Teaching the EU Toolkits
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The Center for European Studies at UNC-CH is proud to present the Teaching the EU Toolkits. CES has a 20-year history of providing outreach materials and professional development on contemporary Europe. During this time, we have discovered that although there is much interest in teaching Europe, most resources are historic in nature, and do not allow students to fully grasp the rich cultures, languages, people, and politics of today’s Europe, Europeans, and the European Union. This project was generously funded by a Getting to Know Europe grant from the Delegation of the European Union to the US in Washington, DC. To learn more about all the resources the Center offers, please visit: europe.unc.edu

Part 1: “Europe in a Nutshell” A Teacher’s Guide to the EU

Europe is a dynamic and multifaceted continent. All teachers regardless of grade level are invited to read “Europe in a Nutshell: A Teacher’s Guide to the EU” for a brief introduction to teaching contemporary Europe. Teachers of all levels may find use for this teacher’s guide as a supplement to their own understanding of the EU before using any of the lessons in Teaching the EU Toolkits.

Part 2: Warm Ups

These activities are designed to familiarize students with key vocabulary and terms related to Europe and the European Union. They can be used as warm-up activities at the beginning of class, can be given to students who finish assignments early, or can be distributed as extension or review activities.

- Countries of the EU Word Search, Version 1
- Countries of the EU Word Search, Version 2
- East Europe Word Search
- EU Crossword
  - EU Crossword Answer Key
- EU Key Terms Word Search
- Louvre Coloring Page
Part 3: Elementary Lessons and Materials

**Essential Question 1: Who are the Europeans?**

*There are 500 million people living in Europe today, all with different cultures and languages. These lessons help students learn more about the people of contemporary Europe.*

1.A European People: In this lesson, students read stories depicting European children and use a stations activity to compare and contrast. A selection of stories from across Europe should create a diverse picture of what European people are like.

1.B Variety of Languages and Cultures: Students, in this lesson, will learn to say and write “hello” in several different languages spoken in Europe. They will learn about the countries where these languages are spoken and learn the flags of these countries.

**Essential Question 2: What is Europe Like?**

*Europe is an expansive continent with a large number of countries, a variety of physical geography, and unique native wildlife. In these lessons, students will learn about some of the physical and cultural elements of Europe.*

2.A Countries of Europe: In this lesson, students will develop geographic concepts of the countries of Europe through a map-labeling exercise.

2.B Physical Geography: This lesson is designed to teach students about the major geographic features of Europe. The variety of physical geography in Europe will then be compared to that of North Carolina, as both Europe and North Carolina have a variety of physical geography, “mountains to sea.”

2.C Flora and Fauna: In this lesson, students will color pictures of native animals and plants in order to become familiarized with the wildlife of Europe. In an extension activity, students will learn about the lifecycle of a frog, a native species of Europe.

2.D Traveling in Europe: Students in this lesson will explore different cultures of Europe through interactive stations, where they will experience various cultural elements of a selection of countries. At each center, they will get a stamp in their “passport books”.

2.E Life in Europe: Students will watch a video of a child who grows up in Europe and analyze what they learn about living in Europe from that video. Students will consider what a video in this style made for the United States would be like.

**Essential Question 3: What is the EU?**

*The European Union is a group of countries of Europe that have committed to a set of political and economic agreements, established with the goals of maintaining peace, prosperity, and stability in Europe. This unit details the establishment, existence, and logistics of the EU.*

3.A Who is in the European Union? In this lesson, students will use their mapping knowledge and skills to code the countries that are and are not in the European Union.
3.B Why Was the EU Created? This lesson will explore ideas about the benefits of the creation of the European Union, why wars are fought, and why peace is best.

3.C Money in the European Union: In this lesson, students will learn that different currencies are used in different countries, understanding that the euro is different from the US dollar, but that it functions in a similar way. Students will also learn how to draw the euro symbol.

**Essential Question 4: What is the relationship like between the US and the EU?**

*The European Union and the United States are similar in a variety of ways, including their shared values. This lesson encourages students to find links between what they know about the United States and their new knowledge about the EU.*

4.A Shared Values: Students will create a mind map on the concept of “freedom” or “democracy” in order to explore these values, which are shared by the US and the EU.

**Part 4: Middle School Lessons and Materials**

**Essential Question 1: Who are the Europeans?**

*There are 500 million people living in Europe today, all with different cultures and languages. These lessons help students learn more about the people of contemporary Europe.*

1.A European People: In this lesson, students will examine the stereotypes and assumptions that they have of European people by drawing what they think of when they think of a European. Then, the teacher will present various stories of European people in order to present a fuller picture of what a European might be like.

1.B Variety of Languages and Cultures: Students, in this lesson, will learn how to say “hello” and other basic phrases in different languages and play a game using this knowledge. Then, students will analyze an infographic on bilingualism and reflect on the benefits of knowing a second language.

**Essential Question 2: What is Europe Like?**

*Europe is an expansive continent with a large number of countries, a variety of physical geography, and unique native wildlife. In these lessons, students will learn about physical and cultural elements of Europe.*

2.A Countries of Europe: In this lesson, students will develop geographic concepts of Europe through labeling the countries of Europe and distinguishing the ones that are in the European Union.

2.B Physical Geography: In this lesson, students further explore mapping. They will label and thus become familiar with major geographic regions and features of Europe.
2.C Flora and Fauna: In this STEM-incorporated lesson, students will learn about native wildlife of Europe and use this information to identify the types of biomes that exist in Europe. As an extension, students will watch and reflect on a video about the importance of European forests.

2.D Traveling in Europe: Students in this lesson will learn about Schengen through a PowerPoint presentation, and they will then evaluate the benefits of its existence. Students will label Schengen on a map.

2.E Life in Europe: Students will watch two videos about life in Europe, analyze what they learn about living in Europe from the videos, and discuss their first impressions of the videos. They will consider what a video like this made in the United States would be like.

**Essential Question 3: What is the EU?**

*The European Union is a group of countries of Europe that have committed to a set of political and economic agreements, established with the goals of maintaining peace, prosperity, and stability in Europe. This unit details the establishment, existence, and logistics of the EU.*

3.A Who is in the European Union? Students will code a map of Europe by countries that are and are not in the EU; they will learn basic information about what the EU is through a PowerPoint presentation.

3.B Why Was the EU Created? In this lesson, students will learn about the conditions of Europe before the EU was created, discuss the benefits of the establishment of the EU, and learn about Europe Day, the annual celebration of the creation of the EU.

3.C How Has the EU Changed Over Time? Students, in this lesson, will learn about the ways that the EU has evolved through a PowerPoint presentation, and they will use this information to complete a timeline of the EU.

3.D How Does the EU Work? Students will complete a flowchart of the institutions of the EU, which they will learn about in this lesson through a PowerPoint presentation, in order to understand how the EU runs.

3.E Money in the EU: In this STEM-incorporated lesson, students will learn what the euro is, what it looks like, and why it is used. Then, they will use proportional reasoning and ratios to learn how to convert currencies using exchange rates.

**Essential Question 4: What is the relationship like between the US and the EU?**

*The European Union and the United States are similar in a variety of ways, including their shared values. This lesson encourages students to find links between what they know about the United States and their new knowledge about the EU.*

4.A Shared Values: In this lesson, students will create a mind map of the concepts of “freedom” and “democracy,” two core values shared by the EU and the US. Then, students may create a Venn diagram of similarities between the European Union and the United States in order to compare and contrast the two.
Part 5: High School Lessons and Materials

Essential Question 1: Who are the Europeans?

There are 500 million people living in Europe today, all with different cultures and languages. These lessons help students learn more about the people of contemporary Europe.

1.A European People: In this lesson, students will examine the stereotypes and assumptions that they have of European people by playing a “Guess Who” activity. Students will read a selection of stories of European people from different news outlets in order to develop a fuller picture of what a European person might be like.

1.B Variety of Languages and Cultures: Students, in this lesson, will learn which languages are spoken in different countries of the EU. Using a selection of articles about multilingualism, students will analyze the benefits of knowing more than one language.

Essential Question 2: What is Europe Like?

Europe is an expansive continent with a large number of countries, a variety of physical geography, and unique native wildlife. In these lessons, students will learn about physical and cultural elements of Europe.

2.A Countries of Europe: In this lesson, students will develop geographic concepts of the countries of Europe through an exercise in which they will label the countries of Europe and distinguish the ones that are in the European Union. Students may develop ideas about other ways that they may code and label their maps.

2.B Physical Geography: In this lesson, students will label and become familiar with major geographic regions and features of Europe. As an extension, students will choose an alternative form of mapping and create a map based on some demographic or geographic region.

2.C Flora and Fauna: In this STEM-incorporated lesson, students will learn about native wildlife of Europe and use this information to identify the types of biomes that exist in Europe. As an extension, students will research, interpret, and analyze articles on biodiversity in Europe in order to understand what biodiversity is and to explain its importance.

2.D Traveling in Europe: Students in this lesson will learn about Schengen through a PowerPoint presentation, and they will evaluate the benefits of its existence. Students will label Schengen on a map.

2.E Life in Europe: Students will watch two videos about life in Europe, analyze what they learn about living in Europe from the videos, and discuss their first impressions of the videos. They will consider what a video like this made in the United States would be like.

Essential Question 3: What is the EU?
The European Union is a group of countries of Europe that have committed to a set of political and economic agreements, established with the goals of maintaining peace, prosperity, and stability in Europe. This unit details the establishment, existence, and logistics of the EU.

3.A Who is in the European Union? Students will create a map of Europe, labeling the countries that are and are not in the EU; they will learn basic information about what the EU is. Students will then code their map using identifiers such as country, geographic features, members of the EU, members of the Schengen Agreement, and euro users. This will provide students a detailed resource for identifying attributes of European countries.

3.B Why Was the EU Created? In this lesson, students will learn about the political, social, and economic conditions of Europe before the EU was created, discuss the benefits of the establishment of the EU, and learn about Europe Day, the annual celebration of the creation of the EU.

3.C How Has the EU Changed Over Time? Students, in this lesson, will learn in detail about the ways that the EU has evolved through a PowerPoint presentation. They will then use this information to complete a timeline of the EU.

3.D How Does the EU Work? In order to deeply understand how the EU runs, students will complete a detailed flowchart of the institutions of the EU, which they will learn about through a PowerPoint presentation.

3.E Money in the EU: In this STEM-incorporated lesson, students will learn what the euro is, what it looks like, and why it is used. Then, they will use proportional reasoning and ratios to learn how to convert currencies using exchange rates. They may then examine the effects of exchange fees on currency exchange.

Essential Question 4: What is the relationship like between the US and the EU?

The European Union and the United States are similar in a variety of ways, including their shared values. This lesson encourages students to find links between what they know about the United States and their new knowledge about the EU.

4.A Shared Values: In this lesson, students will create a mind map of the concepts of “freedom” and “democracy,” two core values shared by the EU and the US. Then, students may create a Venn diagram of similarities between the European Union and the United States in order to compare and contrast the two in detail.

Part 6: Additional Materials

These materials have been cultivated from various sources and can be used to supplement many of the lessons created in Teaching the EU Toolkits.

- A Short Guide to the Euro
- Bringing Europe to Your Classroom – Lesson plan guide
- Countries of the EU Passport
- Europe Teacher’s Guide