

Teaching the EU Toolkits Middle School Lesson Plan 2.E What is Europe Like? Life in Europe

Objective: I understand what life in Europe looks like for some people. I know about European culture.

CCSS Standard(s):

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.8 Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

Materials needed:

Projector and Internet access

[We Are Europe. Everyday - I Am Frank Video](#) via the European Commission

[Comparing Life in Different Locations in Europe Video](#) via Study.com

Agenda:

Students will get a glimpse of what life is like throughout Europe through watching the “We Are Europe. Everyday – I Am Frank” video. Teacher will show video once and tell students to watch the whole thing and see what their first impressions are, the things in the video that stick out to them. Teacher will prompt students to see what these things are and to write down a little note about what sticks out to them in the video. Before sharing, the teacher will show the video to the class again. Students will share with specific details what they noticed in the video, what they thought what were the most important parts and what they think this video tells them about what it is like to live in Europe. Teacher will then prompt students to reflect on this video as an image of one person’s life, not of all European people’s lives.

Discussion guide:

What were your first impressions of this video?

What stuck out to you about this video?

What are the most important parts of the video?

What is the main idea of this video?

Who is the boy in the video? What is he like? What is his family like?

What do we learn about Europe from this video?

What are the limits of this video? In other words, what might this video leave out about life in Europe?

If a video were made like this about the United States, who would be in it? What would they say? Would this video tell the whole story of the United States, or the story of one person who lives in the United States?

What further questions do you have about Europe after watching this video?

Extension:

Students will watch the video “Comparing Life in Different Locations in Europe” in order to broaden their understanding of what life is like for people in Europe and write a reflection on what they think this video adds to their understanding of life in Europe from the previous video.

Writing prompts:

What did you learn from each of the two videos that we watched?

What were the benefits of each video?

What did each video leave out?

How did the second video help you to understand more about Europe than the first video?

Conclusion: Europe has a variety of peoples and cultures. I have seen the way that one boy and his family live in Europe. I understand that there are many different peoples in Europe that all lead very different lives.