



Europe Day (May 9, 2026)

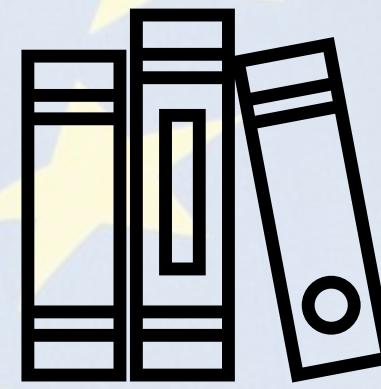
TEACHING GUIDE

- i What?** A holiday that celebrates peace between European countries that were once at war.
- 👤 Who?** The approximately 450 million people who live in the countries of the European Union.
- 🌍 Where?** All over Europe, especially in the 27 countries of the European Union.
- 🕒 When?** May 9, 1950. Europe Day has been celebrated every year since 1985.
- ? Why is it important?** Because the European Union and its 27 member states are a big deal on a global scale!
- 🎯 For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about the European Union.**



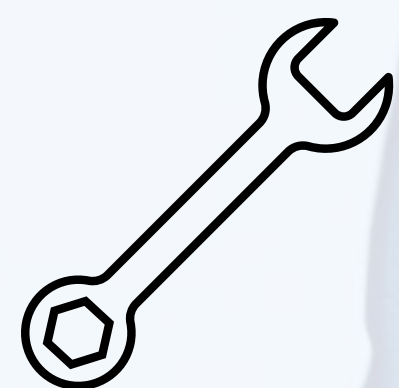
OBJECTIVES

- Distinguish between the European continent and the European Union
- Compare two continents using geographical data
- Understand the origin and functioning of the European Union
- Discover the European anthem and the poem that inspired it
- Interpret poetic imagery and extract its meaning



SUBJECTS

- **Social Studies / Geography**
 - Continents and major regions of the world
 - International organizations
 - National and supranational symbols
- **History**
 - Post-war Europe
 - European integration
- **English/ Arts**
 - Reading a poem
 - Interpreting images and metaphors
 - Vocabulary comprehension



COMPETENCIES

- Compare and organize information
- Distinguish between similar concepts (continent vs. political union)
- Interpret a literary text
- Make connections between history, politics, and culture
- Produce a personal response



DURATION

- Approximately 60 minutes



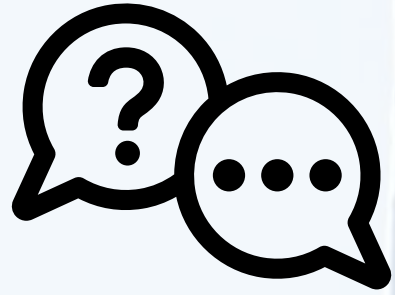
GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they know what Europe is.
- Ask them to name some European countries they know.
- Discuss the difference between a continent and a group of countries.
- Ask if they have ever heard of the European Union or the euro.
- Gather their hypotheses about what the European anthem is.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Europe Versus North America: The Clash of the Titans! Comparison of the two continents using Wikipedia. Completion of a comparative table (area, population, number of countries, languages spoken, major cities).

STEP 2 — Let's discover the European Union. Watching of a video and answers to four comprehension questions.

Q1 — Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Q2 — The euro.

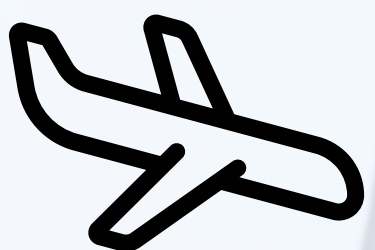
Q3 — Peace, equal rights and respect for other cultures and languages.

Q4 — In Brussels, the capital city.

STEP 3 — An anthem to unite! Discovery of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, the official anthem of the European Union, and analyze the first stanza of Schiller's original poem. Answer two extended-response questions.

Q5 — Variable answer. Ex.: I think it's the borders between countries, and also the fact that we don't all speak the same language. There are also wars and the fact that people don't all have the same religion or the same skin color.

Q6 — Variable answer. Ex.: I think he's saying that joy is like a great bird that protects everyone with its wings. When we are joyful together, we feel like brothers and sisters, even if we don't know each other.



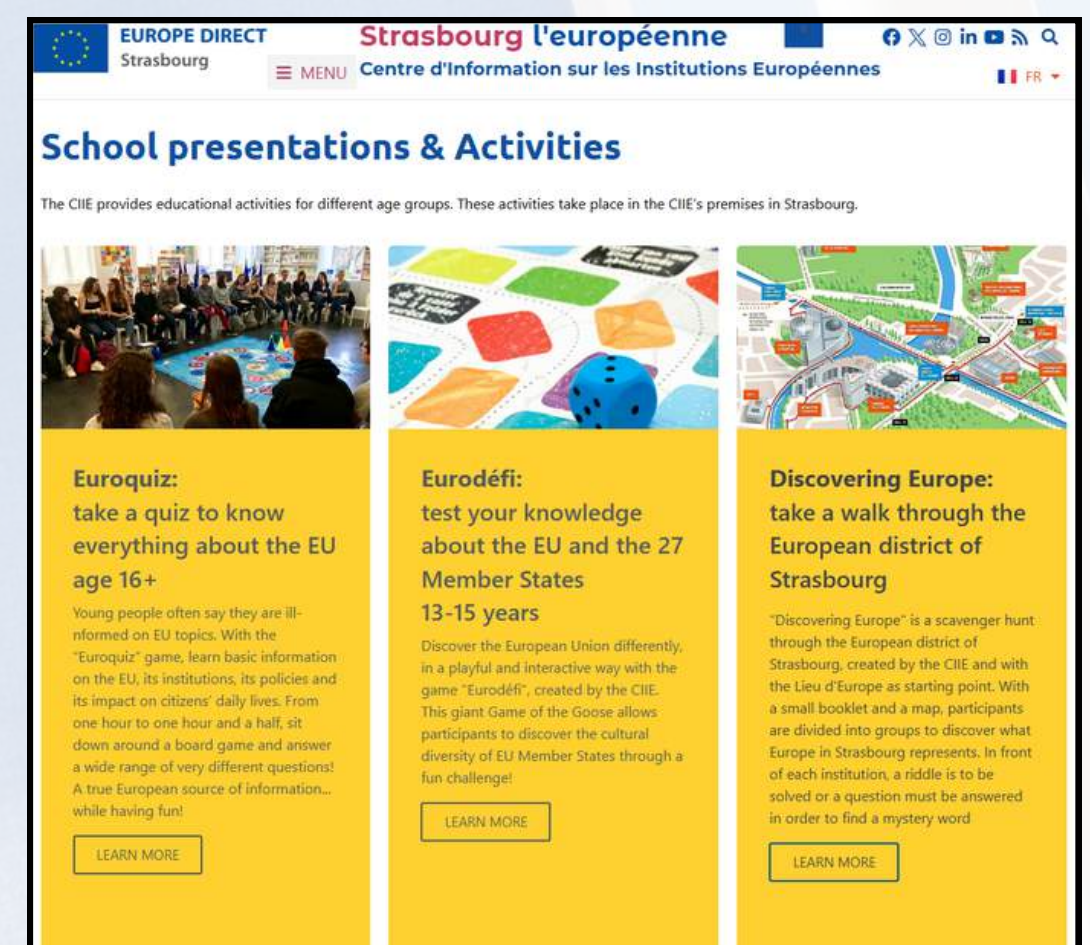
WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group review of what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them (the 27 countries, the euro, the wordless anthem).
- Ask: Why did countries that were once enemies choose to unite?
- Discuss what "joy" represents in Schiller's poem.



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Information Center on the European Institutions (CIIE). *School Presentations & Activities*
www.strasbourg-europe.eu/what-do-we-do/school-presentations-2



France: 68,400,000 inhabitants ÷ 552,000 km² = 124 inhabitants/km²

Iceland: 390,000 inhabitants ÷ 103,000 km² = 4 inhabitants/km² ↓

Monaco: 39,000 inhabitants ÷ 2 km² = 19,500 inhabitants/km² ↑

Netherlands: 17,900,000 inhabitants ÷ 41,850 km² = 428 inhabitants/km²

Sweden: 10,600,000 inhabitants ÷ 450,000 km² = 24 inhabitants/km²



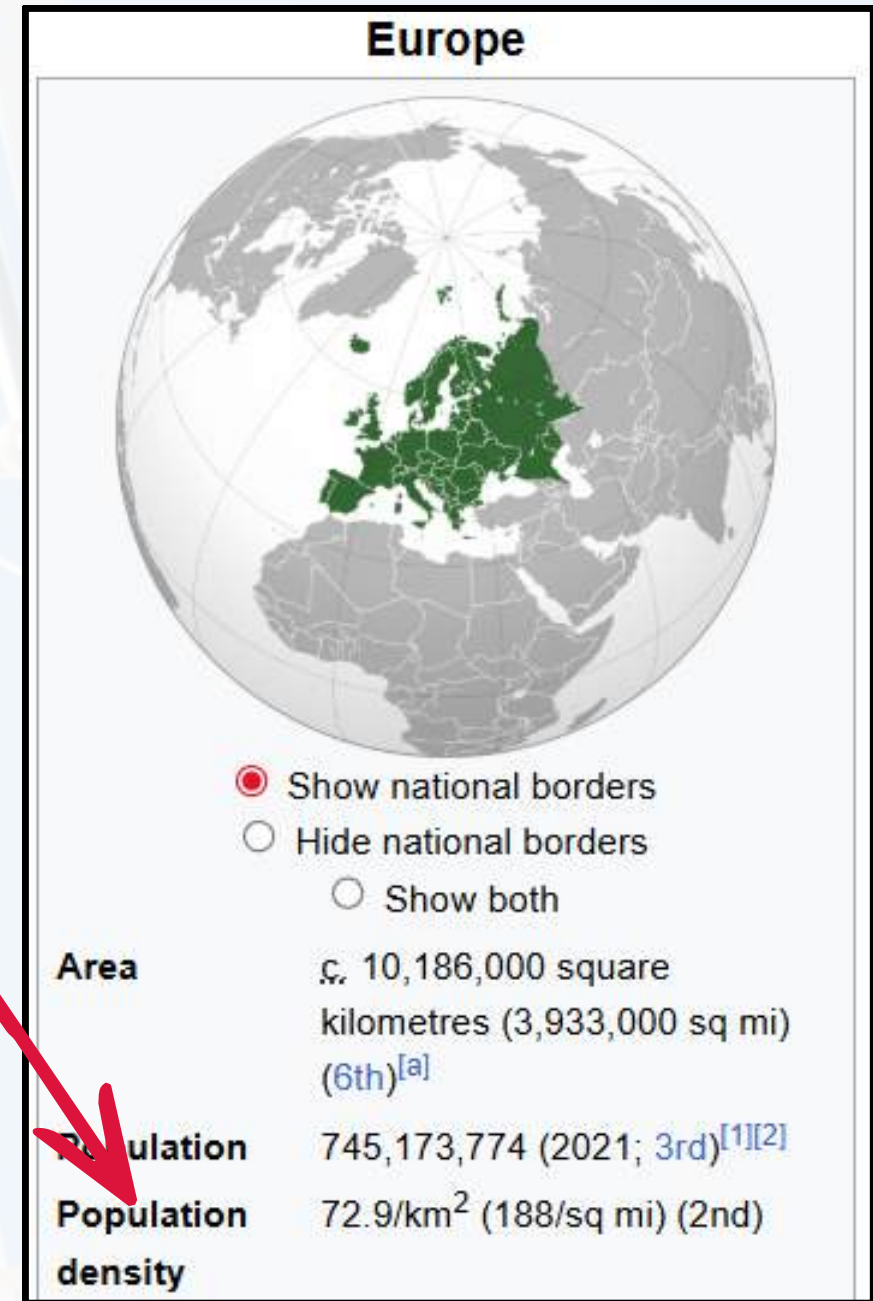
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Countries with lots of people!

Did you notice this on Wikipedia during the activity? It mentions **POPULATION DENSITY**...

What does that mean? Population density is the average number of people living in one square kilometer.

For example, in Europe, the density is 73 inhabitants per km². That means that if we took a large square with sides of 1 km, there would be an average of 73 people living there.



- 👉 The higher the number, the closer people live together (like in a big city).
- 👉 The lower the number, the further apart people live (like in the countryside or a desert).

Here are five countries in geographical Europe!

Which of these five countries has the **HIGHEST POPULATION DENSITY**? Which country has the **LOWEST POPULATION DENSITY**?

CALCULATION: POPULATION DENSITY = POPULATION ÷ AREA

COUNTRY	POPULATION	AREA	POPULATION DENSITY
 France	68,400,000	552,000 km ²	
Iceland 	390,000	103,000 km ²	
 Monaco	39,000	2 km ²	
Netherlands 	17,900,000	41,850 km ²	
 Sweden	10,600,000	450,000 km ²	