# GERMANY

HISTORY

**Germany's story began with many separate tribes and states. They joined into one country in 1871, split in two after World War II and came together again in 1990.**

## Tribes and Romans

Long ago, Germanic tribes lived in the forests of northern Europe. They farmed, raised cattle and traded. The Romans built towns along the Rhine River, such as Cologne. In the year 9, tribes led by a chief named Arminius beat three Roman armies in the Teutoburg (TOY-toh-boorg) Forest. After that, the Rhine was mostly the edge of Roman land.



## Emperors and Traders

In the year 800, Charlemagne (SHAR-luh-mane), king of the Franks, was crowned emperor. Later, German kings led the Holy Roman **Empire**, made up of hundreds of small states ruled by princes, bishops and free cities. Builders began Cologne Cathedral in 1248. Trading towns such as Hamburg and Lübeck (LOO-bek) joined together to ship goods across the North and Baltic seas.



## Printing and the Reformation

Around 1440, Johannes Gutenberg built a printing press in Mainz. Books became cheaper, and ideas spread fast. In 1517, a monk named Martin Luther wrote 95 arguments against some practices of the Catholic Church. He also put the Bible into German. His ideas began the Reformation, and Christians in Europe split into Catholic and Protestant churches.

## One Germany

The kingdom of Prussia grew strong. Its chief minister, Otto von Bismarck, led it to win wars against Austria and France. In 1871, the German states united into one empire, with the king of Prussia as emperor. Railroads, coal mines and factories spread. In 1886, Karl Benz of Mannheim patented a car that ran on gasoline.

## Two World Wars

In World War I, from 1914 to 1918, Germany fought Britain, France, Russia and later the United States. Germany lost. In 1933, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party took power, and he ruled as a **dictator**. In 1939, Germany invaded Poland, and World War II began. In the **Holocaust**, the Nazis murdered about six million Jews and millions of other people. In 1945, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and their allies defeated Germany.



## Divided and United

After the war, Germany was split. In 1949, West Germany and East Germany became two countries. The Soviet Union controlled East Germany. Many East Germans moved west, so in 1961, East Germany built the Berlin Wall. West Germany rebuilt its cities and factories. On November 9, 1989, after large peaceful protests, the wall opened. On October 3, 1990, Germany **reunified** and became one country again.

### GERMANY THROUGH TIME

| 9 | 800 | 1440 | 1517 | 1871 | 1918 | 1945 | 1961 | 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tribes beat Roman armies | Charlemagne is crowned | Gutenberg's printing press | Luther starts the Reformation | Germany becomes one country | World War I ends | World War II ends | The Berlin Wall is built | Germany is reunified |

### PEOPLE TO KNOW

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| **Johannes Gutenberg** | Printer who used metal letters |
| **Martin Luther** | Monk who put the Bible in German |
| **Ludwig van Beethoven** | Composer born in Bonn in 1770 |
| **Otto von Bismarck** | Leader who helped unite Germany in 1871 |
| **Albert Einstein** | Scientist born in Ulm in 1879 |

### WORDS TO KNOW

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|---|---|
| **empire** | many lands and peoples ruled by one government |
| **dictator** | a ruler who has total power over a country |
| **Holocaust** | the Nazis' murder of about six million Jews and millions of others |
| **reunified** | joined back together after being split |