

## Teaching the EU Toolkits Elementary 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.

**CCSS Standard(s):**

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2** Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7** Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.10** By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

**Materials needed:**

Map of Europe

Europe in a Nutshell (Teacher’s Guide)

Who is in the EU Map

**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 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.

Discussion guide:

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

What is the European Union?

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

Is there anything that would be a negative quality to having the European Union?

**Conclusion:** There is a group of countries called the European Union, and they have decided to work together and to agree on some things. I can point to them on my color-coded map.