

THE RELIEF OF EUROPE

European relief is mostly flat. Europe is the continent with the lowest average altitude (375 m.), after Oceania.

Three great units of relief can be distinguished:

- The pre-Alpine mountain ranges: Scandinavian Mountains; Ural Mountains.
- The central plains:
 - ❖ The Atlantic Plain.
 - ❖ The Baltic Plain.
 - ❖ The East European Plain.
- The Alpine mountain ranges: The Pyrenees; the Carpathian; the Alps; the Balkan Mountains; the Caucasus.

THE RIVERS OF EUROPE

The European hydrographical network is very dense.

- The rivers of the **Arctic watershed**, like the Northern Dvina, have an abundant volume of water that freezes in winter.
- The rivers of the **Atlantic watershed**, like the Vistula, the Elbe, the Rhine, the Seine and the Tajo, are the largest rivers in Europe.
- The rivers of the **Mediterranean watershed**, in general, have a small, irregular volume of water, like The Ebro, the Rhone and the Po.
- The rivers that **flow into the Black Sea**, like the don and the Danube, are important axes of communication.
- The rivers that **flow into the Caspian Sea** are the Volga, the longest river in Europe, and the Ural, which borders on Asia.