GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

YEAR 1, PART 1

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Climates and landscapes of the Earth

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Introduction

- The Earth is divided into three climate zones: the hot zone, the temperate zones and the cold zones.

- The variety of climates creates many different types of landscapes.

- Most of Europe is in the temperate zone. The Iberian Peninsula is located in the south-west of Europe.
1. The Earth's climates

1.1. The Earth's climate zones

- The Earth’s climate zones
1.1. The Earth’s climate zones

- There are three **climate zones** on Earth: the hot zone, the temperate zones and the cold zones.

- The **hot zone** receives the most direct sunlight. It is between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

- The **temperate zones** have four seasons. They are between the tropical zone and the polar zone in both hemispheres.

- The **cold zones** are around the poles and in areas at altitudes of more than 2 500 metres.
The Earth's climate zones
The Earth's climate zones

- Cold zone
- Temperate zone
- North Pole
- Arctic Circle
- Tropic of Cancer
- Equator
- Tropic of Capricorn
- Antarctic Circle
- South Pole
- Hot zone

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY 1.1
2. Equatorial and tropical landscapes

2.1. Equatorial landscapes

2.2. Inhabitants of the equatorial zone

2.3 Tropical landscapes

2.4 Inhabitants of the savanna

• The equatorial and tropical climates
2.1. Equatorial landscapes

- Equatorial landscapes are in areas near the equator: the Amazon, parts of Central America, the Congo, the Gulf of Guinea and Southeast Asia.

- The temperatures in these areas are high and rainfall is heavy and regular.

- Rivers in this climate have a high, regular flow.

- Vegetation is lush with abundant plant species and most animals are small.
2.2. Inhabitants of the equatorial zone

- Jungles in **South America** and **Africa** are sparsely populated and inhabitants live from fruit, hunting animals and **basic farming**.

- **Asian jungles** are more densely populated with **plantations of rice, sugar cane, tea and latex** to make rubber.
2.3. Tropical landscapes

- **Tropical landscapes** are in areas to the north and south of the equatorial area.

- The **temperatures** are high all year. There are two seasons: the rainy season and the dry season.

- **River flow** varies depending on the season.

- Grasslands with shrubs and isolated trees called **savannas** are common in tropical zones.
2.4. Inhabitants of the savanna

- People in some indigenous villages keep animals and raise livestock.

- Other villages depend on agriculture and practice crop rotation.

- There are also foreign-owned plantations of cacao, coffee, sugar and tea.
The equatorial and tropical climates

[Map showing equatorial and tropical climates with regions marked in red and brown, respectively.]

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3. Desert, polar and mountain landscapes

3.1. Desert landscapes

3.2. Polar landscapes

3.3. Mountain landscapes

- Desert, polar and mountain climates
3.1. Desert landscapes

- Desert landscapes are located in the tropics and in the interior areas of continents.

- Temperatures are very high during the day and very cold at night. Rainfall is light and irregular.

- There are no rivers in the desert but there are wadis, or dry riverbeds that contain water only at certain times of the year. There is almost no vegetation because of the harsh climate.

- Deserts are sparsely populated. Groups of pastoral nomads live there with herds of sheep and camels.

- Settlements can be found near oases, which receive water from underground sources or from mountains.
3.2. Polar landscapes

- The **polar landscapes** are in the north of the Arctic Circle and the south of the Antarctic Circle.

- **Temperatures** are very low. **Precipitation** is low and usually in the form of snow.

- The areas bordering the Arctic and Antarctic Circles are called **tundra**, with **vegetation** such as mosses, lichens and small flowers.

- **Eskimos** live in the tundra of North America, where they form villages dedicated to hunting and fishing.

- The **Sami** people raise herds of reindeer in Northern Scandinavia.
3.3. Mountain landscapes

- Mountain landscapes can be found in areas above 2 500 metres.

- Temperatures are very low. Precipitation is heavy but decreases as altitude increases.

- Three factors affect vegetation: latitude, altitude and the direction the vegetation faces.

- The inhabitants of this area raise livestock, log forests, generate hydroelectric power and farm the land.

- Tourists also come to the mountains to go skiing, mountain climbing and hiking.
Desert, polar and mountain climates
4. Oceanic and continental landscapes

4.1. Oceanic landscapes

4.2. Humans and the environment

4.3 Continental landscapes

4.4. Humans and the environment

• The oceanic and continental climates
4.1. Oceanic landscapes

- **Oceanic landscapes** are along the coastline between latitudes 40° and 60°, north and south of the equator.

- The ocean causes mild **temperatures**. **Rainfall** is light and regular.

- **Rivers** have a high, regular flow throughout the year.

- **Meadows** are the most common form of vegetation. Other types of vegetation include **deciduous forests** and **moors**.

- **Mammals** such as bears, foxes and wild boars live in the forests. Small rodents like mice live on the moors.
4.2. Humans and the environment

- In **Western Europe**, forests have been cut down to make pastures for livestock or fields for crops, such as corn and potatoes.

- In **North America**, **southern Chile** and **Argentina**, there are still many forests.

- In **Australia** and **New Zealand**, there is a lot of grassland, allowing for extensive livestock.
4.3. Continental landscapes

- **Continental landscapes** are in the interior of Europe, Asia and North America.

- **Temperatures** are extreme with hot summers and cold winters. **Precipitation** is scarce.

- Although there is little rain, **rivers** have a high flow.

- In the north, the most common vegetation is **taiga** with pine, fir, larch and birch trees. In the south, there are extensive grasslands such as **steppes** and **prairies**.

- Common **fauna** in coniferous forests include deer, moose, squirrels and hares.
4.4. Humans and the environment

- The trees of the taiga are used to make cellulose, which is then made into paper.

- The steppes are used for raising livestock and growing cereals.
The oceanic and continental climates
5. The Mediterranean landscape

5.1. The Mediterranean landscape

5.2. Humans and the environment

• The Mediterranean climate
5.1. The Mediterranean landscape

- The **Mediterranean landscape** is found on the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, California, central Chile, South Africa and southern and southwest Australia.

- **Summers** are hot and **winters** are mild because of the proximity to the sea.

- **Rivers** have a low, irregular flow.

- **Mediterranean forests** are made up of **evergreen trees** such as pines and holm oaks.

- Grazing by animals as well as forest fires are causing forests to disappear. In their place, there is **maquis** and **garrigue** shrubland.
5.2. Humans and the environment

- Areas with a steep relief, poor soil and little water have been converted into dryland farming areas for cereals, grapes and olives.

- The construction of canals and dams has allowed for irrigated farming to grow fruits and vegetables.

- Vegetables like peppers, fruits like strawberries and flowers are grown in greenhouses.
The Mediterranean climate
6. Europe’s climates and landscapes

6.1. The diverse climates and landscapes of Europe

6.2 European vegetation and fauna

• The climates and landscapes of Europe
6.1. The diverse climates and landscapes of Europe

- The wide variety of climates and landscapes in Europe is mainly due to three factors: latitude, the influence of the sea and the relief.

- Most of the continent is between latitudes 35 °N and 60 °N. This means that Europe has temperate climates (continental, oceanic and Mediterranean).

- The proximity of Europe to the sea results in mild temperatures and abundant precipitation.

- The predominance of western-facing plains in Europe causes high humidity and rain.
6.2. European vegetation and fauna

- **Tundra** is the vegetation in Northern Europe. To the south there are **coniferous forests**.

- In the rest of the continent, the indigenous **vegetation** has disappeared due to human activity.

- As a result of human intervention, there are fewer **large mammals** than before. **Small mammals** in Europe include rabbits, hares and squirrels.
The climates and landscapes of Europe
7. Spain’s climates and landscapes

7.1. The wide variety of climates in Spain

- Spain’s climates and landscapes
7.1. The climates and landscapes of Spain

- On the Iberian Peninsula, we can find the three different types of temperate climates as well as the mountain climate.

- The climates on the Peninsula are different from those of the rest of Europe for three reasons: geographical location, the influence of the sea and the relief, and altitude.

- The Iberian Peninsula is closer to the tropical zone than the polar zone.

- The sea creates a mild climate, but the mountains prevent the sea from influencing inland areas.

- The average altitude of the Peninsula is quite high.
Spain's climates and landscapes

[Map showing various climate types and landscapes in Spain]