Europe Is Hot!
(June 23, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

ℹ️ **What?** An exceptional heatwave that has been hitting Western Europe since mid-June 2026, with all-time heat records broken in several countries. 🌡️🥵

👤 **Who?** Hundreds of millions of Europeans, particularly in France, Spain, the UK, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland, as well as authorities taking emergency measures to protect the population.

🌍 **Where?** Across much of Western and Southern Europe, from Portugal to the UK, with France at the epicenter of the heatwave.

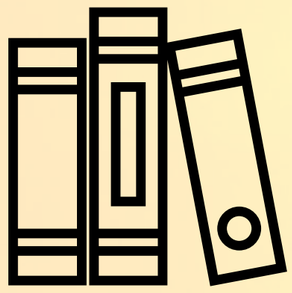
🕰️ **When?** Late June 2026 — this is the second heatwave in less than a month, the first having hit Europe from May 21 to 30, 2026.

❓ **Why is it important?** Because these heatwaves, amplified by climate change, are becoming more frequent, more intense, and earlier, and have serious consequences: drownings, hospitalizations, school closures, and cancellations of public events.

🎯 **For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about this heatwave.** ☀️

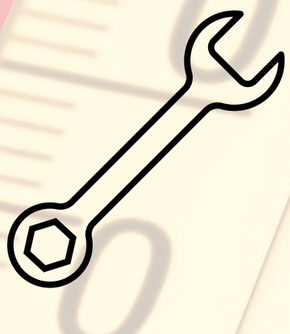
OBJECTIVES

- Understand what a heatwave is and its consequences
- Read and interpret a data table and a line graph
- Perform average and comparison calculations
- Read a thermometer and interpret the difference between normal and heatwave temperatures
- Develop critical thinking skills when faced with a climate phenomenon



SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies / Geography**
  - Western Europe
  - Climate Change
  - Consequences for Populations
- **Mathematics**
  - Reading Tables and Line Graphs
  - Calculating Averages
  - Comparing Numerical Data
  - Reading a Thermometer
- **English**
  - Reading and Comprehension
  - Short Answers
  - Defining a Concept



COMPETENCIES

- Search for and interpret information (video, text, graphics)
- Solve problems
- Analyze situations
- Organize your ideas
- Produce short and precise answers

DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes

GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have ever experienced a very hot day.
- Ask them what they do to cool down when it's hot.
- Discuss: at what temperature is it "too hot"?
- Show them a map of Europe and ask if they can name five capital cities.
- Ask the question: why are we hearing more and more about heat waves?

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LEARNING MADE RELEVANT

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — An Unforgettable Heatwave. Watching of a France 24 report on the heatwave, then reading of a 200-word text. Answers to four comprehension questions.

Q1 — France.
Q2 — A period of extreme heat lasting several days, both day and night.
Q3 — Schools closed. People drowned. People suffered from heatstroke or dehydration. Outdoor events were cancelled. (Two of these answers.)
Q4 — Because climate change is warming the planet, making heatwaves more frequent, more intense, and earlier in the season.

STEP 2 — Numbers That Make You Sweat. Observation of a line graph and a temperature chart for five European capitals over one week. Answers to four analysis questions.

Q5 — On Thursday, June 25, temperatures ranged from 36°C (Rome) to 39°C (Paris), a difference of only 3°C.
Q6 — Madrid (Monday and Tuesday), Paris (Wednesday), and Berlin (Saturday).
Q7 — Paris, with a difference of 13°C (40°C on Wednesday, 27°C on Sunday).
Q8 — Moving eastward, Madrid and Paris reached their peak at the beginning of the week, followed by Berlin and Rome at the end of the week.

STEP 3 — The Thermometer, Star of the Heatwave! Reading of ten thermometers (one blue for the normal June temperature, one red for the heatwave temperature) for five capital cities. Answers to four calculation and interpretation questions.

Q9 — Madrid has the highest normal temperature (31°C) and London the lowest (20°C).
Q10 — Berlin, with a difference of 18°C (normal 22°C, heatwave 40°C).
Q11 — (23 + 20 + 31 + 28 + 22) ÷ 5 = 124 ÷ 5 = 24.8°C.
Q12 — (40 + 37 + 40 + 39 + 40) ÷ 5 = 196 ÷ 5 = 39.2°C.

WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group review of what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (records, deviations from the norm, the movement of heat).
- Ask: What can we do, individually and collectively, in the face of heat waves?
- Make connections between geography, mathematics, and science.

FURTHER EXPLORATION

📖 Cody Crane. *Heat Waves*. Scholastic Editor

- The fastest-rising temperatures: Finland (+2.4), Sweden (+2.3), Estonia (+2.1) — all in northern Europe.
- The slowest-rising temperatures: Czech Republic (+1.2), Ireland (+1.3), Portugal and Malta (+1.4) — mostly in the west and south.
- Paris, Rome, and Madrid: the bands almost all turn red or dark red, indicating consistently above-average temperatures.

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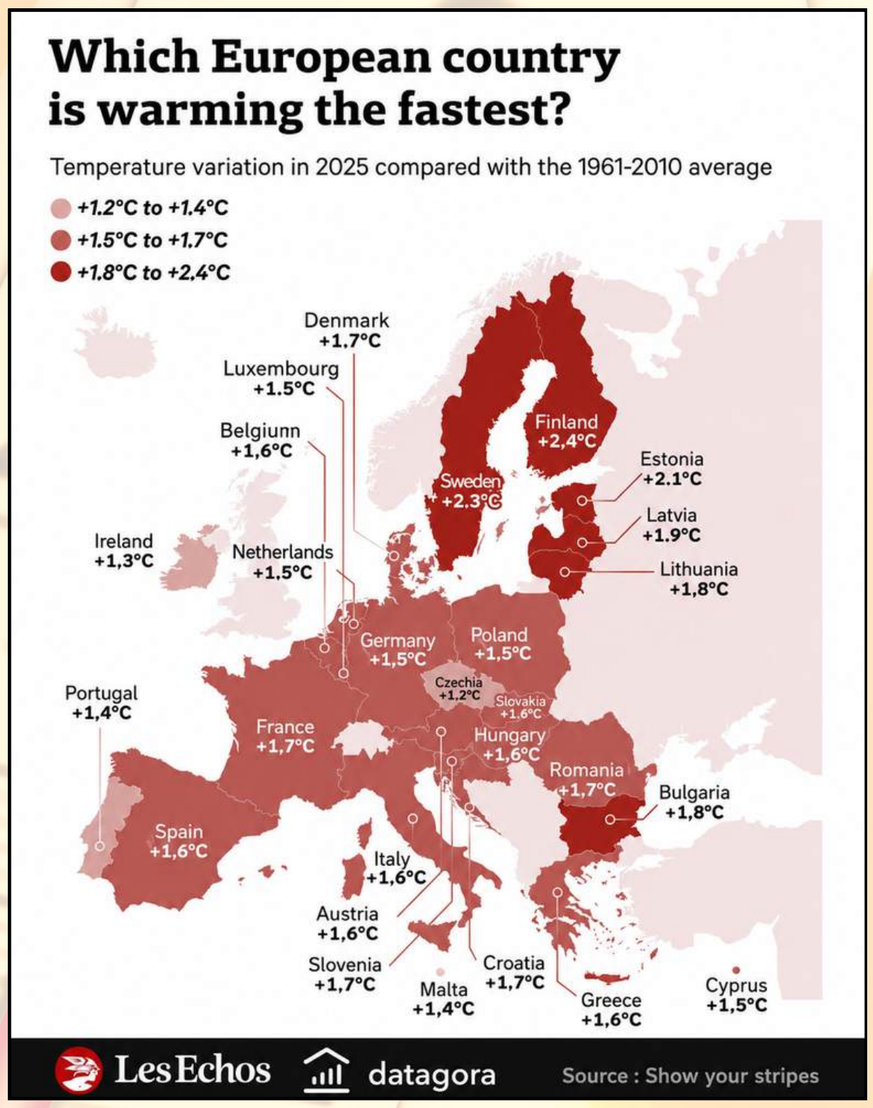
Are heatwaves a hoax?

Some people think climate change doesn't exist... Yet, the statistics don't lie!

Here are some infographics that prove climate change is no joke!

On the map, identify the three countries that are warming the fastest and the three that are warming the slowest.



Countries warming the fastest	Temperature variation

Countries warming the least quickly	Temperature variation

Observe the three graphs. Without looking at the figures, what do the three cities have in common from around the year 2000?