

# Germany

## (Deutschland)

Lucas Pasalich

# Germany

## Located in Central Europe

- Germany is located in central Europe and is 137,847 square miles, about the size of the state of Montana. Germany is a country with a great variety in landscape.
- Northern Germany includes coastlines of the Baltic and North Seas and the North German Plain, flat terrain with five north flowing rivers: Elbe, Ems, Weser, Oder.
- Wetland and marshes can be found in the western coast and the Rhine river.
- Eastern Germany is dotted with many glacier-formed lakes.
- The central and southern regions have forested hills and mountains. The Bavarian Forest and Black Forest, filled with pine and fir trees, along with the Ore Mountains and Bavarian Alps are found in this region. The Main, Danube and Inn rivers originate in south central Germany.
- Natural resources include coal, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, salt, timber and farmland.
- Germany's climate is temperate and marine with cold, cloudy winters and warm summers.



# German Historical Timeline

- 1000 B.C. Tribes from northern Europe began to arrive in what is now Germany.
- 1806 The Holy Roman Empire came to an end.
- 1870-1871 Germany defeated France in the Franco-Prussian War, and the German Empire was founded
- 1914-18 World War I. Germany is defeated and becomes a republic.
- 1933 Adolf Hitler forms Nazi Party
- 1939-45 World War II. Germany is defeated, ending Hitler's dictatorship. Germany is divided into four military occupation zones.
- 1949 East and West Germany were established.
- 1955 East and West Germany were declared independent, and joined opposing Cold War military alliances.
- 1989 East Germany opened the Berlin Wall and other border barriers, and allowed its citizens to travel freely to West Germany for the first time since World War II.
- 1990 East Germany held free elections in March, resulting in the end of Communist rule there. In October, East and West Germany were unified and became the single nation of Germany.



# Interesting Facts About German Culture

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- German music culture has produced many famous classical composers including Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Schubert, Handel, Johann Strauss II, Wagner, and many more.
- Germany is known for its bread variety, where there are roughly 300 different kinds.
- The local church is the dominant part of most German cities and towns. Many are protected by cultural preservation efforts today.
- Kris Kringle, which is the American Santa Claus, is derived from ChristKindl in German culture which is a spirit-like child with blond hair and angel wings.
- German recipes focus heavily on bread, potatoes, and meat, especially pork, as well as plenty of greens such as types of cabbage and kale. Cake, coffee, and beer are all highly popular elements of German food.
- Germany is home to some of the most popular car manufacturing units in the world. Audi, Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, all have their origins in Germany.
- Germany has numerous castles and one such famous castle is Neuschwanstein in Bavaria. It is believed that this castle was the inspiration behind the famous Walt Disney castle. Most of the castles have now been converted into museums, restaurants and hotels.
- German culture emphasized the importance of education for youth. In 1855 the first Kindergarten was launched in Wisconsin by German immigrants.





## The Best of Germany

- I like that Germany is known around the globe for architecture, music, making cars, loving soccer, valuing education and enjoying celebrations.
- Germans are known as friendly, hard working and welcoming people, even if it seems like they have no sense of humor.
- One thing I appreciate most, is Germans take care of each other. When an object is left or lost. Germans take the time to hang found items on the lowest branches of trees, signaling it is lost for the owner to claim. This act of kindness demonstrates caring and the world could learn from Germans example.

# FJH Benefits Having German Families as a Part of Our School and Community

Fishers Junior High gains more knowledge of the history and culture of the German people, when students from Germany or those from German heritage join our school and community. Germans are known for their industriousness and hard working drive. This influence has helped develop America and would have a positive effect on students at FJH. Germans value education and our learning system in America was heavily influenced by their strong emphasis in education and higher learning. Support in our learning and this influence of the belief in the importance of higher education could benefit and support our students at FJH, helping them to believe in themselves and value their education. The influence of other cultures in any community brings diversity, an important element in experiencing the world outside of Fishers and growing our community's appreciation of differences.

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