

Exploring Scandinavia – Geography Year 3/4



Key Vocabulary

Peninsula: A peninsula is a region of land that sticks out in a body of water. It is also defined as a piece of land with water on three sides.

Climate: The usual weather conditions in an area.

Weather: Weather is the state of the atmosphere at any given time.

Polar Zone: The polar zone encompasses the areas around the North and South Poles. Starting from the North Pole, this zone stretches to the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere, and reaches even further south in North America and Asia. In the Southern Hemisphere, starting from the South Pole, this zone stretches as far north as the Antarctic Circle, encompassing the whole of the continent of Antarctica.

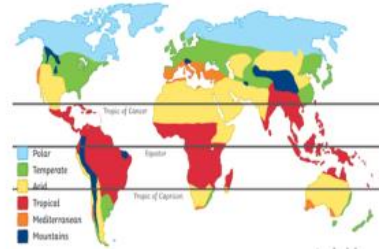
Northern Hemisphere: the half of the Earth that is north of the Equator

Region: An area of a country or the world with specific physical characteristics.

Fjord: A narrow inlet of the sea between cliffs or steep slopes.

Glacier: A large area of thick ice that remains frozen but moves slowly.

The countries included in the name "Scandinavia" are Denmark, Norway and Sweden, as those three countries are on or near the Scandinavia peninsula.



OSLO, COPENHAGEN, AND STOCKHOLM

These are the capital cities of Norway, Denmark and Sweden respectively.

Scandinavian wildlife

Scandinavia is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including:

- **Reindeer:** Herds of reindeer roam the tundra, particularly in Norway and Sweden. These animals are crucial for the Sami people and are well-adapted to cold climates.
- **Moose:** The largest member of the deer family is commonly found in Sweden, with a population that thrives in forests and wetlands.
- **Lynx:** This elusive wild cat is found in the forests of Sweden and Norway, recognised by its tufted ears and short tail. It plays a vital role in the ecosystem as a predator.
- **Brown Bears:** These bears are typical of the Scandinavian forests and are strong and intelligent animals that hibernate during winter.



world's most endangered mammals.

Useful websites

National Geographic Kids - Scandinavia
BBC Bitesize - Geography of Scandinavia

- **White-tailed Eagles:** These magnificent birds are one of the largest eagles in the world and can often be spotted near coasts and lakes.
- **Arctic Foxes:** Adapted to the tundra, Arctic foxes have thick fur and are known for their ability to change colour with the seasons.
- **Saimaa Seals:** This rare seal species is found only in Lake Saimaa, Finland, and is one of the

Interesting Facts

- Scandinavia is known for its beautiful landscapes, featuring mountains, forests, and extensive coastlines.
- The Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, can often be seen in the northern parts of Scandinavia, especially in Norway and Sweden.
- Sweden is home to over 100,000 lakes, making it one of the countries with the highest number of lakes in the world.
- The world's oldest amusement park, Bakken, is located in Denmark and has been in operation since 1583.
- The Viking Longship is a famous symbol of Scandinavian history, designed for both speed and capability to navigate rivers and oceans.

Scandinavian Climate

Danish winters are much milder than those in Norway and Sweden. January and February are Denmark's coldest months with temperatures averaging 0°C.

In Norway and Sweden, snowfall can last for months on end and temperatures may remain below freezing for several weeks.

Above the Arctic Circle, the most northern areas of Norway, Sweden and Finland experience a 'dark season'. This means that for weeks on end, inhabitants will not have any daylight hours. During this period, there is an increased chance of seeing the Aurora Borealis - the Northern Lights.



BALTIC, NORWEGIAN AND NORTH SEA

These are the three seas surrounding the area of Scandinavia.

Assessment

- To be able to locate Scandinavian countries and major cities on a world map
- To explore the climate and weather of Scandinavia.
- To explore the physical features of Scandinavia
- To explore some aspects of the human geography of Scandinavia.
- To be able to compare and contrast an area in the UK with an area in Scandinavia
- To be able to plan a tourist visit to a Scandinavian destination.