



K-12 Teach EU Studies Bootcamp

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European Union: An Interactive Introduction

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Library Studies, Grades 3-5



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European Union Lesson Plan

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Title: European Union – An Interactive Introduction for Elementary Students

Standards: [Adapt this lesson plan to meet your standards. Right now, this serves as a collaborative project with potential research opportunities for a wide span of grade levels.]

Objectives: After a mini lesson introducing the European Union, students will be grouped in fours. Each group will be assigned fictional countries including their values, essential laws, and some culture.

Grades: 3-5 (can easily be adapted for older grades, needs a lot of modifying for younger)

Materials Needed: The presentation (PDF, PowerPoint, or Google Slides); printed copies of the last 4 slides for each group; anchor chart paper for students (or poster board paper); markers

Resources Included in this Lesson: This Document and the Presentation

Assessment: Each group will present on an anchor chart the following information:

- Union name
- Countries allowed
- 5 major agreements
- A colorful graphic to visualize the union
- Moral values of the union
- Mission statement of the union

Lesson Plan–Gradual Release Model

I DO:

Show the presentation to the students. Do this over the course of one day or several, depending on your class. Model what the EU is and explain its purpose. Remember that some elementary students don't realize their county and state, let alone countries in Europe.

WE DO:

Group your students into groups of four who can collaborate effectively. Pass out the four countries' details to each group. Each student reads their country's details and will share their information with their group. Students then need to brainstorm about how they can unify their countries and what criteria they will use. Teachers will need to make sure students are collaborating, discussing criteria for acceptance into their union, and that they understand the instructions. Scaffolding will likely be necessary.

YOU DO:

Students will create a union for three countries in their group and make some connections that unify them. Display the union information on an anchor chart:

- Union name
- Countries allowed
- 5 major agreements
- A colorful graphic to visualize the union
- Moral values of the union
- Mission statement of the union

The European Union

An Interactive Introduction for Elementary Students
Grades 3-5

Who is the EU?

A union to help countries in Europe have a stronger government and resources. Think of allies as friends. The European Union allows countries to be allied together.

Discuss: If you had to create a school club of four people, which other three people would you choose and why?

These people are likely your allies!



Source: https://riverheights.cnusd.k12.ca.us/programs___activities/clubs

Who is in the EU?

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Republic of Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden



Where is the EU?

Europe, of course!

They meet in Brussels, Belgium and
Luxembourg.



Source: <https://maproom.net/shop/eu-map/>

What is the EU?

The European Union is a group of countries that is committed to agree on ideas as countries they can all agree on. These ideas make the countries stronger and happier. The EU is a group created for collaboration and strength.



Why is there a European Union?

Discuss with your table group what advantages there might be to countries banding together and collaborating.



Your Turn

Read your country cards to learn about your fictitious country. Your group will need to make a union together that meets the needs of your 3 chosen countries!

Teachers, use the last 4 slides to print cards out for your students!

Your Presentation

- Union name
- Countries allowed
- 5 major agreements
- A colorful graphic to visualize the union
- Moral values of the union
- Mission statement of the union

Country 1: Septambia

- Beliefs: Everyone is an equal; care for each other; be responsible
- Common moral values: Take care of those who have less resources; work hard and share with others; value what is natural
- Location: On the coast, near a large river
- Known for: The beautiful outdoors and natural landscapes
- Government: Democracy - people vote for their leaders, laws, and supporting officials
- Other Information: The country is strong and well-liked. It is unlawful for citizens to text and drive, to steal from others, and recycling is required.

Country 2: Makistine

- Beliefs: Country first, family second
- Common moral values: Always put the group before yourself; take risks and you will be rewarded
- Location: Lots of farms are nearby, no major bodies of water
- Known for: People working hard and long hours. This country makes a lot of products.
- Government: Monarchy—there is a royal family who makes most decisions
- Other Information: People who live here are typically happy and have what they need. It is hard for people to live here if they have different beliefs. There are electronic devices required in every home that listen to conversations.

Country 3: Spineland

- Beliefs: Equality, social justice (treating all people with equal respect and striving to be better), freedom
- Common moral values: Kindness, respect, allowing those from other countries who seek peace to join the country
- Location: Great land and vegetation; like a tropical rainforest
- Known for: Being a beautiful land and safe place
- Government: Democracy - citizens vote for their leaders; it is unlawful to
- Other Information: This country is a bit new and does not have a lot of experience.

Country 4: Fletchum

- Beliefs: Everyone is an individual
- Common moral values: Freedom; expression; seeking peace and joy
- Location: Borders many countries and has bodies of water in it.
- Known for: Being a country easy to work with
- Government: Democracy - citizens vote for their leaders; it is unlawful to turn away people from the country. All visitors to the country are eligible to become citizens.
- Other Information: Privacy and freedom are respected.