

## 2. The Extended European Family



### Your aim

To introduce students to the geography of the European Union



### Learning Outcome

By the end of the lesson students will be able to recognise the geographical locations of various EU countries and have acquired some factual information in relation to the countries examined. Students will also have had a chance to choose some pictorial/media images associated with the various countries.



### Time

Double lesson



### Materials or Sources required

- » Country Cards
- » Maps/ atlases of the EU
- » Sheets of A3 paper
- » Colouring pencils/markers
- » Travel brochures or magazines and newspapers (the teacher can ask students to bring these in and/or provide them)
- » Blank map of Europe for each pair of students for assessment



### Preparation

- » 'Country Cards' (Photocopy and cut)
- » Photocopy and enlarge blank map of Europe for each pair
- » Travel brochures/ newspapers/ magazines – one bundle for each pair/small group
- » Resource materials box containing, pens, colouring pens, markers, Blu Tack, scissors etc.
- » Map/atlas of Europe – one per pair/ group



### Links with Part II – Investigating Europe

- » Investigating Europe II – Holidaying in Europe
- » Investigating Europe III – Third Level Study and Europe



### Potential Partner Activity

Given at the end of the lesson

## Introduction

The teacher begins the lesson by introducing the students to the map of the EU countries and asking them to recall some of the details they learned about these countries during the previous lesson (table quiz).

Students should be encouraged to engage in general discussion about any other kinds of information they have about the countries displayed on the map. (The discussion may include whether any of the students have ever visited any of the countries, what they ate, what they saw, where they stayed, the main tourist attractions etc.)

Following on from this general discussion, the teacher will explain that today's task is to design posters on a selection of the Member States of the European Union for the classroom wall or for a more public display area in the school. Each poster will comprise of a map that will highlight some of the basic geographical information of an EU country, as well as some general pictorial images associated with this country.

This wall poster can be added to in order to construct information about the countries during the next few weeks through lessons in the classroom as well as from the media.

The teacher could encourage the students to choose the Member States they are least familiar with in order for them to get the most out of the lesson.

## Pair Work/Group Work

The teacher divides the class into pairs/small groups. Each pair/small group is asked to choose one of the country cards that outlines some very basic geographical information about the country they have picked.

As an optional activity, the teacher could ask the students in their pairs to guess the information before the country cards are handed out. This way they can evaluate their base-line knowledge about the country before getting the information on the country cards.

Each pair should also choose one bundle of newspapers and/or magazines.

The students are then asked to draw a map of their country using their atlas as a guide. On the map they are asked to add the main features named on the card, for example, rivers, capital cities, neighbouring countries and any other key features they think should be added, for example other town, lakes, mountains. Around the map they are asked to place key images from their newspapers/magazines.

## Assessment

The teacher can assess the students' work by asking each pair/small group to visit another pair/small group and to tell each other about their country of choice and familiarise them with its key features.

Once enough time has been given for exchange of information, the pair/small group return to their place and are given a blank map with the country they just heard about and must identify the capital and any other features they can remember.

They should present their map to another pair or group of students and together they will go through the information and check for any errors or omissions, using their maps. (This task can be graded and marked by the groups/ teachers if desired.)

## Conclusion

After each pair has completed this task the teacher can work with the students to build the wall display. The teacher should remind the students that it is an on-going exercise and the wall-chart will be added to and consolidated with further information throughout the year/ teaching term to ensure that they keep up to date with current affairs in relation to their own country.



## Link to Investigating Europe

- » Investigating Europe II – Holidaying in Europe
- » Investigating Europe III – Third Level Study and Europe



## Potential Partner Activity

Draw a map of Ireland outlining key features and add a number of images and pictures from either newspapers or magazines and prepare to send it to your partner school.

Take a number of photographs (using a digital camera) on the theme 'Images of Ireland' over a period of a week and send these to your partner school by email. These photographs can be accompanied by a map and some details about the Irish landscape.

Enlargement dates:	
1957	The six founding members, Belgium, France, (West) Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Luxembourg, establish the European Economic Community.
1973	Denmark, Ireland and the UK
1981	Greece
1986	Portugal and Spain
1990	Through the Re-unification of Germany, the former East Germany becomes a part of the EU.
1995	Finland, Sweden and Austria
2004	Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Hungary.
2007	Rumania and Bulgaria

## Resource Sheet: Country Cards

### Bulgaria

**Year of entry:** 2007  
**Capital City:** Sofia  
**River:** Danube  
**Population:** 8.2 Million  
**Borders:** Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece and Turkey

### Romania

**Year of entry:** 2007  
**Capital City:** Bucharest  
**River:** Danube  
**Population:** 22.6 million  
**Borders:** Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine

### Czech Republic

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Prague  
**River:** Moldau (Vltava)  
**Population:** 10.3 million  
**Borders:** Germany, Poland, Austria and Slovakia

### Estonia

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Tallinn  
**River:** Lake Peipus  
**Population:** 1.4 million  
**Borders:** Latvia, Russia with Finland being nearest neighbour across the Baltic

### Hungary

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Budapest  
**River:** Danube  
**Population:** 10 Million  
**Borders:** Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Slovenia

### Latvia

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Riga  
**River:** Daugava  
**Population:** 2.37 million  
**Borders:** Estonia, Russia, Belarus and Lithuania

### Lithuania

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Vilnius  
**River:** Nemunas (Niemen)  
**Population:** 3.7 million  
**Borders:** Poland, Russia, Belarus, Latvia

### Poland

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Warsaw  
**River:** Vistula (Wisla)  
**Population:** 38.7 million  
**Borders:** Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany

### Cyprus

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Nicosia  
**Mountain:** Mt. Troodos  
**Population:** 0.8 million  
**Borders:** Island  
**Nearest Neighbours:** Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Greece

### Slovakia

**Year of entry:** 2004  
**Capital City:** Bratislava  
**River:** Danube  
**Population:** 5.4 million  
**Borders:** Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Ukraine

<p><b>Slovenia</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 2004  <b>Capital City:</b> Ljubljana  <b>River:</b> Triglav  <b>Population:</b> 2 million  <b>Borders:</b> Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Italy</p>	<p><b>Malta</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 2004  <b>Capital City:</b> Valletta  <b>Highest point:</b> Ta' Dmejrek  <b>Population:</b> 0.4 million  <b>Borders:</b> Island  <b>Nearest Neighbours:</b> Italy, Tunisia, Libya</p>
<p><b>Sweden</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1995  <b>Capital City:</b> Stockholm  <b>Lake:</b> Vänern  <b>Population:</b> 9 million  <b>Borders:</b> Norway, Finland</p>	<p><b>Finland</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1995  <b>Capital City:</b> Helsinki  <b>Lake:</b> Saimaa  <b>Population:</b> 5.3 million  <b>Borders:</b> Sweden, Russia, Norway</p>
<p><b>Austria</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1995  <b>Capital City:</b> Vienna  <b>River:</b> Danube  <b>Population:</b> 8.3 million  <b>Borders:</b> Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein</p>	<p><b>Spain</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1986  <b>Capital City:</b> Madrid  <b>River:</b> Tagus  <b>Population:</b> 43.8 million  <b>Borders:</b> Portugal, France, Andorra, Morocco</p>
<p><b>Portugal</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1986  <b>Capital City:</b> Lisbon  <b>River:</b> Tagus  <b>Population:</b> 10.6 million  <b>Borders:</b> Spain</p>	<p><b>Greece</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1981  <b>Capital City:</b> Athens  <b>Mountain:</b> Mount Olympus  <b>Population:</b> 11.1 million  <b>Borders:</b> Albania, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey</p>

<p><b>United Kingdom</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1973  <b>Capital City:</b> London  <b>River:</b> Thames  <b>Population:</b> 60.4 million  <b>Borders:</b> Ireland</p>	<p><b>Denmark</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> 1973  <b>Capital City:</b> Copenhagen  <b>Highest point:</b> Møllehøj  <b>Population:</b> 5.4 million  <b>Borders:</b> Germany</p>
<p><b>France</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> founding member  <b>Capital City:</b> Paris  <b>River:</b> Loire, Seine  <b>Population:</b> 60.9 million  <b>Borders:</b> Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Andorra, Spain</p>	<p><b>Italy</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> founding member  <b>Capital City:</b> Rome  <b>River:</b> Tiber  <b>Mountain:</b> Mont Blanc  <b>Population:</b> 58.8 million  <b>Borders:</b> France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia</p>
<p><b>Germany</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> founding member  <b>Capital City:</b> Berlin  <b>River:</b> Rhine, Danube  <b>Population:</b> 82.5 million  <b>Borders:</b> Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands</p>	<p><b>Netherlands</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> founding member  <b>Capital City:</b> Amsterdam  <b>River:</b> Rhine  <b>Population:</b> 16.3 million  <b>Borders:</b> Belgium, Germany</p>
<p><b>Luxembourg</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> founding member  <b>Capital City:</b> Luxembourg  <b>Highest point:</b> Moselle  <b>Population:</b> 0.5 million  <b>Borders:</b> Belgium, France, Germany</p>	<p><b>Belgium</b>  <b>Year of entry:</b> founding member  <b>Capital City:</b> Brussels  <b>River:</b> Meuse  <b>Population:</b> 10.5 million  <b>Borders:</b> France, Luxembourg, Germany, Netherlands</p>



## 3. Where It All Began



### Your aim

To introduce students to the idea of Europe by looking at the origin of the word and the myth behind it



### Learning Outcome

By the end of the lesson the students will have thought critically and imaginatively about the concept of Europe and where it has come from.



### Time

1 class period (double class if a group work approach is adopted)



### Materials or Sources required

- » Map on wall showing Europe
- » Resource sheet 'Meaning and Legend of Europe'
- » Resource Sheet 'Europa in Art'
- » Copies of Europa Question Card (optional)



### Preparation

- » Wall map of Europe
- » Photocopy both resource sheets and Europa Question cards (these can be collected for re-use)



### Links to Investigating Europe

- » Investigating Europe IV – An Olympic Variety
- » Investigating Europe V – The Olympics



### Potential Partner Activity

Ideas for partner activities given below