

Standard: SS6CG5b

Essential Question: Why is it beneficial for European nations to belong to the European Union?

Name:

Date:

Per:

T.o.C. #



## The European Union: Cooperation and Teamwork

### Activities and Webquest



#### Activity #1: Too Many Currencies?

Use the table below to answer the questions that follow.

	<u>Franc (France)</u>	<u>Peseta (Spain)</u>	<u>Lire (Italy)</u>	<u>Marks (Germany)</u>
<u>What you get</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>1000</u>	<u>1000</u>
<u>How much in US dollars (\$)</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>.05</u>	<u>500</u>

1. If you were traveling from France to Spain, would the value of your currency go up or down?
2. How difficult would it be for someone in Italy to trade with another country because of the value of their currency?
3. If a person were to travel to the United States for business from one of these countries...
  - a. Which currency would get the best exchange rate, meaning that their money would lose the least amount of value?
  - b. Which currency would get the worst exchange rate, meaning that their money would lost the most amount of value?
4. If you lived in Germany, but worked in France, how difficult would it be for you to exchange currency daily?
5. What could Europeans do to make travel, trade, and business run more easily between them?

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### Activity #2: Webquest

*Part 1: Go to the website: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/euro/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/index_en.htm) to answer the following questions.*

1. Which European countries adopted the Euro prior to the issuance of Euro banknotes and coins in 2002?
2. How many EU countries are currently using the Euro?
3. What is the EMU and what is its significance? (2-3 sentences)
4. What are some of the advantages of having a single currency? Why is it needed? (2-3 sentences)

*Part 2: Go to the website: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/euro/cash/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/cash/index_en.htm) to answer the following questions. Then, click the **"Euro Coins"** tab.*

1. Why do you think each Euro coin has a "common" side and a "national" side? (2-3 sentences)
2. How are the Euro coins similar to the U.S. state quarters? (2-3 sentences)
3. What are some common themes of the national sides of the Euro coins? (2-3 sentences)

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### Activity #3: Reading and Comprehension Questions

#### ***Origins of the European Union: The European Economic Community (EEC)***



The European flag was adopted by the European Economic Community in 1985.

The six countries of the European Economic Community were France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. After WWII, these “Inner Six” countries were cooperating and trading with one another and decided to officially organize in 1957. The main idea was to create a 'common market'. That means getting rid of all national obstacles to free trade-- border checks, delays and customs duties, tariffs, etc. The goal would be to act as if they were all part of one big European country rather than individual countries making up a continent.

#### ***The Beginning of the European Union (EU)***

Over the years, more and more countries joined the EEC. They started working together in many more areas, for example to protect the environment and to build better roads and railways across Europe. Because they were cooperating on more than just an economic level, the EEC decided that it was time to change its name. This is how they became the 'European Union'.

Meanwhile, exciting things had happened beyond the EU's borders. In 1989, countries from central and eastern Europe broke free from Communist rule. The separation that had existed between Eastern and Western Europe (referred to as the 'Iron Curtain') no longer existed. The countries that had gained freedom reformed their laws and economies and joined the EU. Today, the EU has 28 member countries.

#### ***What the European Union does today--***

The European Union tries to make life better for all citizens in its member countries. Let's take a look at some examples of things that the EU does.

##### *Freedom of movement*

*People in the EU are free to live, work or study in whichever EU country they choose. You no longer need a passport when crossing borders between most EU countries.*



(©Fotolia/Rido)

##### *Freedom for young people*

*The EU supports students and young people who want to spend some time studying or training in another European country.*



(©Shutterstock/Gena96)

##### *Money*

*In the past, each country in Europe had its own currency. Now, many EU countries use one single currency, the euro. This makes trade and business much easier because there is no need for exchanging currency. It also eliminates fees or taxes on exchanging money.*

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### Helping poorer regions

*Some areas in Europe need money to build new roads and railways; in other places many people are looking for a job. The EU tackles these problems. It provides money for new roads and rail links, and it helps businesses to create new jobs. The EU also gives money to countries to help improve schools and hospitals as well.*



*ida and Alina from Moldova have benefited from this.*

### **Other things that the EU is doing today for its member countries:**

- Cooperating on making the air cleaner and fighting climate change
- Encouraging technological advancements for making phone calls and texts cheaper
- Monitoring farms and stores for making sure the food produced in Europe is safe
- Helping to save energy and promoting alternative energy sources

### **How does the European Union make decisions?**

The European Union is a **confederation**. That means that its members voluntarily cooperate on common issues but they can't be forced to do anything that they don't want to. In order to encourage as much cooperation as possible, the **European Commission** was established to think about what would be best for the European Union as a whole and to propose new EU laws. It is made up of 28 politicians ('Commissioners'), one from each EU country. They are helped by experts, lawyers, secretaries, and translators to make decisions.



**The European Parliament** represents all people in the EU. Its members are chosen in an election every five years where all adult citizens in the EU have the right to vote.

The Parliament discusses and decides on new EU laws together with the Council.

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**The European Council** is the voice of the EU countries. Government ministers and leaders from every EU country meet regularly to pass new EU laws. In the Council, all the leaders of the EU countries (Presidents, Prime Ministers or Chancellors) get together to set Europe's general strategy.



**The Court of Justice** makes sure that all EU countries stick to the laws that they have agreed on. The Court also checks that these laws respect "fundamental rights", such as the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press.

1. Why did the "Inner Six" establish the European Economic Community?
2. Why did the EEC decide to change its name?
3. List at least 5 things that the European Union cooperates on:
4. How does being a confederation affect the European Union?
5. What are the four governing bodies of the European Union? List at least 1 thing that EACH body does/is responsible for.
6. In your opinion, what is the most important thing that the European Union does for countries?

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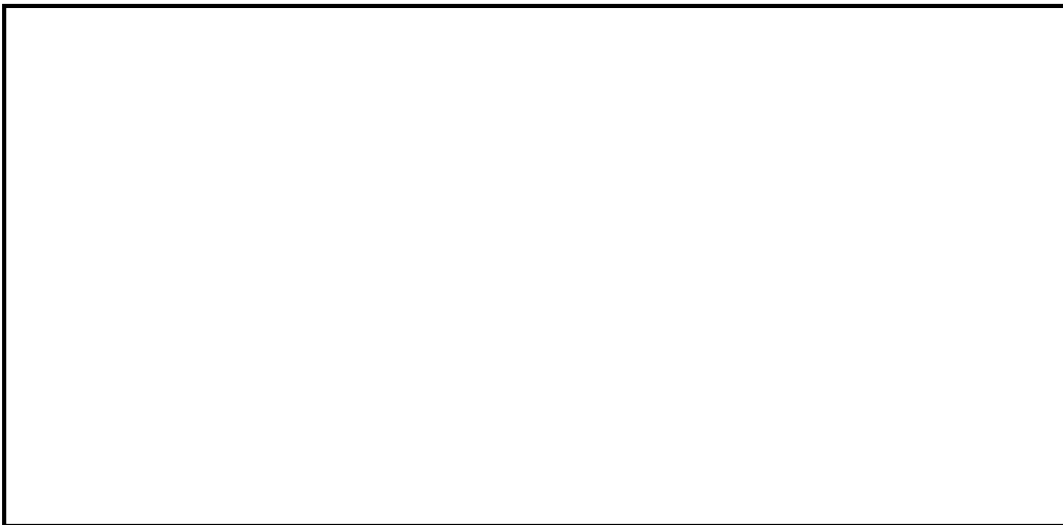
Activity #4: Design a new Euro!

*The European Union wants to make a new design in its currency to reflect all of its member countries and the overall goals and actions of the EU. Your task is to name and design a new look for this currency, using the information you've learned from the Webquest and reading.*

What should be the name of this new Euro currency? \_\_\_\_\_

Design a new Euro paper bill:

**\*\*You must include symbols or words that represent some part of the EU's goals/actions**



Design a new Euro coin:

**\*\*You must include symbols or words that represent some part of the EU's goals/actions**

