Literacy is the ability to read and write. High rates of literacy are found in developed or industrialized countries. Most of Europe has a high literacy rate. More industrialized countries are wealthier and can provide education, health care, and technology to its citizen’s. Countries with a high literacy rate usually have a high gross domestic product per capita. Gross domestic product (GDP) is the value of the goods and service produced in a country by a single individual. Russia is the exception. It has a high literacy rate but a low GDP. Russia’s government is developing ways to improve the economy.

**C. The Literacy Rate and the standard of living in Europe**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Literacy Rate | Per person Gross Domestic Product |
| United Kingdom | 99% | $35,100 |
| France | 99% | $33,000 |
| Russia | 99% | $14,700 |
| Germany | 99% | $33,200 |
| Italy | 98% | $30,400 |

**Graphic organizer**

Using the graphic organizer of your choice, compare and contrast the languages of Europe and the religions of Europe.

1. Why does Russia have such a low GDP?
2. What does GDP stand for?
3. Which countries have the best literacy rate?
4. What can industrialized countries provide for its citizens?