

Teaching the EU Toolkits High School Lesson Plan 3.B What is the European Union? Why Was the EU Created?

Objective: I can explain why the European Union was formed in detail and understand the benefits of its existence.

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:

EU Basics PowerPoint

Europe in a Nutshell (Teacher's Guide)

Agenda:

Teacher will explain what Europe was like after World War II using the "[Teacher's Guide to the European Union](#)." The PowerPoint to accompany the lecture includes details about the destruction that WWII caused and the importance of coal and steel in post-WWII Europe. If necessary, teacher will address vocabulary such as ally, treaty, and unity in order to ensure understanding. This can be achieved by creating a word wall with definitions. Teacher will then ask students to think about and reflect on why forming a unified group of European countries would be beneficial after World War II. The teacher will then lead the class in a discussion about why wars are fought and why peace is best, as well as about the role of allies in keeping peace.

Discussion guide:

Why are wars fought?

Why is it better to maintain peace?

Why would we want to have a structure in place to try to avoid wars?

Why would a uniting of countries in Europe be a good thing?

Teacher will then go over the basic features of the European Union using the "EU Basics" PowerPoint.

Conclusion: I can explain why the European Union was formed in detail and understand the benefits of its existence.