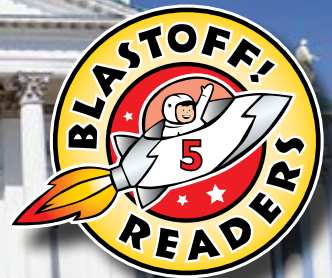


EXPLORING COUNTRIES

Finland





Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents:

Blastoff! Readers are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

Level 2 offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high-frequency words.

Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.

Level 4 builds reading stamina by providing more text per page, increased use of punctuation, greater variation in sentence patterns, and increasingly challenging vocabulary.

Level 5 encourages children to move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" by providing even more text, varied writing styles, and less familiar topics.

Whichever book is right for your reader, Blastoff! Readers are the perfect books to build confidence and encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

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Where Is Finland?

Finland is a country in northern Europe. This long, narrow land covers 130,559 square miles (338,145 square kilometers). Sweden touches Finland in the northwest. Norway is its neighbor to the north. Finland shares its long eastern border with Russia.

In the southwest, the **Gulf** of Bothnia extends north from the Baltic Sea. It runs along Finland's western coast. The Gulf of Finland washes onto the country's southern shore. The capital city of Helsinki is located here. This major **seaport** is the northernmost capital on the European **continent**.





Norway

Sweden

Russia

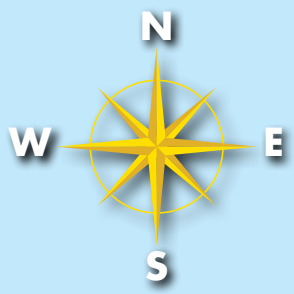
Finland

Gulf of Bothnia

Helsinki

Gulf of Finland


Baltic Sea



Did you know?
Finland gained independence in 1917. Before then, Sweden and Russia fought over the land for hundreds of years. Both neighbors controlled the country at different points in history.

Did you know?

The region inside the Arctic Circle is known as the Land of the Midnight Sun. In summer, the sun doesn't set for days at a time.

A scenic view of a lake and forest in Finland. The foreground shows a dense forest of pine, spruce, and birch trees. In the background, a large lake is visible under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Thousands of sparkling lakes dot central and southeast Finland. Between them run forests of pine, spruce, and birch trees. To the south and west, lowlands dip into a long and ragged shoreline. Thousands of small islands rise up through the chilly waters off the coast.

In southern Finland, summers are short and winters are cold. The climate is much harsher in the northern third of the country. This hilly region falls within the **Arctic Circle**. In winter, the skies of northern Finland glow with the dancing colors of **northern lights**.

A photograph of the northern lights (Aurora Borealis) over a snowy landscape. The sky is dark, and the aurora is visible as a vibrant green and blue glow. The ground is covered in snow, and there are snow-covered trees in the foreground.

northern lights

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