

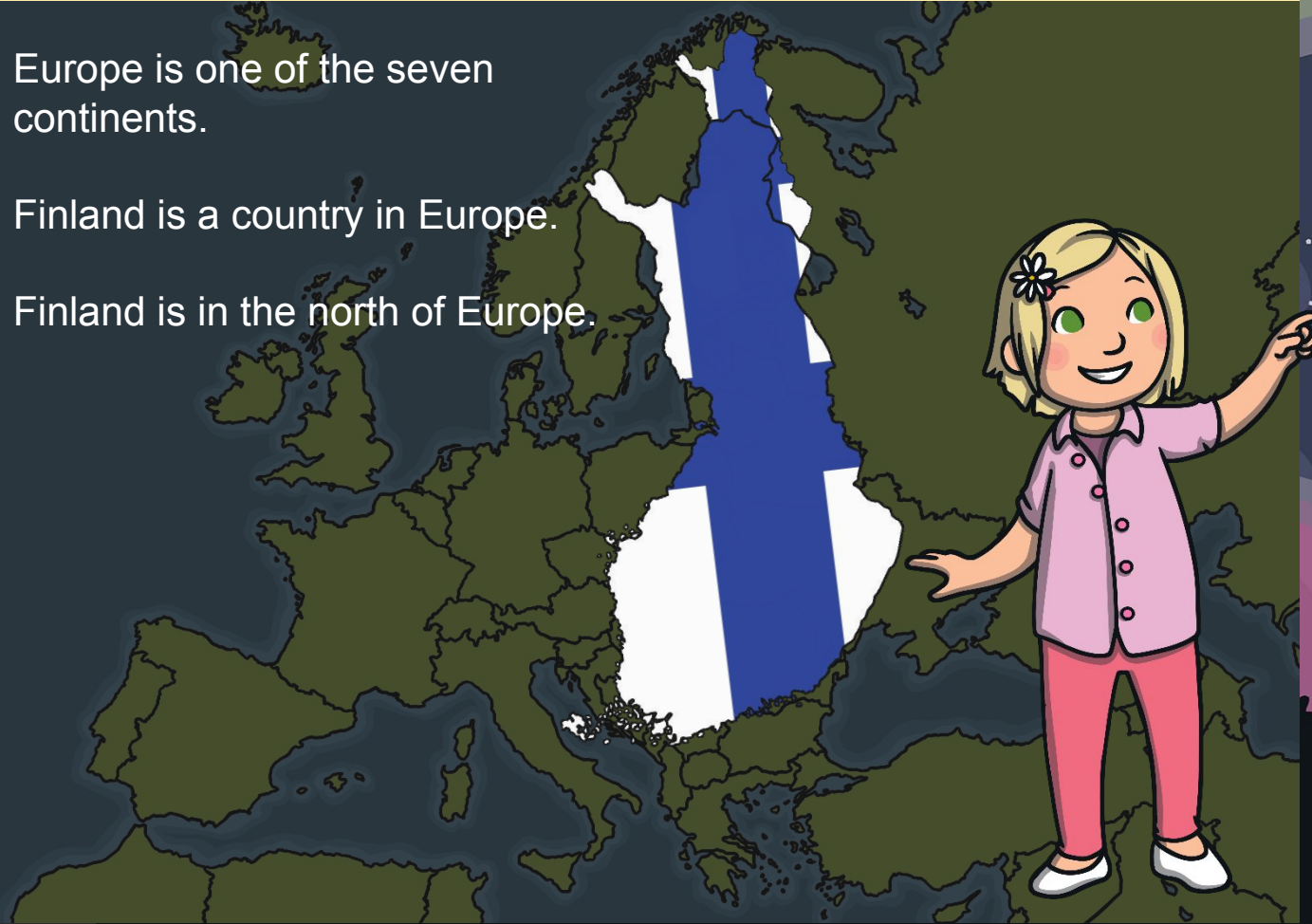
Finland

Where Is Finland?

Europe is one of the seven continents.

Finland is a country in Europe.

Finland is in the north of Europe.



Where Is Finland?

Finland shares borders with the Scandinavian countries Sweden (to the west) and Norway (to the north).

Russia is to the east of Finland and the Baltic Sea is found to the south of Finland.

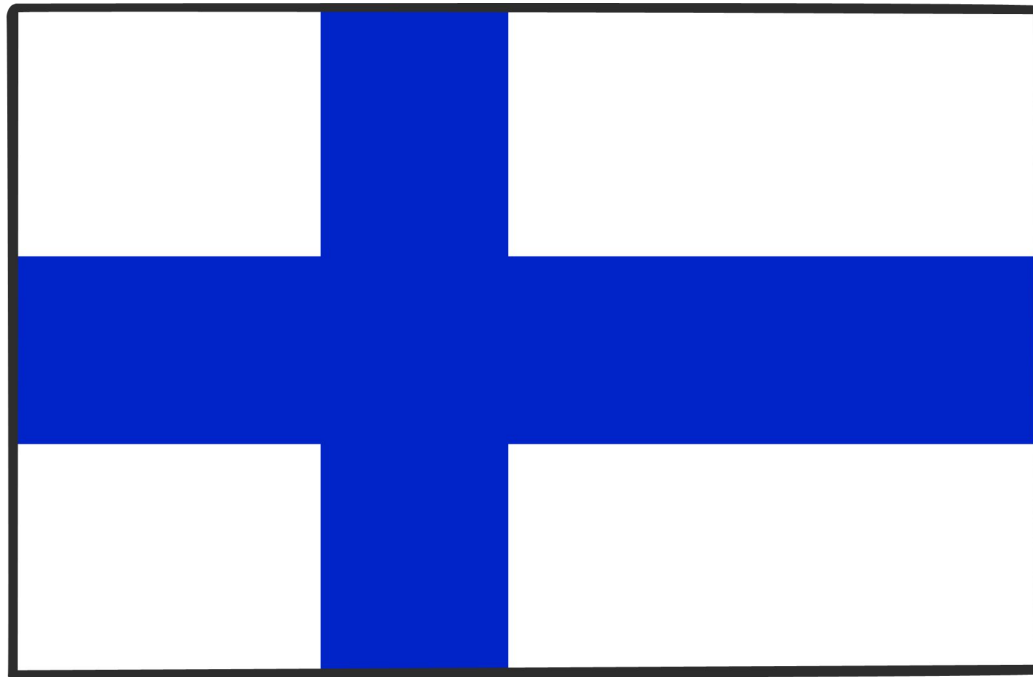
The most northern part of Finland actually falls within the Arctic Circle.

Helsinki is the capital city of Finland.



The Flag of Finland

The flag of Finland is white with a blue cross. The white represents snow and the blue represents the colour of the many lakes in Finland.

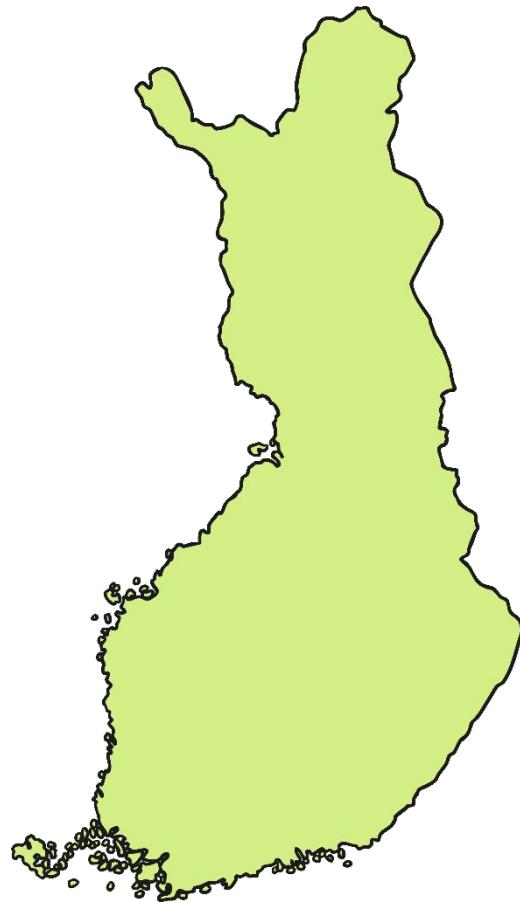


People from Finland

Around 5.5 million people live in Finland.

People who live in Finland are known as Finns.

There are two official languages in Finland. These are Finnish and Swedish. Most people speak Finnish.



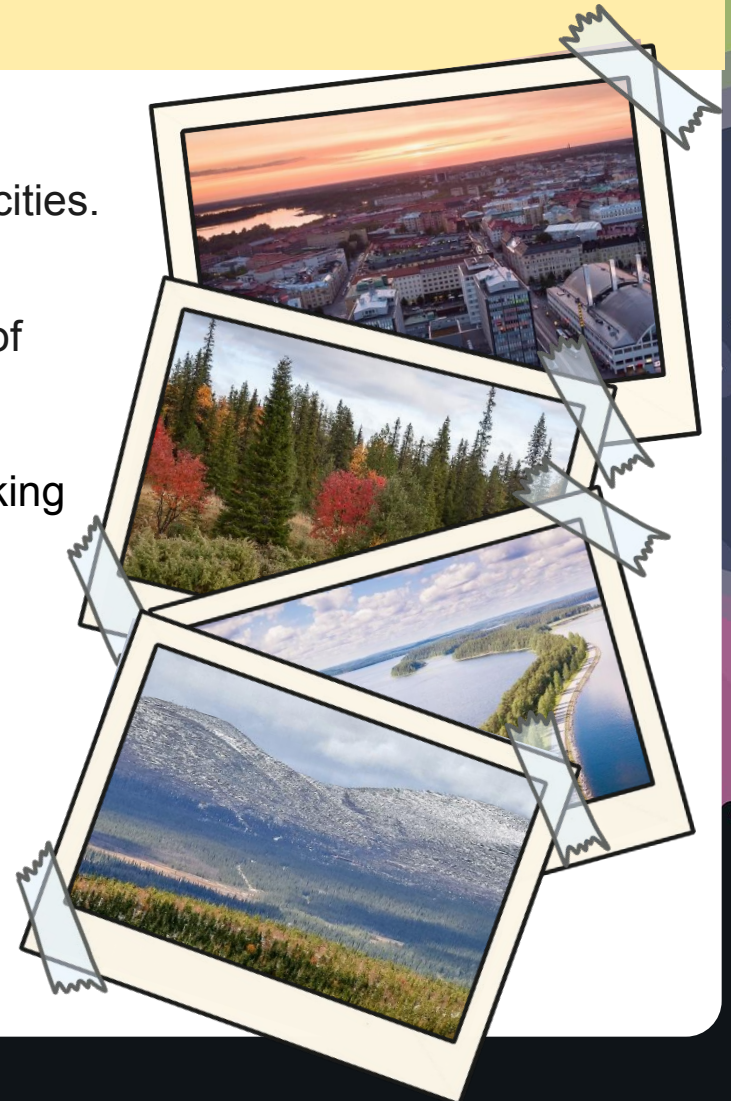
What Does Finland Look Like?

Finland has a mixture of countryside, towns and cities.

Finland is the country with the most forests in all of Europe.

There are also over 187,000 lakes in Finland, making it the country with the most lakes in Europe.

The landscape in Finland is mostly flat, but the Scandinavian mountains are found in the north of the country.



Animals in Finland

Finland is home to many different animals, including over 60 types of mammal, over 240 types of bird and over 70 different types of fish.

The brown bear is the national animal of Finland. There are around 2000 brown bears in the wild in Finland.

Finland is also home to many grey wolves and elk.

The whooper swan is the national bird of Finland.



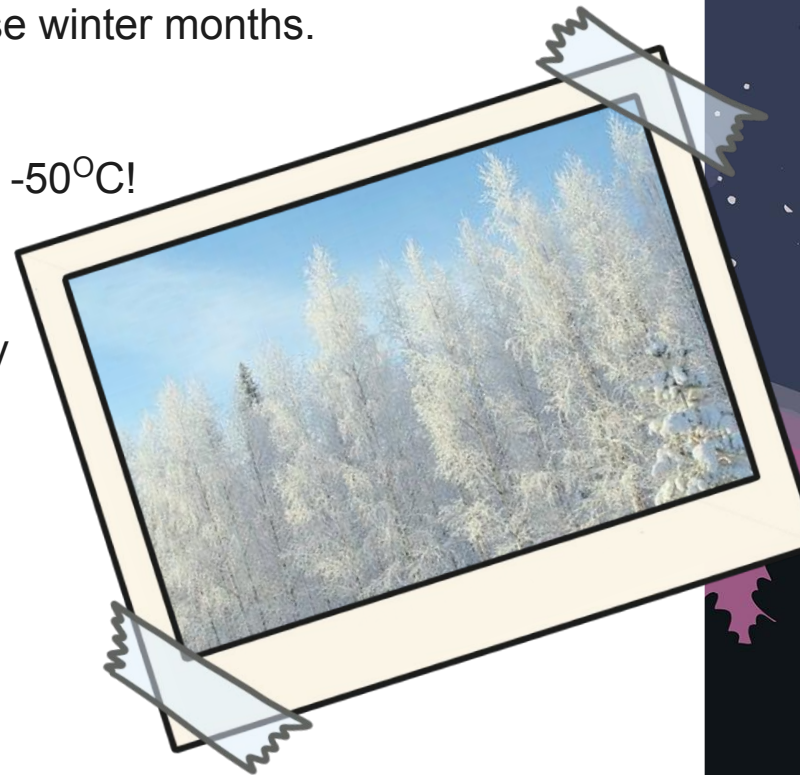
What Is the Weather Like?

In Finland, it is warm in the summer but the winter is very long and very cold. In fact, the winter can start as early as November and end as late as May. Much of the land is covered with snow during these winter months.

It gets extremely cold.

The lowest recorded temperature has been below -50°C !

At times during the winter months, some parts of the country have no sunlight for 24 hours a day. At times in the summer months, some places never get dark. This is known as the 'midnight sun'.



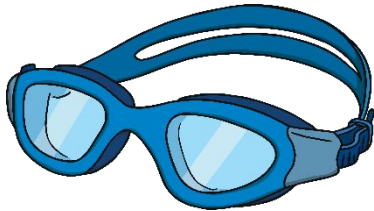
The Northern Lights

The Northern Lights are a very famous natural light display that you can see from Finland. They are beautiful coloured lights that appear across the sky. Many people visit Finland each year in order to look at them. Their scientific name is aurora borealis.



Popular Sports and Activities in Finland

During the summer months, lots of people in Finland enjoy swimming, fishing and playing water sports. During the winter months, ice hockey, ice skating and skiing are very popular.



Food and Drink in Finland

Popular foods in Finland include meat, fish, potatoes, rye bread, berries, butter and milk. Soup is also popular.

A traditional Finnish dish is called 'kalakukko' which is a mixture of fish, pork, and bacon, all baked inside a bread dough.

