III. West Central Europe Today

1. EU’s Center

* EU membership is similar to a junior high sports team
* 27 member countries work together to better compete with other countries
* Germany and France are the largest and most important EU members

B. France

* **“Breadbasket of Europe” -**
* France is the number one tourist destination in the world with over 75 million visitors each year

C. Paris

* **Paris –**
* The political, cultural, and economic center of France
* Covers 890 square miles and is home to over 12 million people

D. New Face of France

* France is home to over 5 million immigrants today
* Some French people have held anti-immigration protest and immigration riots have taken place all over France

F. Reclaiming the Sea

* In the Netherlands over 50% of its land is below sea level
* Prone to flooding throughout much of its history
* **Polders –**

G. Germany

* Largest populated country in Europe – over 80 million people
* Today Germany ranks third, behind the United States and China, in goods exported worldwide
* **Reunification –**

H. Overcoming the Past

* **Holocaust –**
* Over 6 million Jews were killed
* More than half of all Jews in the world at the time
* Modern Germany has attempted to promote tolerance – Strict laws against intolerance