

# SOLT I German Module 4 Lesson 2

## Student Manual



Geography

At the end of this lesson you will be able identify the different German states and the countries surrounding Germany. In order to achieve this objective you will:

**Recognize the German States and Their Locations**

- Recognize the states' locations, their capitals, major cities, and regions within the states
- Describe their areas and borders
- Brief about Germany
- Describe the geography of Germany
- Talk about the location of military installations in Germany
- Identify the national flag of the country

**Identify Nationalities**

- Identify languages in the world countries
- Identify different ethnic groups
- Describe demographic composition

### Features of Germany

You are planning a short vacation somewhere in Germany and have asked one of your German counterparts to describe some of the various landscapes, since you can't decide. He gives you a quick description of Germany's geography. Where will you decide to go?



Deutschland hat sechzehn Bundesländer. Die Hauptstadt von Deutschland ist Berlin. In jedem Bundesland gibt es sehr schöne Landschaften.

Im Norden ist die Nordsee mit der schönen Insel Sylt. Das Land ist flach. Die Bundesländer dort sind Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg und Bremen.

In der Mitte von Deutschland gibt es viele Berge. Besonders schön ist der Teutoburger Wald und der Hunsrück. Weiter südlich gibt es natürlich den berühmten Schwarzwald im Westen und den Bayrischen Wald. Einige Bundesländer dort sind Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen, Hessen und Nordrhein-Westfalen.

Im südlichen Teil von Deutschland liegt Bayern. Deutschlands höchster Berg, die Zugspitze, ist in den Bayrischen Alpen.

Der wichtigste und berühmteste Fluss in Deutschland ist der Rhein.

## Die 16 deutschen Bundesländer und ihre Landeshauptstädte (The 16 German Federal States and their Capitals)



© www.germany-tourism.de/ Map in English

Germany is located in Central Europe, north of Austria and Switzerland and south of Denmark; it also borders on the North Sea and the Baltic Sea between the Netherlands and Poland. Roughly the size of Montana, re-unified Germany has an area of 357,021 square kilometers. Extending 853 kilometers from its northern border with Denmark to the Alps in the south, it is the sixth largest country in Europe. From the Belgian-German border in the west to the Polish frontier in the east, Germany measures approximately 650 kilometers.

The territory of former East Germany accounts for almost one-third of united Germany's territory and one-fifth of its population. In 1990, shortly before re-unification with West Germany, East Germany divided its administrative districts into five new states so they could legally join the federal union of German States. In 1993, after a hotly debated and close vote, the enlarged "Bundestag", the lower house of Germany's parliament, voted to transfer the capital residence from "Bonn am Rhein", a relatively small western city, back to the historic capital city of Berlin, which is now a city-state in the east surrounded by the state of Brandenburg.

## Germany – Quick Facts and Figures

Germany is the most populous democracy in Europe and about the size of Montana.

Offizieller Name: Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany)  
(Official Name)

Hauptstadt: Berlin  
(Capital)

Nachbarländer: Dänemark (Denmark), Polen (Poland), Tschechien (Czech  
(Bordering countries) Republic), Österreich (Austria), Schweiz (Switzerland), Frankreich  
(France), Luxemburg (Luxembourg), Belgien (Belgium), die  
Niederlande (Netherlands)

Flagge:  
(Flag)



Klima: Kühles Klima mit reichlich Regen und Bewölkung. Niedrigere  
(Climate) Temperaturen mit Schnee im Osten und im Süden. Neigt zu  
raschen Wetteränderungen.  
(Cool climate with abundant rainfall and overcast. Lower temperatures  
with snowfall in east and south. Prone to rapid weather variations.)

Sprachen: Deutsch (German)  
(Languages)

Breitengrad/Längengrad: 51° 00'N, 9° 00'E  
(Latitude/Longitude)

Offizielle Währung: der Euro  
(Official Currency)

Religionen: Hauptsächlich evangelisch (66%) und katholisch (27%)  
(Religions) (mostly Protestant (66%) and Catholic (27%))

Bevölkerung: 83,251,851 (July 2002)  
(Population)

Fläche: 357,021 km<sup>2</sup>  
(Area)

Geographie: Norddeutschland ist flach, während die Mitte und der Westen hügelig  
(Geography) sind. Der Südwesten dagegen ist sehr bergig. Deutschlands größte  
Flüsse: Donau, Elbe, Ems, Main, Rhein und Weser.  
(Germany is flat in the north, hilly in the central and western part of the  
country, and mountainous in the southwest. Major rivers include the  
Danube (Donau), Elbe, Ems, Main, Rhine (Rhein), and Weser.)

Bundesländer: 16 Bundesländer  
(States) 16 Federal States

### Recognize the German States and their Locations

#### Exercise 1 (Pair Exercise)

Using the German map on this page, write down all 16 Federal States in alphabetical order. Also, include each state's capital and borders. Then ask your partner questions regarding the names of the different states.

Beispiele: Nennen Sie ein Bundesland mit dem Anfangsbuchstaben B.  
(Name a federal state that begins with the letter B.)

Wie heißt die Hauptstadt von diesem Bundesland?  
(What's the capital of this state?)



**Exercise 2**

Search the table below for the following German states and their capitals:

Baden Württemberg	Thüringen	Erfurt
Saarland	Sachsen Anhalt	Hannover
Hessen	Rheinland Pfalz	Potsdam
Bayern	Bremen	Saarbrücken
Mecklenburg Vorpommern	Hamburg	Wiesbaden
Sachsen	Brandenburg	Mainz
Berlin	Magdeburg	München
Niedersachsen	Kiel	Dresden
Schleswig Holstein	Schwerin	Stuttgart
Nordrhein Westfalen	Düsseldorf	

E N G L Ö S A J E A L M D R E S D E N E R  
U L A S B O A P H R Z E S M M A Z Y Z O Q  
A V E N U X W O O F I C C S A A R L A N D  
N E U W D I E T J A U K H I G H B O H M E  
O E Ö R Ü I N S U N F L L N D A R Y I N E  
R A I B S R E D O G N E E I E N E B B I C  
D H E S S E N A L I N N S G B N C Ö A E P  
R O H M E I F M C R G B W S U O Y E D D R  
H H O Ü L E N Z E R S U I A R V C S E E H  
E D I N D A N Y U D A R G C G E W C N R E  
I A N C O M A B B S C G H H E R I H W S I  
N B E H R B M S R A H V O S O R E W Ü A N  
W K Ä E F A N T A A S O L E S I S E R C L  
E Ö I N H I W H N R E R S N T Ö B R T H A  
S E W E L F N Ü D B N P T W U S A I T S N  
T V Ö R L Z T R E R A O E M T P D N E E D  
F A E S N R R I N Ü N M I N T G E U M N P  
A B D I U S R N B C H M N Ä G R N E B K F  
L Ü A F H C Ä G U K A E S C A Ü R D E V A  
E M R W A U P E R E L R O U R B O N R Ä L  
N E U D E F Ä N G N T N U I T W H S G S Z

Answer Key:

E	N	G	L	Ö	S	A	J	E	A	L	M	D	R	E	S	D	E	N	E	R
U	L	A	S	B	O	A	P	H	R	Z	E	S	M	M	A	Z	Y	Z	O	Q
A	V	E	N	U	X	W	O	O	F	I	C	C	S	A	A	R	L	A	N	D
N	E	U	W	D	I	E	T	J	A	U	K	H	I	G	H	B	O	H	M	E
O	E	Ö	R	Ü	I	N	S	U	N	F	L	L	N	D	A	R	Y	I	N	E
R	A	I	B	S	R	E	D	O	G	N	E	E	I	E	N	E	B	B	I	C
D	H	E	S	S	E	N	A	L	I	N	N	S	G	B	N	C	Ö	A	E	P
R	O	H	M	E	I	F	M	C	R	G	B	W	S	U	O	Y	E	D	D	R
H	H	O	Ü	L	E	N	Z	E	R	S	U	I	A	R	V	C	S	E	E	H
E	D	I	N	D	A	N	Y	U	D	A	R	G	C	G	E	W	C	N	R	E
I	A	N	C	O	M	A	B	B	S	C	G	H	H	E	R	I	H	W	S	I
N	B	E	H	R	B	M	S	R	A	H	V	O	S	O	R	E	W	Ü	A	N
W	K	Ä	E	F	A	N	T	A	A	S	O	L	E	S	I	S	E	R	C	L
E	Ö	I	N	H	I	W	H	N	R	E	R	S	N	T	Ö	B	R	T	H	A
S	E	W	E	L	F	N	Ü	D	B	N	P	T	W	U	S	A	I	T	S	N
T	V	Ö	R	L	Z	T	R	E	R	A	O	E	M	T	P	D	N	E	E	D
F	A	E	S	N	R	R	I	N	Ü	N	M	I	N	T	G	E	U	M	N	P
A	B	D	I	Ü	S	R	N	B	C	H	M	N	Ä	G	R	N	E	B	K	F
L	Ü	A	F	H	C	Ä	G	U	K	A	E	S	C	A	Ü	R	D	E	V	A
E	M	R	W	A	U	P	E	R	E	L	R	O	U	R	B	O	N	R	Ä	L
N	E	U	D	E	F	Ä	N	G	N	T	N	U	I	T	W	H	S	G	S	Z





**Tip of the Day**

In Germany there are generally four administrative levels of government: federal, state, district, and municipal. The status of cities like Hamburg and Bremen (the historic Free Hanseatic Cities of Hamburg and Bremen) as well as the capital Berlin is a special one. They are “city states” and thus combine state, district and municipal authorities.

**Exercise 3 (Group Exercise)**

The class is split into two teams. The instructor will give each team ten questions regarding the location of certain German states. The teams have 10 minutes to write down the answers to each of the questions. Once the time is up, the two teams will compare their answers.

NOTE: There might be more than one possible answer for each of the questions.

Exercise 4

Study the map of Germany below and, in German, fill in the missing bordering countries.



**Exercise 5 (Pair Exercise)**

Practice the following role-play with your partner in German. Reverse roles.

A: Wo bist du denn her ?

B: Ich bin aus . . . (name the German state or bordering country).

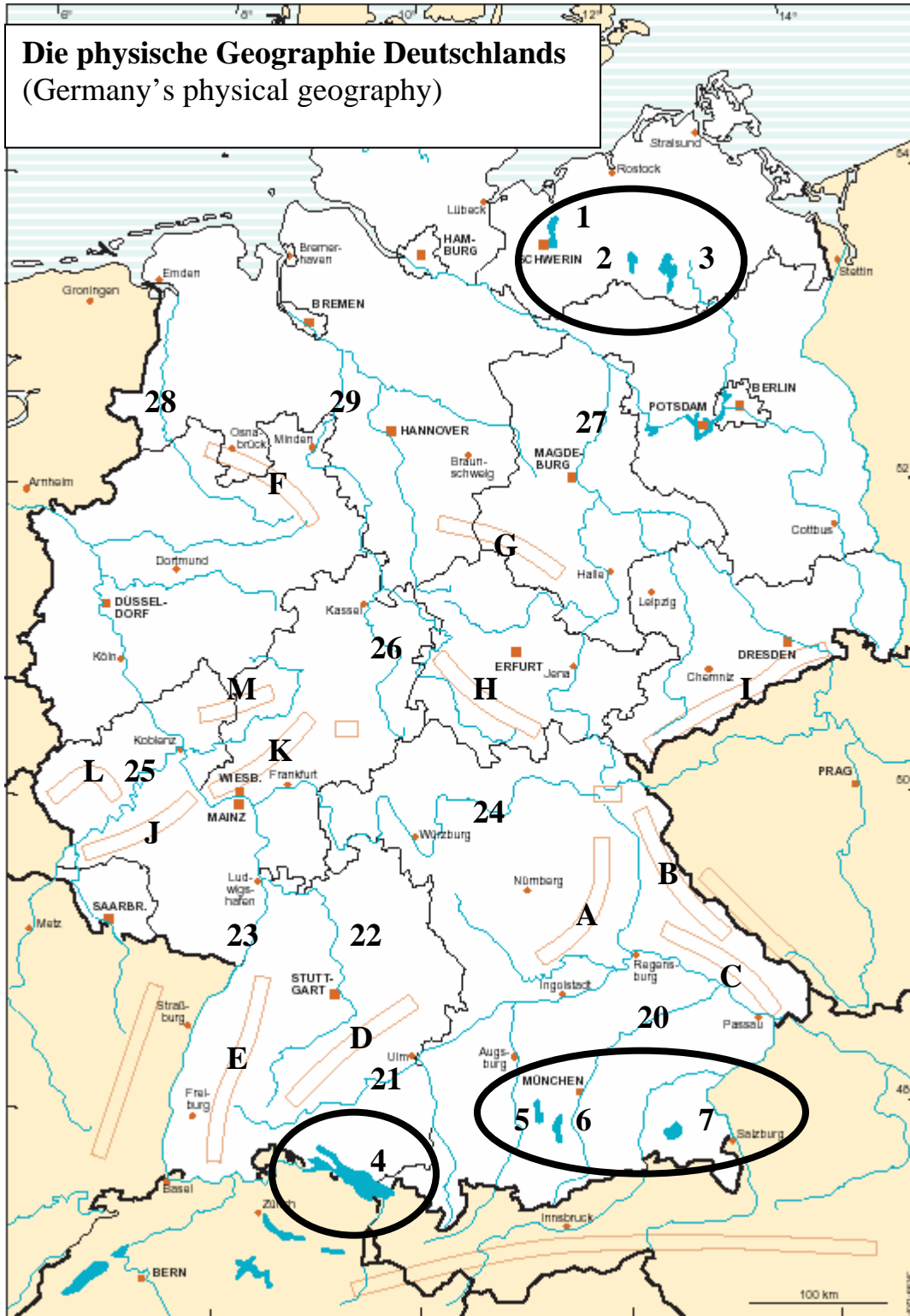
A: Wie lange wohnst du denn schon in (. . .) ?

B: Ich wohne schon seit (...) in (...).

A: Wo genau liegt eigentlich (...)?

B: Es liegt nördlich/südlich/östlich/westlich von (...).

Scan this chart and familiarize yourself with German geography, then follow the instructions for Exercise 6 on the next page.



**Exercise 6 (Pair Exercise)**

It is important to know the physical geography of the region/country you are in for a military purpose. Below is a list of the seven most important lakes, thirteen most important mountain ranges and forests, and ten most important rivers. With the help of a fellow student, choose the correct names for each of the different terrain features on the map on the previous page. Learn them, since your instructor will ask you about them the next day.

Lakes:

Bodensee  
Schweriner See  
Ammersee  
Müritzer See  
Starnberger See  
Plauer See  
Chiemsee

Mountain ranges and forests:

Teutoburger Wald  
Pfälzer Wald  
Schwarzwald  
Eifel  
Schwäbische Alb  
Fränkische Alb  
Westerwald

Hunsrück  
Erzgebirge  
Bayrischer Wald  
Harz  
Taunus  
Thüringer Wald

Rivers:

Fulda  
Isar  
Main  
Weser  
Ems  
Mosel  
Donau  
Rhein  
Neckar  
Elbe



### Exercise 8 (Pair Exercise)

Ask and answer questions about German military installations and their locations.

Beispiele: Nennen Sie einen Standort in . . . .  
Wie viele Standorte des Heeres gibt es in . . . ?  
Nennen Sie die größten Heeresstandorte in . . . ?  
Was ist die Landeshauptstadt von . . . ?  
Nennen Sie einen Fluss, eine Bergkette, oder einen Wald in . . . .

### Military Installations of the German “Heer”



Schleswig-Holstein  
Insgesamt 26 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Schleswig, Neumünster, Kiel



Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Insgesamt 6 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Neubrandenburg, Schwerin, Eggesin



Hamburg  
Insgesamt 14 Dienststellen



Niedersachsen  
Insgesamt 16 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Hannover, Hildesheim, Münster, Oldenburg



Bremen  
Insgesamt 5 Dienststellen



Brandenburg  
Insgesamt 6 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Storkow



Berlin  
Insgesamt 22 Dienststellen

**Military installations of the German “Heer” –(continued)**



Sachsen-Anhalt  
Insgesamt 4 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Havelberg



Sachsen  
Insgesamt 7 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Dresden, Leipzig, Frankenberg



Thüringen  
Insgesamt 6 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Erfurt, Gera



Hessen  
Insgesamt 11 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Fritzlar, Neustadt



Nordrhein-Westfalen  
Insgesamt 16 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Münster, Köln, Ahlen, Hilden, Bonn, Rheinbach, Düsseldorf



Rheinland-Pfalz  
Insgesamt 9 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Mainz, Koblenz



Saarland  
Insgesamt 3 Standorte  
Größter Standort: Saarlouis



Baden-Württemberg  
Insgesamt 15 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: Calw, Müllheim, Ellwangen



Bayern  
Insgesamt 72 Standorte  
Größte Standorte: München, Amberg, Veitshöchheim, Regensburg, Bogen, Ingolstadt, Bad Reichenhall



**Exercise 9**

Study the map below and complete the following tasks:

1. Highlight the borders of the following German-speaking countries:
  - A. Bundesrepublik Deutschland
  - B. Österreich
  - C. Schweiz
2. Label the neighboring European countries.
3. Sketch and label the following rivers:
  - A. Rhein
  - B. Ems
  - C. Donau
4. Sketch and label the following geographic features:
  - A. Bodensee
  - B. Schwarzwald
  - C. Teutoburger Wald
  - D. Bayrischer Wald
  - E. Thüringer Wald



**Exercise 10**

Your instructor will name 15 German cities. Listen carefully and circle the mentioned locations on the map below. Indicate in which state the different cities are located. Compare your answers with those of your classmates.



### Adverbs of Degree and Manner

You have already learned about adverbs of time and place. Another category deals with adverbs of manner. As you already know, German adverbs do not have specific endings and their word order also varies. Adverbs usually follow the verbs or nouns they modify but precede any adjectives they modify. Adverbs of time usually come before adverbs of manner, which can be followed by adverbs of place. If there are two time or manner elements, then go from the specific to the general.

Beispiel: Er ist heute (time) schnell (manner) in den Wald (place) gerannt.

NOTE: A useful rule of thumb for general sequence is: **Time – Cause – Manner - Place**

### Some common German adverbs of manner

anders (different)  
beinahe (almost)  
besonders (especially)  
fast (almost)  
ganz (quite)  
gern (gladly)  
genug (enough)  
hoffentlich (hopefully)  
kaum (hardly)  
langsam (slowly)  
leider (unfortunately)  
leise (quietly)  
natürlich (naturally)  
pünktlich (on time)  
schnell (fast, quick)  
schwer (heavy, difficult)  
schwierig (difficult)  
sehr (very)  
sicher (certainly)  
überdies (moreover)  
vielleicht (maybe)  
wirklich (really, indeed)  
ziemlich (rather, pretty)

**Exercise 1**

Read the following sentences and mark the word order as correct or incorrect. Correct the sentences if necessary.

- |  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| 1. Die Hausaufgaben sind sehr schwierig heute.     | C | IC |
| 2. Wir gehen über Weihnachten gerne nach Hause.    | C | IC |
| 3. Pünktlich sie kommt Montags nie.                | C | IC |
| 4. Er kommt abends gewöhnlich um 8 Uhr nach Hause. | C | IC |

**Exercise 2**

Study the following sentence elements and put them into the correct order according to the adverb rule.

1. vielleicht / er / kommt / nach Hause
2. besonders / freue / ich / mich / Geburtstag / auf / meinen
3. Sie / ist / gefahren / schnell / sehr
4. Nie / pünktlich / komme / ich / zum / Unterricht

Baden-Württemberg		Baden-Württemberg
Bayern		Bavaria
bedeutend		important
Belgien		Belgium
Berg, der	die Berge	mountain
Berlin		Berlin
Bevölkerung, die	(-en)	population
bilden		to form
Binnenwasserstraße, die	(-n)	inland waterway
Brandenburg		Brandenburg
Bremen		Bremen
Bundesland, das	(-länder)	federal state
Bundesrepublik Deutschland		Federal Republic of Germany
Dänemark		Denmark
Dienststelle, die	(-n)	department, agency
flach		flat
Fläche, die	(-n)	area
Flagge, die; die Fahne	(-n)	flag
fließen		to flow
Fluss, der	die Flüsse	river
Frankreich		France
Geographie, die		geography
grenzen an		to border
Hamburg		Hamburg
Hauptstadt, die	die Hauptstädte	capital
Hessen		Hesse
Klima, das		climate
Landeshauptstadt, die	(-städte)	state capital
Luxemburg		Luxembourg
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern		Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
münden, fließen		to flow (into)
Nachbarland, das	die Nachbarländer	neighboring country
Nebenfluss, der	die Nebenflüsse	tributary
Niederlande, die		Netherlands
Niedersachsen		Lower Saxony
Norden, der		North
Nordrhein-Westfalen		North Rhine-Westphalia
Osten, der		East
Österreich		Austria
Polen		Poland
Rheinland-Pfalz		Rhineland-Palatine
Saarland		Saarland
Sachsen		Saxony

Sachsen-Anhalt	Saxony-Anhalt
Schleswig-Holstein	Schleswig-Holstein
Schweiz, die	Switzerland
See, der	lake
die Seen	
Standort, der	location, garrison
die Standorte	
Süden, der	South
Thüringen	Thuringia
Tschechien	Czech Republic
Wald, der	forest
die Wälder	
Welt, die	world
Westen, der	East
Wirtschaft, die	economy
die Wirtschaften	

**Supplemental Vocabulary**

Güter, die	goods
Bezug auf, in	in reference to
ausbilden	to train, to educate
betragen	amount to
berühmt	famous
Dialekt, der	dialect
eigentlich	actually
Einwohner, der	citizen
(die)	
Ersatzteil, das	replacement/spare part
die Ersatzteile	
evangelisch	Protestant/Lutheran
gewöhnlich	usually
Insel, die	island
(-n)	
katholisch	Catholic
Landschaft, die	landscape
(-en)	
Manöver, das	manouever
natürlich	naturally, certainly
nennen	name
sprengen	to blast, to detonate, to blow sth. up
umfassen	to cover, comprise, surround, enclose
umgeben sein	to be surrounded
um...herum	around
umgeben	surround
Unterbringung, die	accommodation
verlegen	move, transfer
hauptsächlich	mainly
unterteilen	to divide

### Germany's natural regions

Germany can be divided into five natural regions. The largest consists of a part of the great plain that extends across Europe from the Netherlands to the Ural Mountains in Russia. The North German Plain is largely flat, but in the east there are chains of small hills consisting of glacial deposits. In the west there are areas of marshes along the coasts with sandy heath and moorlands inland.

Farther south a complex region of hills and valleys forms the Mid-German Uplands. These hills are partially of volcanic origin. The major ranges of hills in the west are the Eifel, Hunsrueck, Westerwald, Taunus, and Harzt mountains, which are located on both sides of the Rhine River. In the center are the Harz Mountains and the Thüringer Wald, and in the east the Erzgebirge, which form part of the border with Czechoslovakia. The western hills are not very high, but the Brocken in the Harz reaches 3,747 ft (1,142 m) and the Fichtelberg in the Erzgebirge reaches 3,980 ft (1,213 m).

South of the Mid-German Uplands a region of plateau and lowlands stretches across the country. It contains a chain of hills known as the Swabian and Franconian Jura, which extends from southwest to northeast. These hills are formed from limestone and present steep sharp slopes to the north. To the west, the Black Forest (*Schwarzwald*), follows a north-south direction. The Rhine River flows through a deep, densely forested valley to its west. Its highest summit is the Feldberg at 4,898 ft (1,493 m). This region of southern Germany also contains a central area of plains and low hills crossed by the Neckar and Main rivers, both tributaries of the Rhine. To the east, the Bohemian Forest forms part of the border with Czechoslovakia. It rises to more than 4,700 ft (1,430 m).

The two southern regions consist of the Bavarian Alps and the Bavarian Plateau. The plateau contains small hills and valleys formed by the tributaries of the Danube River, which borders on the north. The Bavarian Alps contain the highest mountain in Germany, the Zugspitze at 9,721 ft (2,963 m), and form a region of great natural beauty.

Most of Germany's rivers flow northward to the North Sea. The longest is the Rhine, 820 miles (1,320 km) long--with its tributaries, the Main, Neckar, and Mosel Rivers, followed by the Elbe, Weser, and Ems. The Oder flows to the Baltic Sea, and the Danube, with its tributaries, the Iller, Lech, and Isar rivers, flows to the Black Sea. Most of these are navigable and are connected by a system of canals that cross Germany from east to west.

There are a few lakes, such as Lake Constance (*Bodensee*), which form part of the border with Switzerland and Austria. North of the Alps there is a chain of small lakes, including the Chiemsee, Ammersee, and Starnberger See, or Würmsee. In the north, the Muritzsee and Schwerinersee are the largest of a group of small lakes between the Oder and Elbe rivers. South of Berlin, there are small lakes formed by the Spree and Havel rivers.

There are several islands along the German North Sea coast. The East Frisian Islands are a continuation of the string of islands that stretches along the coast of The Netherlands,

and the North Frisian Islands are located to the south of the Danish border. The main island is Sylt, which is connected by a causeway with the mainland. Between the two groups of islands is the small rocky island of Helgoland. The Baltic coast has few islands, the largest being the flat island of Rügen.

### **History of the Federal States**

For most of its history, Germany had been divided into a large number of more or less independent states. Most of the states as we know them today were established after 1945, and they have largely retained their ethnic traditions and characteristics, together with some of the old boundaries. Until Germany was reunited in 1990, the Federal Republic (founded in 1949) consisted of eleven states, which had evolved out of the three “Western” occupation zones after World War II.

In the Soviet-occupied zone, which later became the German Democratic Republic (GDR), five democratic states were likewise formed after the end of the war, but these were soon replaced by a centralized administration. After the first free election in the former GDR on March 18, 1990, five new states were created with boundaries largely conforming to those of the period prior to 1952. On October 3, 1990 the German Democratic Republic was reunited with the Federal Republic, creating Europe’s largest economy and most populous nation. The states of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Saxony, and Thuringia became part of the 16 Federal States of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### **Germany’s former and new capital - Berlin**

Germany’s capital and its largest city is Berlin. Its population is approximately 3.5 million people and it covers about 883 km<sup>2</sup>. After World War II, Berlin became a divided city. In 1949 the eastern part of Berlin, the sector controlled by the Soviet Union, became the capital of the German Democratic Republic (*East Germany*). West Berlin was turned into a city-state and remained occupied by the Western allied powers USA, Britain, and France. It became politically closely connected with (but was never fully a part of) Western Germany, and kept a special “Four Powers” status until reunification.

In 1961, in order to stop its citizens from escaping to the more prosperous West, East Germany constructed a barrier of barbed wire and concrete around West Berlin, which came to be known as the “Berlin Wall.” During the next 30 years, more than 70 East Germans were killed climbing the wall while trying to reach the West. More than 100 people were injured and at least 3,000 were captured.

With the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union, reunification of East and West Germany, and also of East and West Berlin, became possible. Berlin once again became the capital of a united Germany.

For further information in English on Germany, go to: [www.germany-tourism.de](http://www.germany-tourism.de), or [www.howtogermaany.com](http://www.howtogermaany.com)



## German Dialects

The German you are learning here is the so-called Hochdeutsch, but up to 50% of all Germans, especially in the country, do not speak Hochdeutsch at home. They speak one of the many German dialects.

A very general overview of the main dialect families is:

- Niederdeutsch (Low German/Plattdeutsch), including: Northern Lower Saxon, Westphalian, Eastphalian, Brandenburgian, East Pommeranian, Mecklenburgian, etc. For the English speaker, these are often surprisingly easy to understand.
- Mitteldeutsch (Middle German), spoken in the center of Germany to Luxembourg) eastward into present-day Poland and the region of Silesia (Schlesien).
- Fränkisch (Frankish)  
Frankish dialect is spoken along Germany's Main River to the Moselle River.
- Alemannisch (Alemannic) is spoken in Switzerland north along the Rhine, to the city of Karlsruhe in Germany. It includes Alsatian, Swabian, Low and High Alemannic, and Schwyzertüütsch.
- Bairisch-Österreichisch (Bavarian-Austrian) extends over a large area, from Bavaria into Austria.

Although most Germans have learned Hochdeutsch in school, the differences between the dialects are so extreme that native German dialect speakers may not understand each other. For example, a farmer in the Bavarian woods, and a worker from Cologne will have difficulty knowing what the other is talking about. According to one poll, the dialects most disliked in Germany are “Sächsisch,” 50%, “Berlinerisch” 24%, “Bairisch” 19%, “Schwäbisch” 14%, “Thüringisch” 13%, and “Hessisch” 11%. If you are interested, there is a very comprehensive website on German dialects available at <http://www.ex.ac.uk/~pjoyce/dialects/diagen.html>.

In general, the local dialects are much more colorful than Hochdeutsch, and can often be quite playful. Dialects have the humor many people think is missing in the “high” and “official” Hochdeutsch, and this humor can often be vulgar. Pennsylvania Dutch is actually just another southern German dialect, developed over the centuries, and mixed with a few American words.

**Recognize the German States and their Locations**

**Activity 1 (Pair Activity)**

Study the pictures of the two German Federal States below, then ask (one student) and answer (the other student) the following questions on the first state in German. Change roles with the second state.

1. Wie heißt dieses Bundesland?
2. Was ist die Hauptstadt von diesem Bundesland?
3. Welches sind seine Nachbarstaaten?
4. Welches sind seine geographischen Hauptmerkmale?
5. Wie viele militärische Standorte gibt es in diesem Bundesland?



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### **Activity 2 (Pair Activity)**

Using Activity 1 as an example, describe a Federal State to your partner, mentioning everything except the name of the state. Describe it in as much detail as possible so your partner can guess its name.

### **Activity 3**

Imagine that you are stationed in Germany, and you took part in a combined exercise in one of the neighboring countries. The instructor will ask each student where the exercise took place and where the country is in relation to Germany as well as to other countries. The instructor will also ask about the length of the exercise.

NOTE: Write down your classmates' answers for Activity 4.

### **Activity 4**

Using your classmates' answers from Activity 3, report to the instructor the location and duration of the exercise one of your classmates participated in.

### **Activity 5 (Group Activity)**

The class is divided into two groups. Each group assigns each group member a particular piece of information to memorize about Germany. Once as many facts as possible have been memorized, the first group pretends to be briefing a group of soldiers that have just arrived in Germany. Switch roles. Each group may also ask the briefing group questions about points they might have left out.

### **Activity 6 (Group Activity)**

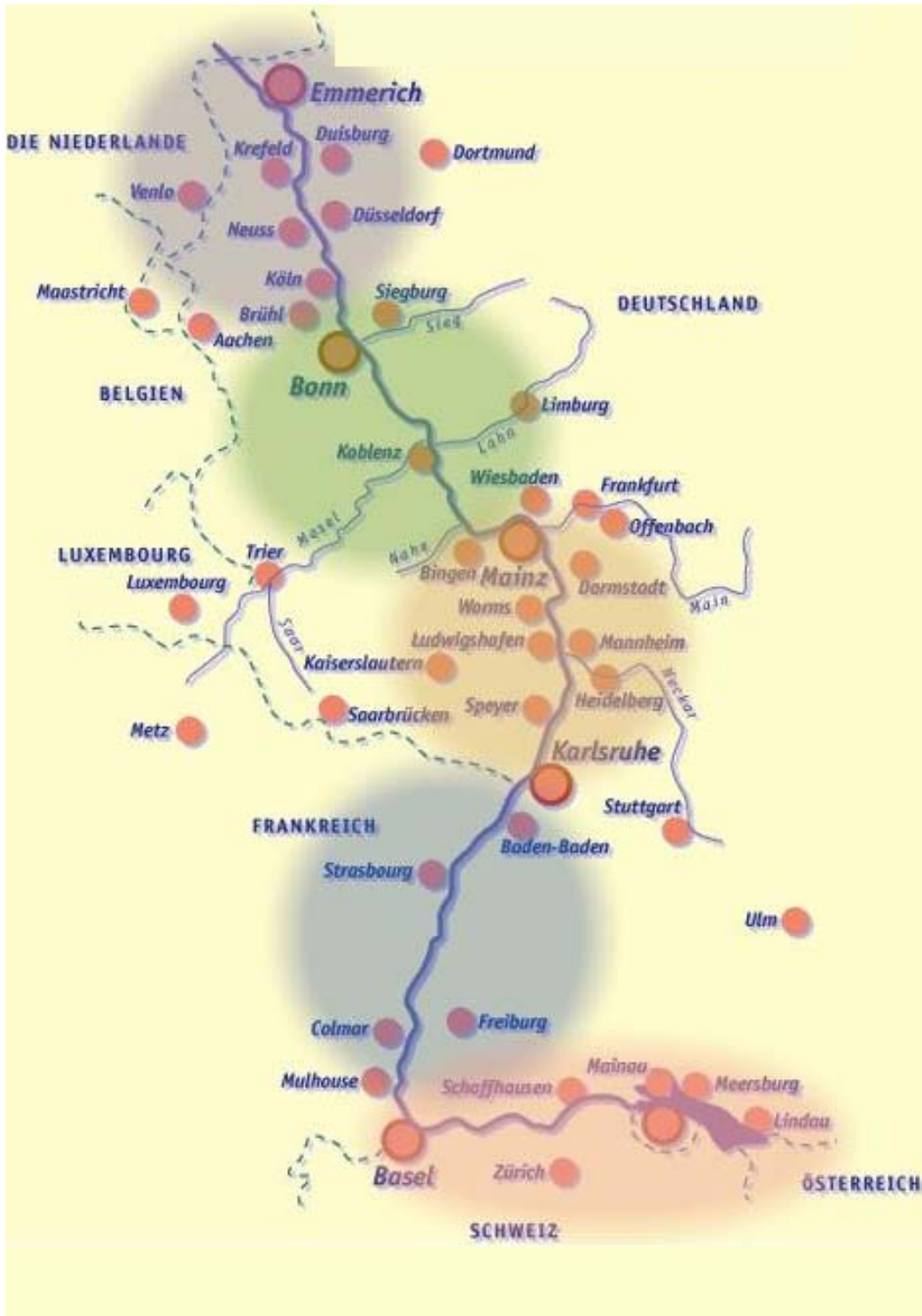
The class is split up into two teams. The instructor will then ask 20 questions regarding the physical geography of Germany. The group that can answer the most questions in the fastest time wins.

**Activity 7 (Reading Comprehension)**

Read the following text and fill in the blanks with the words from the jumble box.  
Compare your answers with those of the class. Ask questions related to the reading to  
your classmates and discuss the answers.

Der \_\_\_\_\_ ist mit 1320 Kilometern der längste Fluss Deutschlands. Er fließt durch  
die \_\_\_\_\_, Österreich, Liechtenstein, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
und die \_\_\_\_\_, bis er in die Nordsee mündet. Er bildet sich in den  
Schweizer Alpen aus dem Vorderrhein und dem Hinterrhein. Der Rhein bildet insgesamt  
eine \_\_\_\_\_ von zirka 220.150 Quadratkilometern. Seine größten Nebenflüsse sind  
die Aare (Schweiz), der \_\_\_\_\_, der \_\_\_\_\_, die Lahn, die Ill (Frankreich), die  
\_\_\_\_\_, die Ruhr und die Lippe. Der Rhein ist eine der wirtschaftlich  
bedeutendsten \_\_\_\_\_ der Welt.

Fläche	Main	Rhein	Deutschland	Mosel
Binnenwasserstraße	Schweiz	Neckar	Frankreich	Niederlande



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### Activity 8

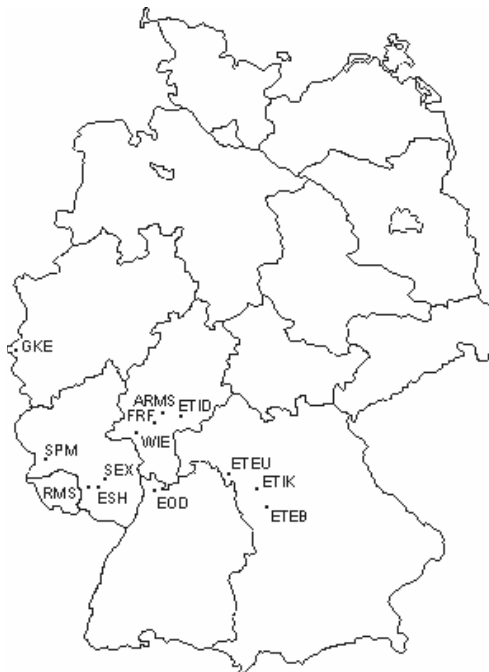
Your instructor will ask you a question regarding German military installations. Using the map below, answer his/her question by naming at least one large German military installation in the state mentioned.

Beispiel: Welche größeren Standorte gibt es in Bayern?  
Ein größerer Standort des Heeres in Bayern ist Ingolstadt.

### Activity 9

The map below shows the active aircraft operating US Air Force and US Army bases/posts in Germany. Use the map to ask each other questions about the locations of the different bases. Use the following questions as guidelines for your German questions.

- Name a state in which US Air Force and Army bases/posts are located.
- How many bases/posts are located in \_\_\_\_\_?
- At the border of which country(ies) does the base/post in \_\_\_\_\_ lie?
- Which state(s) has/have the least installations?



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NOTE: Discuss with your instructor why most US military installations in Germany are located in Southern Germany.

**Activity 10**

Your instructor will read to you some facts about Germany. Some of them might be wrong. Listen carefully and mark the answer as true or false. Once you have marked all the answers, correct the false answers on the lines provided, and discuss them in class.

- |    |      |       |       |
|----|------|-------|-------|
| 1. | True | False | _____ |
| 2. | True | False | _____ |
| 3. | True | False | _____ |
| 4. | True | False | _____ |
| 5. | True | False | _____ |
| 6. | True | False | _____ |
| 7. | True | False | _____ |
| 8. | True | False | _____ |

**Exercise 11 (Group Exercise)**

In the Introduction section, you have learned to describe a country's geography. Now, imagine that you have just arrived at a German military installation and you want to brief your German counterparts about the geography of your home state. Without mentioning the name of the state, describe its geography in as much detail as possible, so that your German counterparts (your classmates) can guess the state.



**Recognize the German States and their Locations**

**Activity 1 (Pair Activity)**

Without looking them up, list all 16 German Federal States and their state capitals, if applicable. One student will name a state and the other will name the state's capital. You also may reverse roles. (Write down their German names.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 2 (Pair Activity)**

Without looking them up, list all 9 countries bordering Germany (write down their German names). Then, turn to your neighbor, and alternate telling each other their location in relationship to Germany.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity 3 (Group Exercise)**

The instructor will begin by asking the first student “Was ist die Landeshauptstadt von (insert Federal State)?” The student will answer and add some geographical characteristics of it. Then turn to the next student and ask him/her the same question, using a different state. Continue until each state has been covered.

**Activity 4 (Pair Activity)**

Ask your partner the following question: “In welchem Bundesland liegt . . .(name of the city)?” He or she will answer the question and ask you the same question about another city from the map below. Ask your partner about the location of at least six cities.



### Activity 5 (Pair Activity)

Imagine that you are the sponsor for a US soldier who will be arriving in Germany shortly. He or she (your partner) will ask you the questions below in English. Answer in German in as much detail as possible. Compare the answers with those of your peers.

- What does the physical geography of Germany look like?
- Tell me something about religion in Germany.
- How many German states are there, and what is special (besonders) about three of them?
- How many countries are bordering Germany?
- What is the population size of Germany?

### Activity 6 (Pair Activity)

Imagine that your commander (your partner) has just arrived in Germany and that you have to brief him about the physical geography of Germany. Three different types of exercises are planned and you will have to recommend the best location (federal state and lake or mountain range) for the exercise. Brief the class.

- 1<sup>st</sup> exercise involves diving
- 2<sup>nd</sup> exercise involves mountain climbing
- 3<sup>rd</sup> exercise involves skiing

Since more than one state is suitable for the above activities, you will be able to switch roles and name different locations.

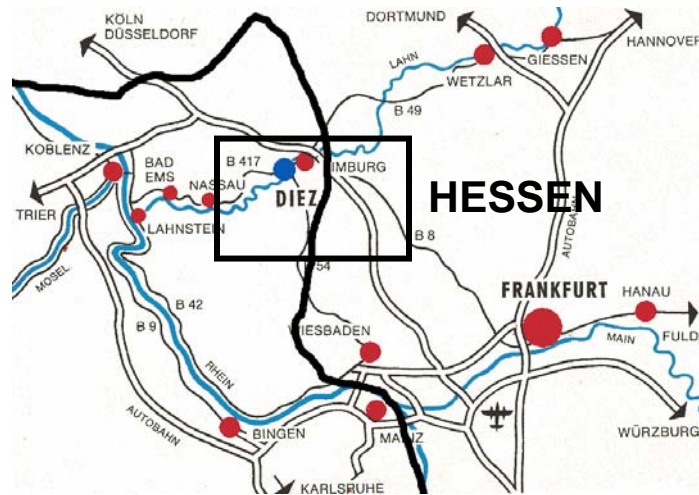
### Activity 7 (Pair Activity)

Below are two descriptions of German military installations. Each of you chooses one of the locations and studies it carefully. You will then pretend that you are stationed at this particular installation, and you will tell your partner all the details without looking at the description below.

#### 1. Diez (Freiherr-vom-Stein-Kaserne)

- Transportbataillon 370  
→ Transportiert Bundeswehrgüter: Ausrüstung, Ersatzteile, Munition, Fahrzeuge, Post
- Größe der Kaserne: 289.000m<sup>2</sup>
- Unterbringung für 1.500 Soldaten
- Bildet Soldaten zu Transportsoldaten aus
- Bevölkerung von Diez: 10.000

Activity 7 (continued)



2. Emmerich (Moritz-von-Nassau-Kaserne)

- Größe: 329.000m<sup>2</sup>
- Unterbringung für 1.200 Soldaten
- Stabsgebäude, Unterkunftsgebäude, Sporthalle, Technischer Bereich, Ausbildungsstätten
- Ausbildungseinrichtungen: 2 Übungsplätze, Schießanlage, Wasserübungsplatz, Sprengbunker
- Bevölkerung Emmrichs: fast 30.000 Einwohner



### Activity 8 (Pair Activity)

Imagine that you have to explain to another soldier how to get from one German city to another. Make sure to mention the rivers, mountain, forests, and cities he or she will be driving through or crossing on the way. Reverse roles. (You may use the physical geography map from the introduction, if necessary.)

1. Von Nürnberg nach Magdeburg
2. Von Dortmund nach Bremen
3. Von Freiburg nach Augsburg
4. Von Regensburg nach Frankfurt

### Activity 9

Your instructor will give you some information about Germany's capital Berlin. Listen carefully and answer the questions below in German. Discuss your answers with those of your classmates.



1. Welche drei besonderen Faktoren kann man in Bezug auf den Status von Berlin nennen?

---

2. Welche Bundesländer liegen um Berlin herum?

---

3. Wie groß ist die Fläche von Berlin in Quadratkilometern?

---

4. Welche drei deutschen Städte sind zusammen genauso groß wie Berlin?

---

5. Wie viele Einwohner hat Berlin?

---

6. Welche Stadt war die offizielle Hauptstadt der Bundesrepublik Deutschland von 1945 bis 1991?

---

7. How many large rivers and lakes are in Berlin?

---

### Activity 10 (Group Activity)

Split the class into two groups. Each group brainstorms about all the facts learned about the 16 federal states – past and present. Then, each group gives a brief presentation on the information that has been put together.

### Activity 11

Match the German adverbs on the left with their English equivalents on the right and create a sentence using it.

fast  
langsam  
pünktlich  
vielleicht  
wirklich  
ziemlich  
ganz  
kaum  
anders  
gern  
hoffentlich  
schwierig  
leise  
sicher  
überdies  
beinahe  
sehr  
schnell  
natürlich  
leider  
besonders  
schwer  
genug

difficult  
fast  
quite  
almost  
certainly  
quietly  
moreover  
naturally  
enough  
very  
unfortunately  
heavy  
almost  
slowly  
maybe  
really  
on time  
especially  
hopefully  
different  
gladly  
hardly  
rather, pretty

**Activity 1**

Go on a scavenger hunt. If you have studied this lesson carefully, you will be able to answer the following questions. If you need help with this task, search for your answer in the Introduction section. Be ready to discuss your answers in class tomorrow.

1. Welches ist das nördlichste deutsche Bundesland?

---

2. Wie heißt die Hauptstadt von Bayern?

---

3. Wie heißt die Hauptstadt von Deutschland?

---

4. Welches Bundesland (abgesehen von den Stadtstaaten) hat die kleinste Fläche?

---

5. Welches Bundesland hat die größte Fläche?

---

6. Was ist "Rhineland Palatine" auf deutsch?

---

7. Was ist die Hauptstadt von Hessen?

---

8. Von welchem Bundesland ist Dresden die Hauptstadt?

---

9. Von welchem Bundesland ist Berlin rings herum umgeben?

---

10. Wie heißt die Hauptstadt von Niedersachsen?



---

**Activity 2 (Reading Comprehension)**

The paragraph below contains six mistakes. Find the mistakes and correct them in German. Be ready to explain your correction in class tomorrow.

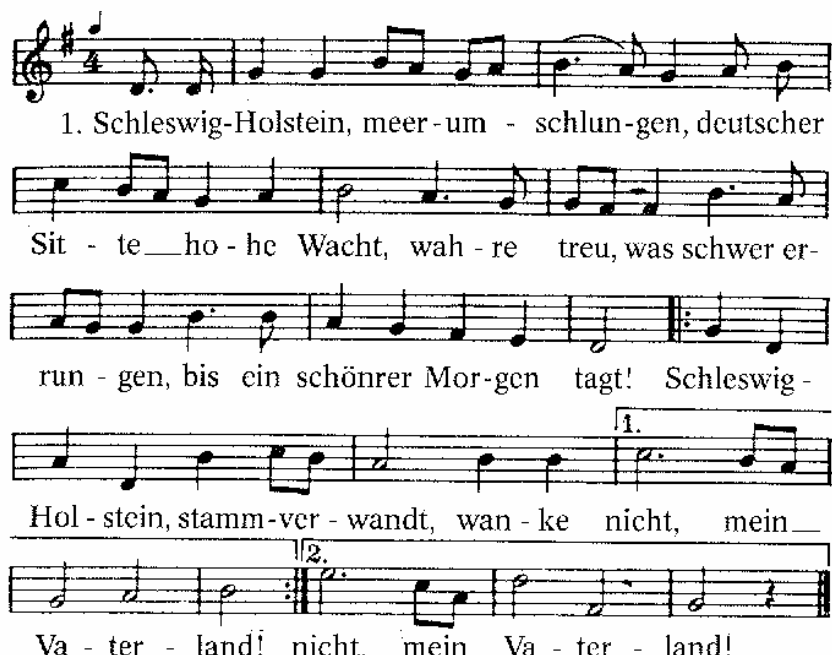
Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland umfaßt eine Fläche von 300,520 Quadratkilometer und die Einwohnerzahl liegt ungefähr bei 83 Millionen. Die Landessprache ist Deutsch aber es gibt viele Dialekte in den verschiedenen Regionen. Die Bevölkerung ist hauptsächlich katholisch. Im Norden Deutschlands gibt es sehr viele Berge und man kann dort gut Skifahren. Der Süden Deutschlands ist eher flach. Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland ist in 15 Bundesländer unterteilt. Drei Bundesländer sind Städte. Die kleinste der drei Städte ist Berlin, welches außerdem die Hauptstadt Deutschlands ist.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

 Activity 3

The following song is the anthem of one of Germany's states. Listen carefully and determine which state is mentioned. Write down its German name.

**Lied an Schleswig-Holstein**



Text:  
*Matthaeus Friedrich Chemnitz*  
*Melodie: Carl Gottlieb Bellmann*

Ob auch wild die Brandung tosc,  
Flut auf Flut, von Bai zu Bai:  
O, laß blühh in deinem Schoße,  
Deutsche Tugend, deutsche Treu'!  
Schleswig-Holstein, stammverwandt,  
Bleibe treu, mein Vaterland!

Teures Land, du Doppeleiche,  
Unter einer Krone Dach,  
Stehe fest, und nimmer weiche,  
Wie der Feind auch dräuen mag!  
Schleswig-Holstein, stammverwandt,  
Wanke nicht, mein Vaterland!

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Worte: Matthias Friedrich Chemnitz (1844)

Weise: Karl Gottlieb Bellmann (1844)

NOTE: The song is from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The pathos (passion) of the words is representative of European Nationalism, typical of this era.

#### Activity 4

Your instructor will assign a federal state to each of you. Go to a German search engine like [www.yahoo.de](http://www.yahoo.de) and find out as much information about the state as possible. Give a 5-minute presentation in German on the state you researched.

#### Activity 5

Listen to the instructor read the exercise and report what you heard.

1. Die deutsche Wirtschaft ist die größte Europas und die fünftgrößte der Welt.
2. Dänemark grenzt an Deutschland, aber die Grenze ist nur 50 Kilometer lang.
3. Der Standort der deutschen Fallschirmjägerschule befindet sich in Altenstadt, bei München.
4. Deutschland hat eine Insel in der Nordsee. Sie heißt Helgoland.
5. Die Autobahn bildet ein bedeutendes Transportnetz für das deutsche Heer.