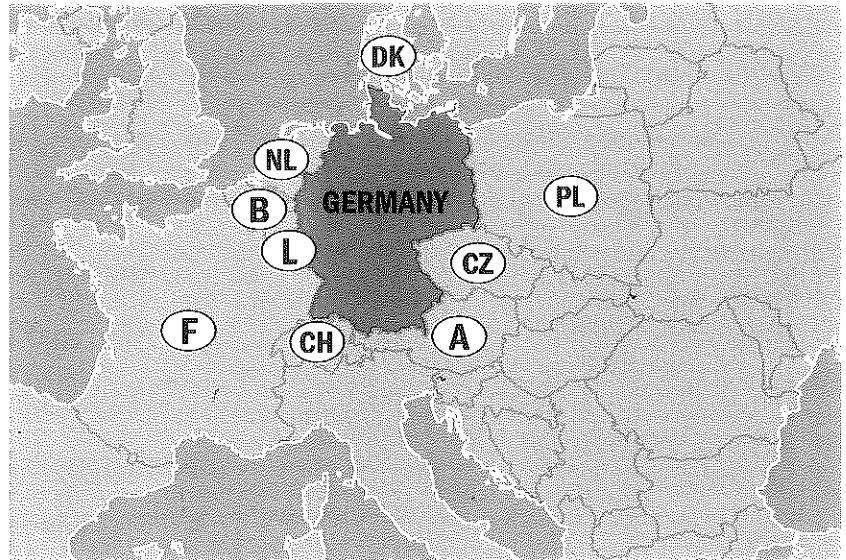


What makes Germany special?

- **Surface area:** 357 022 square km
(UK: 244 000 square km)
- **North to South:** 853 km
(UK: 960 km)
- **West to East:** 650 km
(UK: 480 km)
- **Highest mountain:**
Zugspitze, 2 962 m
(UK: Ben Nevis, 1 343 m)
- **Longest river:** Rhine, 865 km
(UK: Severn, 354 km)



▲ It's in the very heart of Europe

Germany is a large country right in the centre of Europe with lots of different neighbours: France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic. So it's little wonder that Germany's own rich culture also owes a lot to influences from across its many borders.

► The beautiful countryside

From the North Sea coast to the Swiss border in the south, a journey through Germany uncovers an amazing blend of sea, river, lake, moor, mountain, and forest scenery. The little car-free island of Hiddensee in the Baltic Sea (*die Ostsee*) is a far cry from the woodland scenery of the Black Forest (*der Schwarzwald*) in the south.



Guten Tag! Ich heiße Sonja. Ich wohne in einem Dorf in Ostdeutschland. Ich bin 15 Jahre alt. Willkommen!



A nation of sportswear trendsetters!

Adi Dassler from Herzogenaurach in Middle Franconia (*Mittelfranken*) founded the world famous **Adidas** company in 1949.

Loeb Strauss from Battenheim, also in Franconia, emigrated to the USA, changed his name to Levi and invented our favourite clothes item – jeans – in 1853.

● **Population:** 82.4 million

(UK: 59.7 million)

● **Young people 15–25 years:**

9.5 million (UK: 6.5 million)

● **Capital:** Berlin, 3.4+ million

(London, 7 million)

● **Other main cities:**

Hamburg, 1.73 million; Munich,

1.26 million; Stuttgart, 591 000

(UK: Manchester, 2.5 million;

Birmingham, 1 million;

Glasgow 600 000)

◀ **Germans, of course!**

There are 82.4 million of them – the largest population in Europe.

Approximately 9.5 million of these are young people between the ages of 15 and 25. Their attitudes are much like those of young people in Britain. Top priority in a recent survey*, at 88%, is 'looking good'. 82% of young Germans rate their future careers very highly. The importance of faithful relationships and designer clothes are both rated at 78%!

Different cultures

Germany has a wide cultural mix. There are nearly 2 million people who originally came from Turkey, the largest number from one country. Other nationalities represented in many German towns are Italian, Greek and Polish.



▲ **Great places to visit**

German cities are a vibrant mix of old and new. In the capital Berlin, only small sections of Germany's most significant landmark, the Berlin Wall (*die Berliner Mauer*), remain. In Frankfurt, international banking and commerce create a dramatic skyline of high-rise, high-tech buildings. Dresden earns its nickname as Florence of the Elbe (*das Elbflorenz*). Its beautiful architecture is similar to that of the Italian city.

For football fans, smaller towns such as Mönchengladbach and Kaiserslautern will be familiar.

A brand new, state-of-the-art stadium is being constructed in Kaiserslautern for the World Cup in 2006.



Read pages 4 and 5 and answer the questions.

- 1 a Name four of Germany's neighbouring countries.
- b How might you travel round Hiddensee? Why?
- c For what proportion of young Germans is 'looking good' very important?
- 2 The highest number of foreign nationals living in Germany comes from which country?

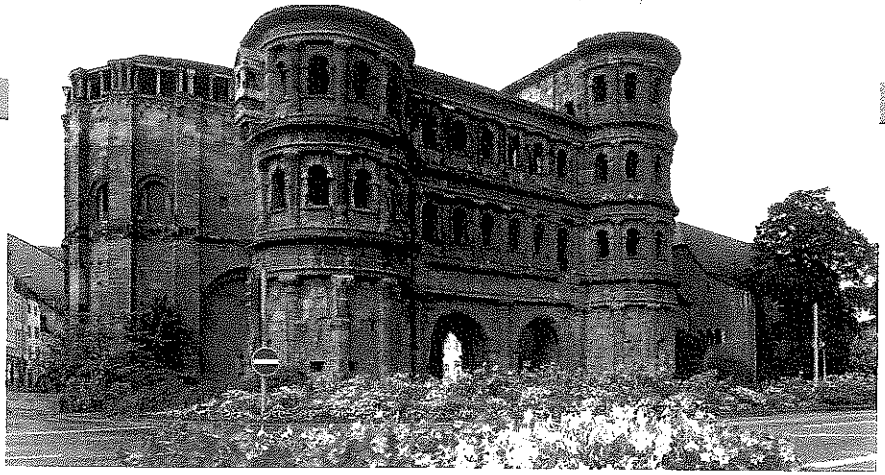
3 Write a short paragraph on each of the following topics:

- a What is Germany best known for abroad?
- b In which area of Germany would you most like to live? Why?

Discuss these with your teacher and others in class.

What makes Germany special?

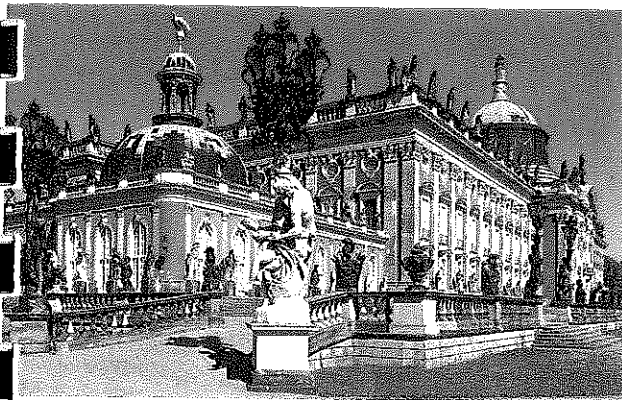
► Germany has maintained some impressive Roman remains. Porta Nigra, Trier.



Just as in Britain, German towns and villages are steeped in history. Roman remains such as the Porta Nigra gate in Trier in Rhineland-Palatinate (*Rheinland-Pfalz*) reflect

the importance of Roman influence over 2000 years ago.

Germany's many castles – over 20000 in total – are a trademark of the country. The strong fortification style of castle (*die Burg*), built in medieval times to protect surrounding towns and villages, later gave way to the more flamboyant style of castle (*das Schloss*) where noblemen and royalty lived.

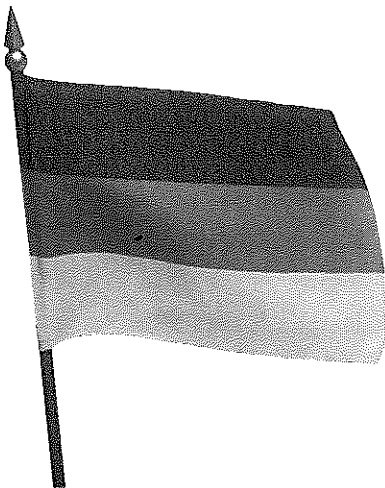


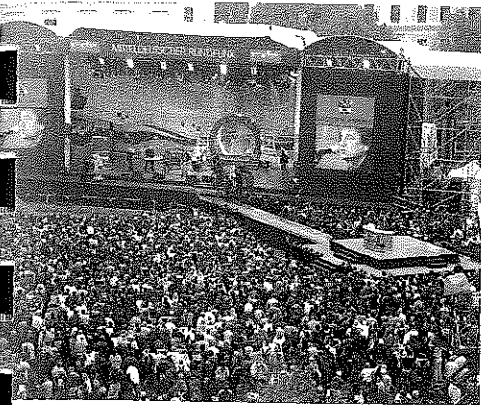
German castles can be extremely grand affairs! Sanssouci, Potsdam.

Learning about history can be a truly modern experience with a visit to the German Historical Museum in Berlin. Designed in part by the Chinese-born architect Ieoh Ming Pei, who is known as the 'Magician of Light', the museum was founded in 1987. This was two years before reunification. It brings together the history of the two halves of Germany in one stunning building.

◀ A bright view of history in the German Historical Museum, Berlin

Germany is a Federal state with 16 different states (*Länder*). It has been a member of the European Union since the European Economic Community was founded in 1957. The Euro was fully adopted as currency in Germany in January 2002. Five of Germany's neighbouring countries, France, Belgium, Holland, Austria and Luxembourg, also have Euro currency which makes crossing borders financially trouble-free for both Germans and tourists.

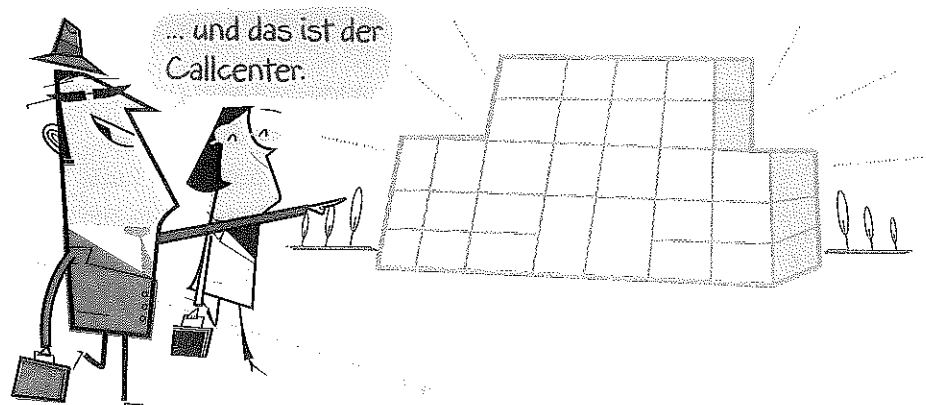




One very important day in the German calendar is 3rd October – Day of German Unity (*der Tag der Deutschen Einheit*). This celebrates the reunification of the two German states after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Celebrations first took place in Berlin, but are now focused in different parts of the country. The town of Magdeburg in eastern Germany hosted the celebrations in 2003. Politicians make speeches and history is remembered, but the main emphasis is on celebration and the ‘spirit of togetherness’ now enjoyed in Germany. The first few lines of the German national anthem reflect this:

Unity and right and freedom	<i>Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit</i>
For the German Fatherland.	<i>Für das deutsche Vaterland</i>
For each let us all strive	<i>Danach lasst uns alle streben</i>
Fraternally with heart and hand.	<i>Brüderlich mit Herz und Hand.</i>

There are over 100 million native speakers of German and it ranks in ninth place as a world language. One out of every 10 books published in the world is published in German. Many multinational businesses such as Siemens and BMW are based in German-speaking countries, so German is important in the world of business and science. Like many languages, it has become heavily influenced by English and *Denglisch* is part of everyday speech.



Read pages 6 and 7 and answer the questions.

- 1
 - a What is the difference between a *Burg* and a *Schloss*?
 - b In what way is the year of opening of the German Historical Museum significant?
 - c Why do you think the architect is known as the ‘Magician of Light’?
 - d When is the Day of German Unity? What is it called in German?
- 2 Write a short paragraph expressing your own opinions on the following:
 - a The 3rd October celebrations should always take place in Berlin.
 - b All European schoolchildren should learn German.
- 3 Find out and note as many *Denglisch* words as you can e.g. *der Callcenter*.