

Module 1:

From Conflict to Close Partnership: The European Union

[Lesson Plan]

TEACHING/LEARNING MATERIAL FOR JUNIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM



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Title:	From Conflict to Close Partnership: The European Union
Target Group:	Form 4-6
Subject(s):	History, Liberal Studies
Keywords:	Europe, the European Union, war and peace, reconciliation, international conflicts and cooperation
Lesson Duration:	70 minutes
Method(s):	Classroom discussion, small-group/partner work, reading/writing
Media:	PowerPoint, worksheets, factsheet
Assumed Prior Knowledge:	European history in the first half of the 20 th century
Learning Objectives:	Students should be able to
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Explain the founding history of the European Union❖ Identify the factors of reconciliation – how was peace in Europe made possible in the second half of the 20th century?

LESSON BRIEF

Europe today is very different from the Europe in the days of our grand-grandparents. In the first half of the 20th century, Europe was anything but peaceful. The two World Wars took the lives of millions of people and left cities in ruins.

But Europe in the second half of the 20th century was different. Though overshadowed by the Cold War, western European countries experienced rapid economic growth. Close cooperation between these countries made war very undesirable.

The question is: how was this change from conflict to close partnership possible?

The European Union (EU) and its precursor organizations played a decisive role in building lasting peace in post-war Europe. In this lesson, students will learn what the EU has done and the ideas behind. In the end, they may reflect whether this model of peace building could serve as a reference for other regions.

TEACHING PLAN

Time	Objectives/ Content	Activities	Materials used
5 min	Warm-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Show the national flags of the six founding countries of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) – (see PPT) - Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Which countries do they represent?</i> ❖ <i>What are their capital cities?</i> ❖ <i>Where are they located in Europe?</i> 	PPT
10 min	Europe now and then Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contrast Europe now and then 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch Video 1 (A Brief History of the Continent) - Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>Name some conflicts that the video mentions</i> - Show the photos of Europe before and after 1945 (see PPT) 	Video1 , PPT
20 min	Building peace in post-war Europe Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyze the post-war problems - Learn the development of the EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss what kind of problems did Europe immediately face after the war <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Econ: Resources drained, infrastructure damaged ❖ Pol: Recognition/ acknowledgement needed for new governments (e.g. Federal Republic of Germany, French Fourth Republic) ❖ Social: Mutual mistrust between war winners and war losers - Remark: Europe faced similar problems after WWI. They were not properly solved, thus provided a breeding ground for WWII - For post-WWII leaders, the pressing concerns were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How not to let history repeat itself and ensure lasting peace in Europe? ❖ How to recover Europe from the devastation caused by WWII? - Explain the history of the EU with the help of Factsheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For consolidation, teachers are suggested to go through part of the 	Factsheet, Worksheet 1

		Schuman Declaration with students together (see Worksheet 1)	
20 min	<p>The EU: a short introduction</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand what the EU is and how it works generally - Learn the impact of the EU on post-war Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch Video 2 (English / Chinese) - Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <i>How many member states does the EU have?</i> ❖ <i>Name any benefits that the EU has brought to its citizens</i> - Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Econ: Post-war economic boom, e.g. Germany's "Economic Miracle" and France's "The Glorious Thirty" ❖ Pol: Democratic institutions are now firmly established in Europe ❖ Social: War between European countries has become materially impossible; better mutual understanding through programmes like the EU's Erasmus Student Exchange Programme has made war between European countries unimaginable (For that, the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012) 	Video 2 (English / Chinese), PPT
5 min	Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guess what Ana Fanlo Vincente was trying to say through her drawing (see PPT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ European countries are now so economically and politically interwoven with each other that war in Europe is rather unthinkable - not even as a last resort ❖ The more interconnected Europe is, the more solidified is its peace foundation 	PPT
5 min	Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Can this mode of building peace be applied in Asia? An "Asian Union" perhaps?</i> 	PPT
	Recommended homework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worksheet 2 2. EU geography review: online games listed in the reference list 	Worksheet 2

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Videos for Discussion

A Brief History of the Continent: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTTaoWFWAJ4>

The Ninth – Introducing the EU

(English): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrKNXys3HsU>

(Chinese): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_gBFg1Cazg

Sources for Factsheet

Facts and Figures (the EU):

http://europa.eu/about-eu/facts-figures/index_en.htm

The History of the European Union:

http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/index_en.htm

How the EU Works:

http://europa.eu/about-eu/index_en.htm

Conditions for EU Membership:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/policy/conditions-membership/index_en.htm

Let's Explore Europe:

<http://europa.eu/europago/explore/pdf/flip-book/lets-explore-europe-en/>

Europe in 12 Lessons:

<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/europe-in-12-lessons-pbNA3110652/?CatalogCategoryID=luYKABst3lwAAAEjxJEY4e5L>

Sources for Worksheet 1

The Schuman Declaration 1950 (explanation & full text):

<http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration/>

More about Robert Schuman:

http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/founding-fathers/pdf/robert_schuman_en.pdf

Further Background Information

(Video) Europe, from War to Peace:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjL0nTyeR4o>

(Video) Europe, 60 Years after War:

<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=l048005>

EU's Enlargements: Overview:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/policy/from-6-to-28-members/index_en.htm

Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, ECSC Treaty (1951):

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_ecsc_en.htm

Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, EEC Treaty (1957):

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_eec_en.htm

Treaty of Maastricht on European Union (1993):

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/institutional_affairs/treaties/treaties_maastricht_en.htm

Political Cartoons

[The Start of the Negotiations on the Schuman Plan](#)

[The signing of the ECSC Treaty](#)

Online Games

Which Countries Belong to the European Union?

http://www.toporopa.eu/en/european_union_countries.html

Capitals of Europe:

http://www.toporopa.eu/en/capitals_of_europe.html

Flags of Europe:

http://www.toporopa.eu/en/flags_of_europe.html

Which Countries Use EURO?:

<http://www.toporopa.eu/en/eurozone.html>

Metropolitan Areas of Europe:

http://www.toporopa.eu/en/metropolitan_areas_of_europe.html

The EU, what's It All About?

http://europa.eu/kids-corner/countries/flash/index_en.htm

More Information about the EU

EU Teachers' Corner:

http://europa.eu/teachers-corner/15/index_en.htm

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