

TOWNS AND CITIES

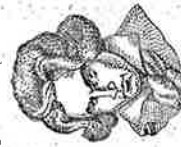
More than 85 per cent of German people live in towns and cities. Berlin is the biggest city, with about 3.5 million inhabitants (see pages 14-15). Hamburg and Munich both have more than one million people. Next in size are Cologne, Essen, Frankfurt am Main, Dortmund, Düsseldorf, Stuttgart and Leipzig. These cities are centres of manufacturing, banking and culture. The industrial region of the River Ruhr in the west is the most densely populated area in Germany, with over eight million people.



Many German cities were destroyed during World War II. In some cities, the old buildings have been restored. In others, they have been replaced by modern buildings, put up since the war (above). The map on the right shows Germany's main cities and towns. Hamburg in the north is Germany's main port. Cologne (Köln) is popular with visitors who come to see its beautiful cathedral.

Beethoven in Bonn

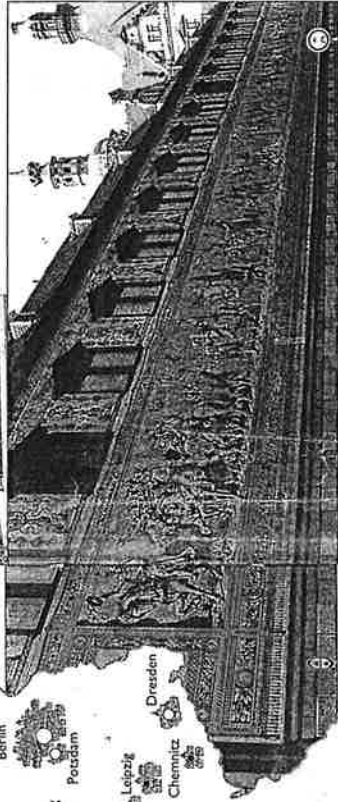
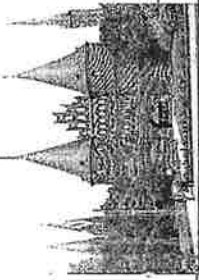
The city of Bonn was the birthplace of one of the world's greatest composers, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827). The house where he was born is now a museum. Beethoven's hearing began to fail when he was 30, and he was deaf by 1817, but some of his most dramatic and exciting works were composed after that date.



Bonn is a city on the banks of the River Rhine. It was the capital of West Germany from 1945 to 1990, and used to be the seat of the German parliament before Berlin. Frankfurt is the financial capital of Germany, headquarters of the *Bundesbank* (central bank of Germany) and 350 other banks. Major world trade fairs are held there each year, including a book fair in October. It is also the birthplace of the novelist and poet, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832). Stuttgart is a centre of Germany's thriving car industry. Munich (München) in the south is famous for its breweries and for its electrical and chemical factories.

The Hanseatic League

The Hanseatic League was a group of powerful north German cities. The cities banded together to protect their lands and trading interests between the 13th and 17th centuries, when Germany was made up of separate states. The League included Cologne, Dortmund, Bremen, Hamburg and Lübeck (left). These are still known as Hanseatic cities.

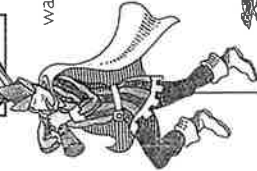


Before World War II, Dresden was one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Allied bombing raids devastated its historic centre, although the frieze depicting the procession of the princes (above), in Augustus Street, survived.



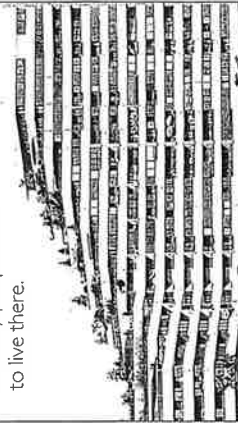
The Pied Piper of Hamelin

In medieval times, the town of Hamelin was plagued by rats. According to legend, the town was saved by a mysterious piper, who bewitched the rats with his music, and led them away to drown. But the piper was refused payment for his work. So he led the town's children away, never to be seen again.



A place to live

Many people in German cities live in small apartments, in modern blocks like this one in Ulm, in Baden-Württemberg. Most rent their flats, as houses are very expensive to buy. There are sometimes shortages of flats and houses in cities, because so many people want to live there.



Wagner in Bayreuth

Bayreuth is a small city in Bavaria. The composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883) lived here from 1872 to 1883, and the city is famous all over the world for its annual Wagner music festival in July. When Wagner moved to Bayreuth, he built a splendid theatre, *das Festspielhaus*, where his works could be performed in style. His famous cycle of four operas, *The Ring of the Nibelung*, was first performed here in 1876. Below is a scene from *Parsifal*, which was first performed at Bayreuth in 1882.

