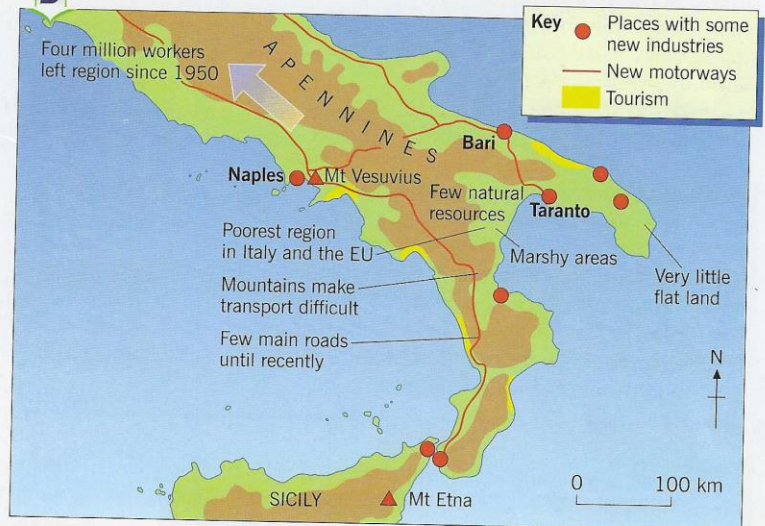
Attempts have been made to improve roads and to introduce new industries. This has only been partly successful as the few new industries, such as steelmaking, chemicals and car assembling, have only benefited a few places (map D). Also, as these industries are highly mechanised they do not need to employ many people.

Despite these problems the South is slowly becoming better off. Marshy areas have been drained and trees planted. New dams, irrigation schemes and motorways have been built. The hot, dry summers and sandy beaches are attracting more tourists. Some of the earlier migrants to the North have returned with the money which they earned there. Even so, the gap in wealth between the North and the South of Italy continues to grow.

C The South of Italy



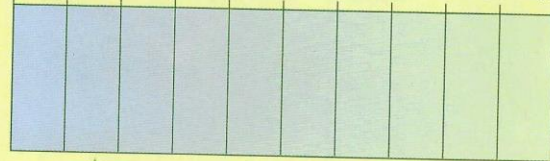
D



Activities

- 1 Make a large copy of graph E. Add the information from graph A to show the main types of jobs in the South of Italy.
- 2 a List six problems facing the farmers in this region.
b Sort these problems under the headings **Physical** and **Human**.
- 3 a Name three important industries in this region.
b Give three reasons why this area has had difficulty in attracting industry.
c Draw a star diagram to show some of the recent improvements made in this region.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100%



E

Summary

The South of Italy is the poorest region in the country. Most of the land is used for subsistence farming and some for industry and tourism. Large areas have very limited use for people.

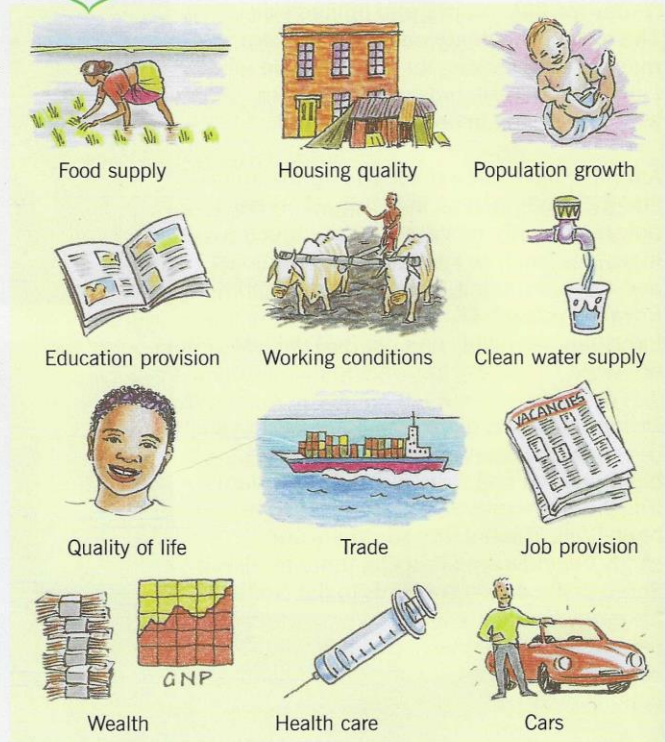
How developed is Italy?

All countries are different. Some, like the UK, are wealthy and have a **high standard of living**. They are said to be **developed**. Others, like Kenya and India for example, are poor, have a low standard of living and are said to be **developing**.

Development is about improving the quality of life for people, but measuring the actual level of development can be difficult. The most commonly used method is to look at wealth. There are problems with this, though, as even in the richest countries there are people living in poor conditions with little money. Some other ways of measuring development are shown in drawing A.

Whatever methods are used to measure development, Italy is certainly a highly developed country. Indeed economically it is one of the world's seven richest nations and in recent years has enjoyed considerable growth and improved standards of living. Industries have been particularly successful. They have been modernised and with improved transport links have become more efficient and better able to compete in world markets.

A Some ways of measuring development



B Milan in the North of Italy



C A farm worker in the South of Italy

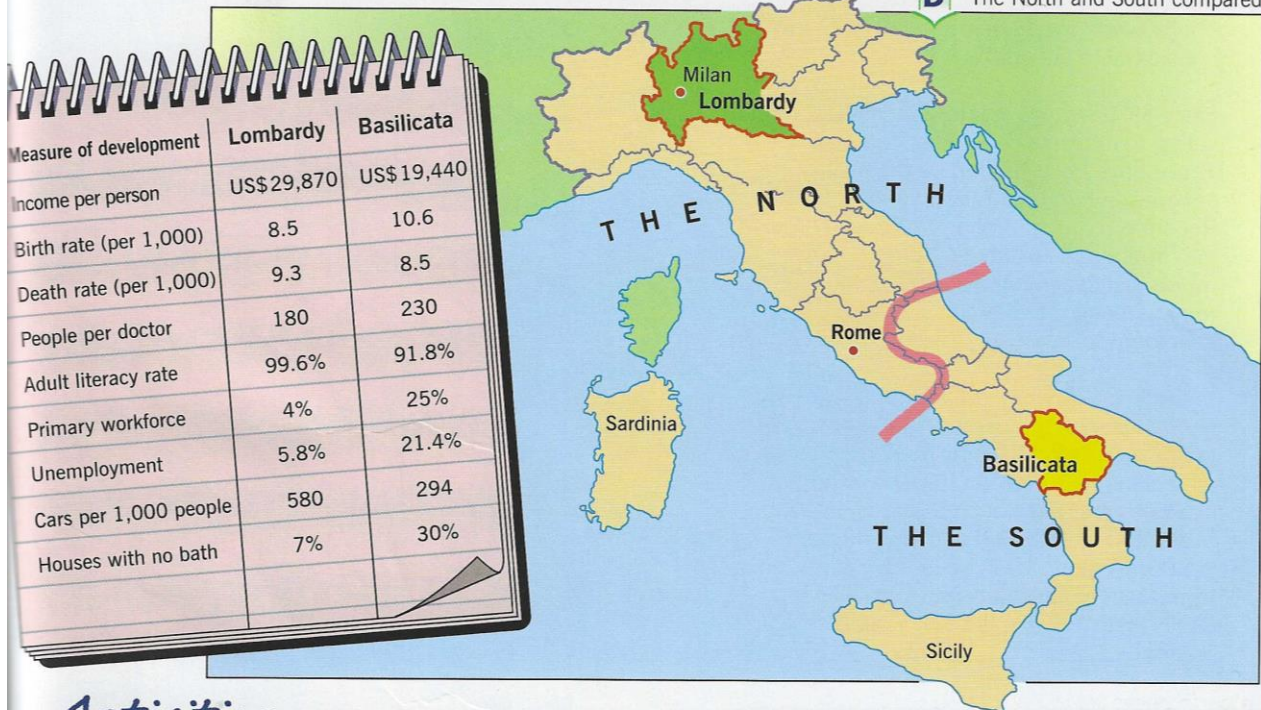


5 Italy, an EU country

As photo C suggests, however, not all of Italy is wealthy and highly developed. As we have seen on pages 98 to 103, the physical features, way of life and economic progress of the North are very different from those of the South. The North is much wealthier than the South and people in the North enjoy high

living standards and a good quality of life. The South is less well off and, despite considerable government action and several improvement plans, many people in that region are still poor, live a difficult life and have a low standard of living.

D The North and South compared



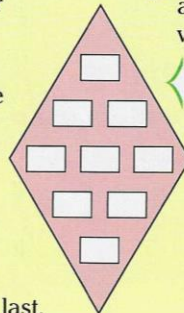
Activities

- 1** Give the meaning of the following terms (the Glossary may help you):

- a** development
- b** developed country
- c** developing country
- d** standard of living
- e** quality of life.

- 2** Work with a partner or in a small group for this activity so that you can discuss ideas and opinions.

- a** From the drawings in A, choose the nine measures that you think are the most important.
- b** Write out the nine measures in a diamond shape as shown in E. Put the most important at the top, the next two below, and so on.
- c** Give reasons for your choice of first and last.



- 3** In which parts of Italy:

- a** are workers likely to earn most money
- b** are people most likely to be out of work
- c** is population increasing
- d** can most people read and write
- e** is the best housing and medical care?

- 4** Italy has been described as a modern, wealthy and highly developed nation. Do you agree with this? Give reasons for your answer.

E

Summary

Italy is one of the most developed countries in the world. Development is not spread evenly, though, as some areas in the South have a very poor standard of living.

The Italy enquiry

The South of Italy, or Mezzogiorno as it is called, is one of Europe's poorest and least developed regions. Living conditions for many people in the area are difficult, with poorly paid jobs, high unemployment and considerable poverty.

Since 1950 several organisations have been set up to improve conditions in the area. These have been funded by the Italian government and the European Union (EU). Recently, many new schemes have come into operation. Most have the aims of modernising agriculture, improving transport and encouraging industrial development.

In this enquiry you work for the new *Cassa Per Il Mezzogiorno* or 'Fund for the South' organisation. You have been given the task of seeking funds for the improvement schemes and have been asked to give a presentation to the EU and World Bank. Your presentation will be in three parts: an Introduction, Main part and Conclusion. Pages 96 to 105 of this book will be helpful to you.

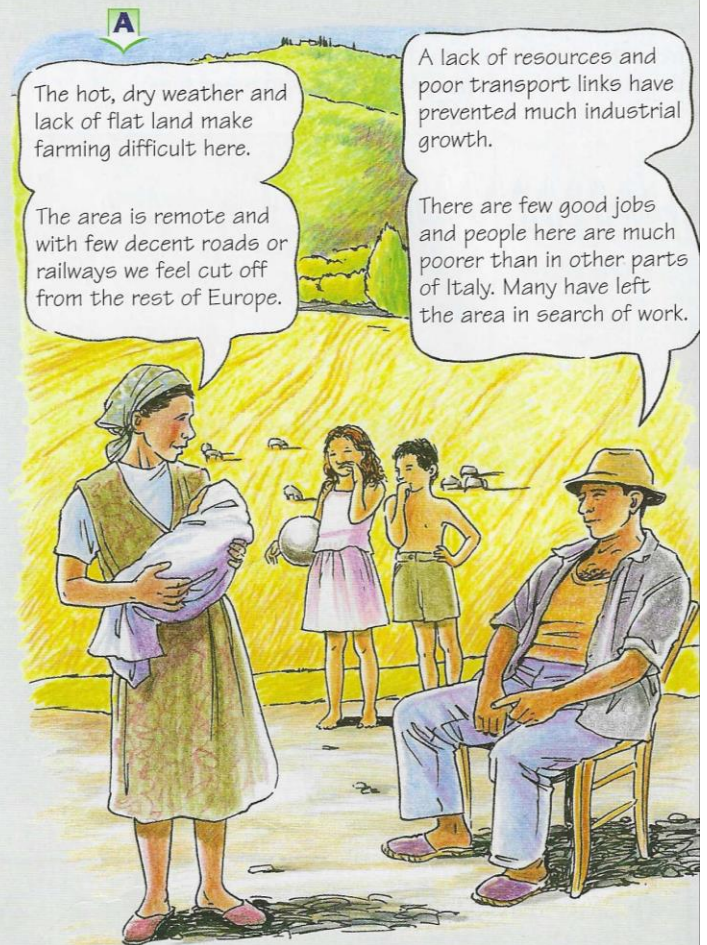
How can conditions in the South of Italy be improved?

1 Introduction

- Draw a simple map to show the location of Italy's South. Label the main features.
- Briefly describe the region using information from pages 102 and 103.
- Draw a star diagram to show the main problems of the South.

2 Main part

- Make a simple copy of drawing **B** and add arrowed labels and new features to show how life in the rural areas may be improved.
- Make a copy of map **D** and add arrowed labels and new features to show your development plans for the South.

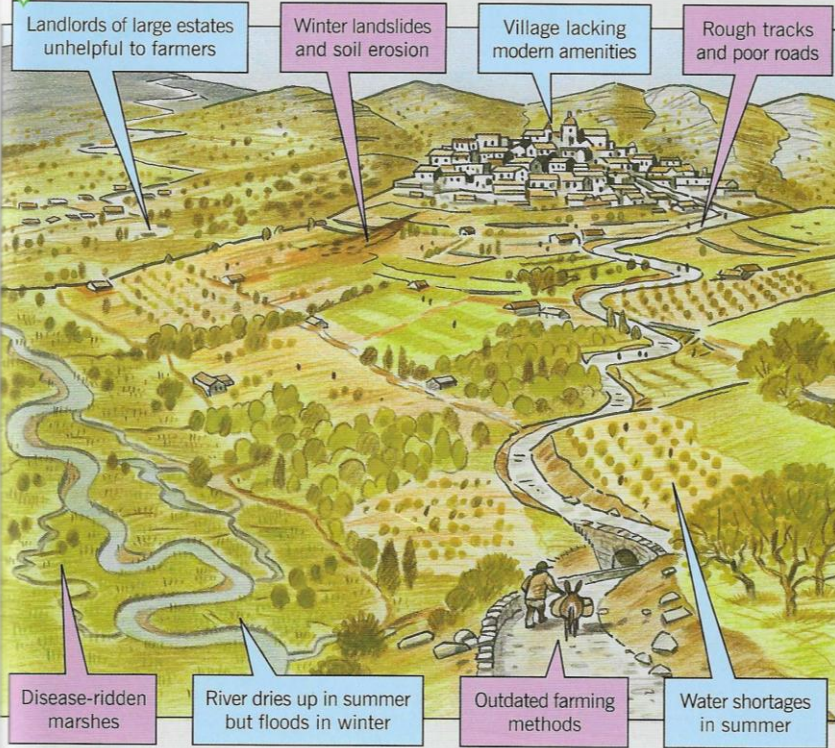


3 Conclusion

Now write a brief summary of your proposals. Include the following:

- What are the advantages of improving rural conditions?
- Why will some villages have to be abandoned?
- What has happened to the old marshland areas?
- Why is it now possible to have farms on lowland?
- How has transport been improved?
- Why is the industrial estate in a good location?
- What are the advantages of having a seaside resort in this area?
- Which schemes do you think would bring most benefit? Give reasons for your answer.

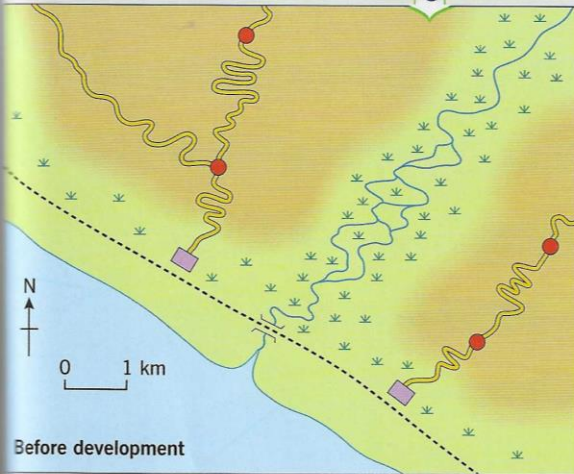
B The rural area problem



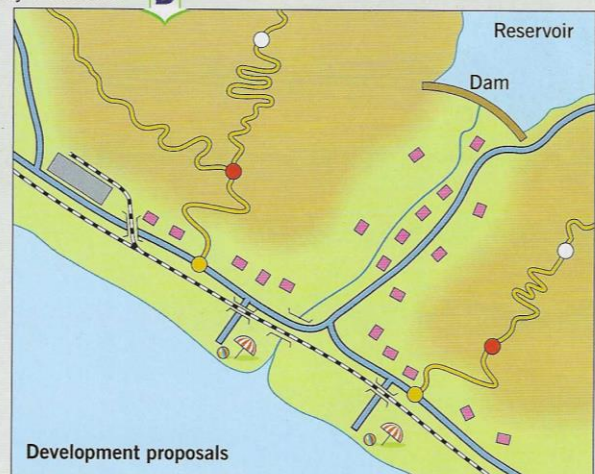
Proposals for improvement

- Improved sanitation and piped water to villages
- Improved roads to villages
- Large estates made into smaller, more efficient farms
- New irrigation systems
- Marsh areas drained
- New river management scheme
- Planting of trees to reduce soil erosion
- Farmers' wages increased
- New crops and modern techniques introduced
- New schools, shops and banks

C Part of southern Italy's coastline



D



Key

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Hills | Old hilltop village | Old estate farm | New village | Disused railway | Old road | Industrial estate |
| Marsh | Abandoned village | Small farm | Seaside resort | Re-opened railway | New road (superstrada) | River |