

Teaching the EU Toolkits High School Lesson Plan 3.A What is the European Union? Who is in the European Union

Objective: I can explain that there is a group of countries called the European Union. I know what the European Union is and I can find the countries in it on a map. I can explain why the European Union is beneficial.

CCSS Standard(s):

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.

Materials needed:

Map of Europe
Europe in a Nutshell (Teacher's Guide)

Agenda:

Teacher will introduce the idea of the European Union and explain what the European Union is and why it exists using the "[Teacher's Guide to the European Union](#)." Teacher will explain the formation, purpose, and goals of the European Union and give some examples of things that countries agree to do when joining the EU. Information given should answer questions in the discussion guide, which can be found below.

Teacher will provide students with a pre-labeled map of Europe and instruct them to color in the different countries of the European Union from a given list of countries in the EU. Students will use a list of countries of the European Union to find the countries on the map to color.

Students will color the countries that are in the European Union in one color while coloring the countries not in the European Union in all different colors besides the one chosen for the European Union. This map can be added to maps from previous lessons in order to create a portfolio of maps. In this case, countries in the EU will not be colored in different colors, but the map will be color coded by "member of the EU" and "not member of the EU." This should be noted and reiterated in order to avoid student misunderstanding. If this will be confusing for students, this activity may be modified. Countries in the EU may be marked with a star or may be colored in with a pattern, while those not in the EU may be colored in solid. Another option would be to color the countries in the EU in bright colors and to leave those not in the EU blank.

Teacher will lead students in a discussion evaluating the reasoning behind and usefulness of a structure like the European Union.

Discussion guide:

What does it mean for all of the countries to be the same color?

What is the European Union?

What is the purpose and goal of the European Union?

What does a country have to do to join the European Union?

How does the European Union benefit countries?

Why would the European Union be a good idea? What are the benefits of the European Union?

Is there anything that would be a reason not to have a structure like the European Union?

Extension:

Have students research and label on their map the countries that make up the following groups: members of the European Union, candidate countries and Euro (€) users.

Conclusion: There is a group of countries called the European Union, and they have decided to work together and to agree on some things, including: trade, travel, money, and justice. I can find the countries in the EU on a map. I can explain why the European Union is beneficial.