

THE EUROPEAN UNION
Lesson Plan by Bruce Fischer, McFarland High School
U.S. History, Grade 9

Objectives:

1. To understand what the EU is.
2. To make a timeline of events showing the evolution of the EU.
3. To label and color the countries that belong to the EU – and label and color those European countries that don't belong to the EU and explain why they don't.
4. To examine the impact that the EU has had on the U.S. economic and foreign policy, and on the world's economy.

Activities:

1. Present a reading assignment on the EU, "The History of the European Union" (http://europa.eu.int/abc/index_en.htm), with an accompanying worksheet.
2. Socratic discussion/lecture on the history and the workings of the EU.
3. Label and color a map of Europe showing members/nonmembers.
4. Socratic discussion/lecture on the impact the EU has had on U.S. policy and on world trade, based on worksheet on President Clinton from textbook.

Assessment:

1. Map quiz
2. Short essay question on unit test, titled, "History in My Lifetime". Question: *List and explain two ways the creation of the European Union has affected the U.S. and thus has had an impact on your life.*

Wisconsin DPI Standards:

- A. Geography: People, Places and Environments – A.12.1, A.12.5, A.12.7.
- B. History: Time, Continuity and Change – B.12.11, B.12.16, B.12.17.
- C. Political Science and Citizenship: Power, Authority, Governance and Responsibility – C.12.2, C.12.12.
- D. Economics: Production, Distribution, Exchange and Consumption – D.12.2, D.12.4, D.12.13.

WORKSHEET

NAME _____ The History of the European Union

1. Why did a number of European leaders become convinced that they had to unite economically and politically?
2. Who were the six countries that formed the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)?
3. What was meant by forming a “Common Market”?
- 4a. How did membership in the European Parliament change after 1979?
 - b. For how many years are members of the European Parliament elected?
- 5a. What was the Treaty of Maastricht?
 - b. List two new areas of inter-governmental cooperation that were added by the Treaty?
 - c. What was created by the Maastricht Treaty?
- 6a. Explain how agricultural policy has changed over time in the European Union (EU)?
 - *b. Why would environmental policy now have to be taken into account across a whole range of European Union (EU) policies?
7. When did the member “states” of the European Union (EU) finally remove all of the barriers to trade (i.e., no tariffs, a Single Market)?
8. Why was it easier for Europeans to travel and study in other European countries during the 1990s?
- 9a. What is the euro?
 - b. When did it come into use?
 - c. When the euro was first introduced, how many of the 15 member nations used it?

*d. Bring in a euro for extra credit.

10. There are now 25 member nations in the European Union (EU). List the 19 countries that joined the original six, and include the dates they joined.

*11. Explain why many people call the European Union (EU) the “United States of Europe”?