

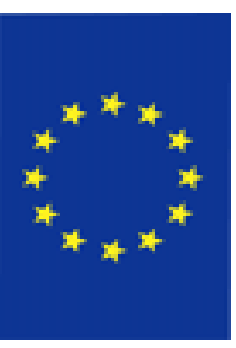


# The European Union

# Teachers:

Print out the following slide for each student. They should complete the questions while discussing the presentation (or as a review afterwards).

# European Union Questions



1. What are 4 benefits of joining the EU?
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
  - D.
2. What is the common currency of EU members?
3. How many European countries are members of the EU (2013)?
4. Give one reason why each of the following countries are NOT members of the EU:
  - a. Turkey-
  - b. Switzerland-
  - c. Iceland-
  - d. Russia-
5. Why do you think a European country should join the EU?



# The European Union

# the EU

- The purpose of the EU is for its members to work together for advantages that would be out of their reach if each were working alone.
- The EU believes that when countries work together they are a more powerful force in the world because they involve:
  - more money,
  - more people,
  - And more land areas.
- This helps make small countries more competitive in the world market.

- The US is much larger than separate European countries.
- When the EU countries combine, they have more people and a larger economy; they can compete in a global economy

	European Union	United States
Land Area (approx.)	1,500,000	3,700,000
Population (approx.)	500,000,000	305,000,000
Gross Domestic Product	\$15.65 trillion	\$15.29 trillion
GDP Per Capita	\$34,500	\$49,000

# What's the Big Deal?

- The European Union does NOT handle all the government business for the members.
  - (It is a confederation.)
- Each country still makes its own laws, has a military, and elects its leaders.

# Member Benefits

- Members may use a common currency (**euro**) that makes trade easier
  - EU works to improve trade, education, farming, & industry among its members
1. No **tariffs** (taxes) among member countries – **free trade zone**
  2. Citizens of one country can move freely to another country
  3. Citizens can live and work in any other EU nation
  4. Citizens can vote in local elections even if they aren't citizens of the country



# the Euro

- The **euro** is the currency of MOST EU countries.
- Member countries can choose to give up their own currency and exchange them for euros.
  - For example, French francs and German marks have been replaced by the euro.
- A common currency makes trade between the countries much easier and less expensive.
- 12 countries in the EU do not use the euro.
  - For example, the United Kingdom has decided to continue to use the British pound.

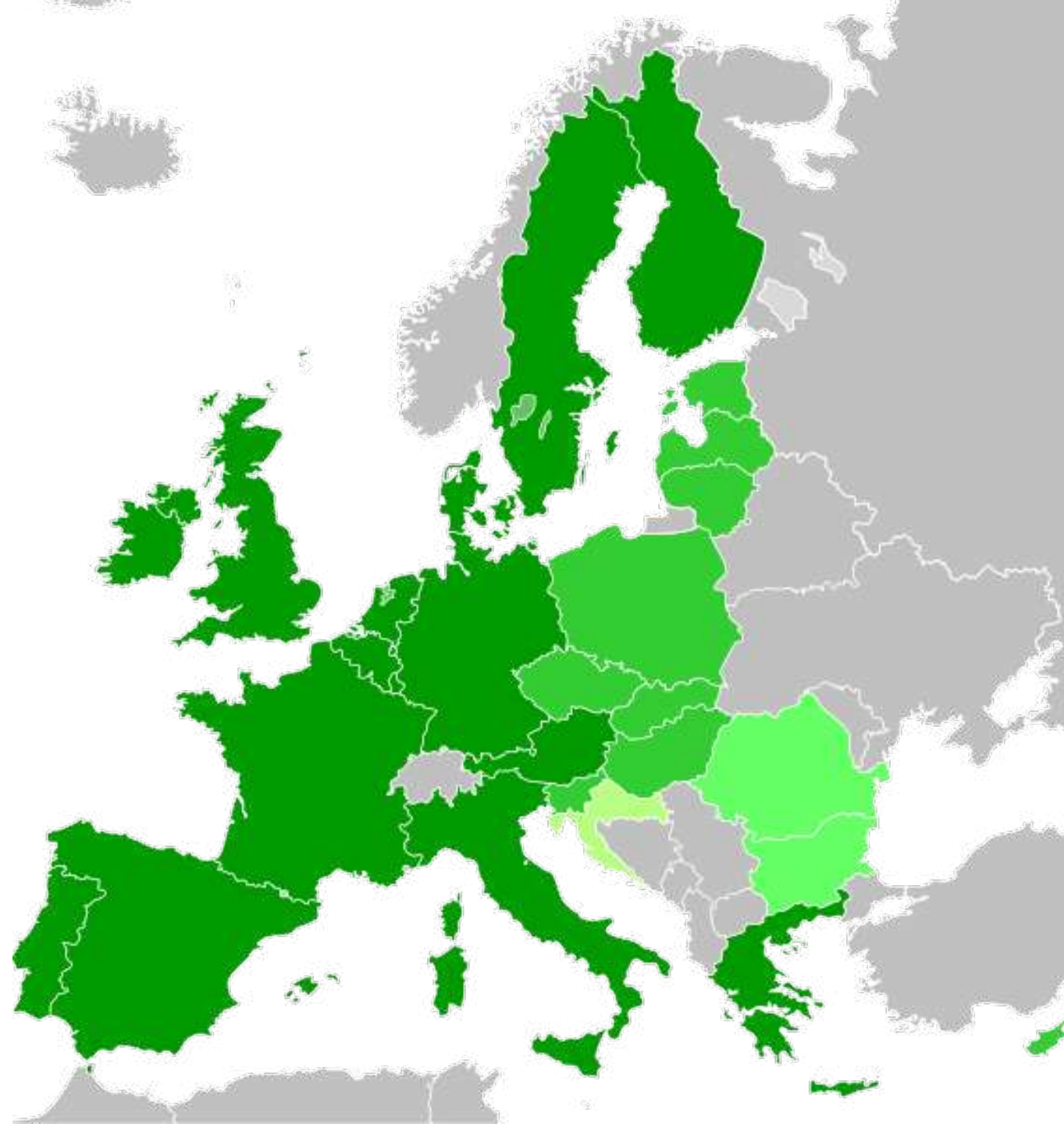
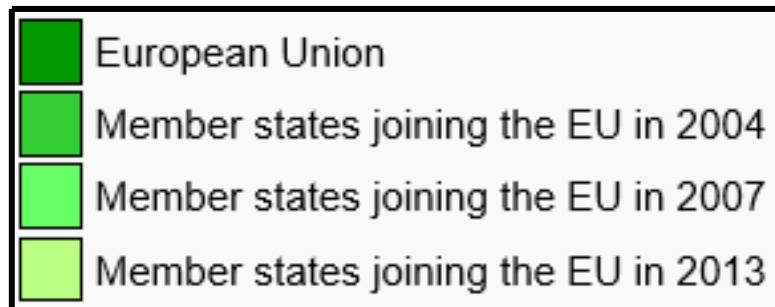
# Euro Coins and Bills



# EU Members 2013:

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

There are currently 28 members of the European Union. Croatia is the newest member; the country joined the EU in July 2013.



# Non-Members

- There are several countries that are NOT EU members, including Turkey, Switzerland, Iceland, & Russia.
- **WHY?**
  1. Turkey's culture (98% Muslim), stability, and location to the Middle East causes some EU members to not want Turkey to join
  2. Switzerland has one of the world's highest standards of living and prefers its economy to not be regulated under the EU
  3. The EU has strict limits on the fishing industry, and Iceland does not want the EU's control on its most important economic activity
  4. Russia prefers to be an independent world leader over its resources and economy

# To Join or not?

- Do you think it's beneficial for countries to join the EU?
- Let's read an article and see if it will help you make your decision.
- <http://www.timeforkids.com/news/trouble-greece/18601>

# Trouble in Greece

NOVEMBER 04, 2011

By Stephanie Kraus

On Thursday, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou told the Greek Parliament that he was reversing his decision to put the European debt plan to a referendum, or public vote.

President Barack Obama visited Cannes, France, this week for the Group of 20 (G-20) economic summit. The conference brings together leaders from wealthy and developing nations. They meet twice a year to address problems that affect the world economy. This week, Greek tragedy stole the spotlight, and leaders focused their efforts on ways to rescue Greece from its debt crisis.



President Obama urged European leaders to help solve the crisis. "There's no excuse for inaction," Obama said. "That's true globally. It's certainly true back home. And I'm going to keep pushing it."

For years, the Greek government has borrowed and spent more money than it brings in. Now Greece must figure out a solution for its debt or it may go bankrupt.

## A Plan to Solve the Crisis

Greece is part of the European Union (EU), an association of 27 countries that are trading partners. Greece is also in the eurozone—a group of 18 countries that use the euro as their currency. Fearing that Greece's money problems would spill into other countries, the EU agreed to help the struggling nation. Greece has been bailed out twice by the EU in the past two years.



Anti-government protests continued in front of the Greek Parliament in Athens on Thursday, Nov. 3. Many protestors want Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou to resign.

The EU has been working on a plan to help Greece repay the money it owes. On Monday, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou announced he would put the debt plan to a referendum, or public vote. After backlash from European leaders, Papandreou cancelled the referendum. Many people in Greece are protesting for Papandreou to resign.

The prime minister thinks the EU plan will be hard on the Greek people. It means the Greek government will no longer be able to decide how much money it can spend on things the country needs. But the leaders of France and Germany want Greece to accept the EU's rescue plan because Greece must repay debts to other countries. If Greece does not repay them, those countries will have trouble paying their debt back too.

## Problems Spread

Because the eurozone countries share a currency, they are linked through economies. Eurozone countries are looking to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to rescue Greek's debt crisis from spreading to large economies like Italy and Spain. Those countries are important to the eurozone because their economies would cost too much to bail out.

An estimated 7,000 protestors held anti-government rallies outside the Greek Parliament today. Public polls show that the Greek public is fed up with tax increases, job losses and Papandreou's leadership.

Tonight, Papandreou was put up to a confidence vote, which decided if he should stay in power. Papandreou won the vote. If he hadn't, he would have had to resign, allowing for an early election for a new leader.

Before the vote, Papandreou told the Greek Parliament, "I am not interested in being re-elected, but just in saving the country."

# Teachers:

Project (or print out) the following 2 slides for the students to see. They should choose one of the activities to complete as a review of the European Union.



# Political Cartoon

## Directions:

Create a political cartoon that shows the relationship between a non-EU member and the other countries of the European Union.  
Use a piece of copy paper.

The cartoon should personify one of the non-EU members below:

- Turkey
- Russia
- Iceland
- Switzerland



# Advertisement

## **Directions:**

Create an advertisement that persuades European countries (non-EU members) to join the European Union. Use a piece of copy paper.

Here are the things that you must include on your advertisement:

- A catchy title
- At least 3 benefits of joining the EU
- A colorful illustration

