

Western Europe: Its Land and Early History

SECTION 1 A Land of Varied Riches

SECTION 2 Ancient Greece

SECTION 3 Ancient Rome

SECTION 4 Time of Change: The Middle Ages



Region Many European cities show their history in their architecture. In Segovia, Spain, an ancient Roman aqueduct lies below the walls of a castle built in the Middle Ages.

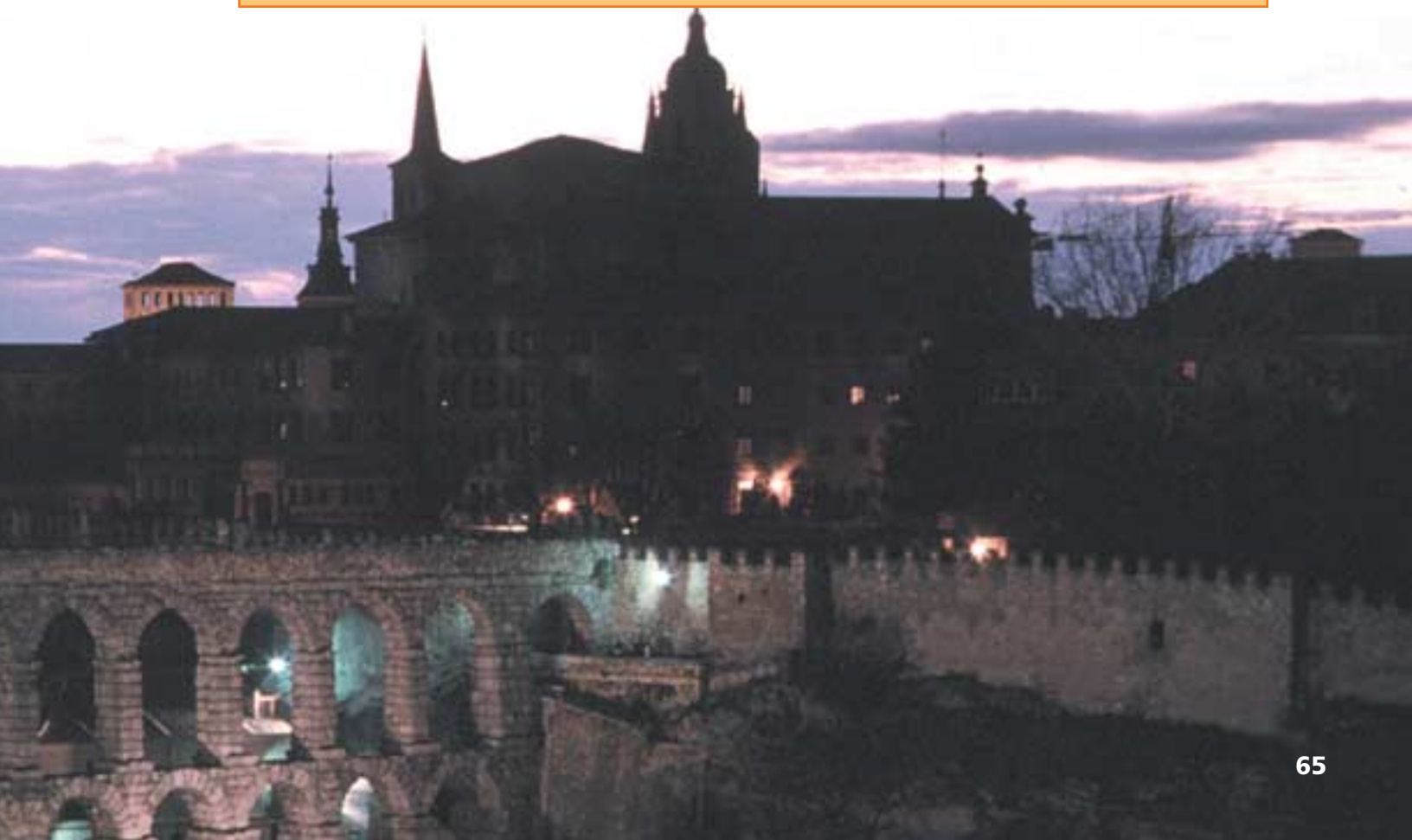


How does the Gulf Stream affect the climate of Europe?

Region • The Gulf Stream is a strong ocean current that flows from the Gulf of Mexico across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. It carries warm water and warm, moist air, which contribute to Europe's mild climate. The Gulf Stream warms the water of some Northern European ports, allowing them to remain open in the winter when they might otherwise be frozen. Palm trees even grow in Scotland, which is as far north as southern Alaska!

What do you think?

- ◆ In what other ways, such as tourism, might Europe benefit from the Gulf Stream?
- ◆ How might a region's mild climate help its economy?





READING SOCIAL STUDIES

BEFORE YOU READ

►► What Do You Know?

Before you read the chapter, think about what you already know about Europe. What are some of its geographical features? What do you know about its early history? Have you ever read myths from ancient Greece or ancient Rome? Have you ever heard of Julius Caesar or Hercules? What do you know about knights and castles from the Middle Ages?

►► What Do You Want to Know?

Decide what you want to know about these early periods of European history. Record your questions in your notebook before you read this chapter.

Region • Ancient Greece made important contributions in literature, philosophy, and architecture. ▼



READ AND TAKE NOTES

Reading Strategy: Categorizing One way to make sense of what you read is to categorize, or sort, information. Making a chart to categorize the information in this chapter will help you to understand the contributions made by early European cultures.

- Copy the chart below into your notebook.
- As you read, look for information relating to the categories of social structure, architecture, religion, and arts and sciences.
- Write your notes under the appropriate headings.



Region • The Middle Ages saw the rise of the Catholic Church and the growth of a middle class. ▲



Region • Ancient Rome made its mark in government, law, and engineering. ▲

Time Period	Social Structure	Architecture	Religion	Arts and Sciences
Ancient Greece				
Ancient Rome				
Middle Ages				