

A New Look for the Euro! (August 17, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? The European Central Bank (ECB) has unveiled ten proposed designs for new euro banknotes and is inviting citizens to vote for their favorites. 🇪🇺

Who? The ECB, which manages the euro, launched a competition in which more than 1,200 graphic designers from across Europe participated.

Where? This change affects all 21 countries in the eurozone, meaning all European countries that use euros.

When? The designs were presented on July 23, 2026, and online voting is open until September 21, 2026.

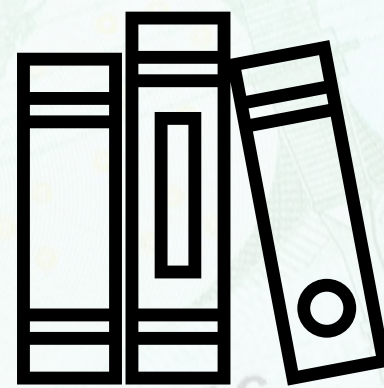
Why is it important? After more than twenty years with the same banknotes, the ECB wants more modern banknotes, better protected against counterfeiting and more representative of today's Europe.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about the euro and the proposals for changing it. 🇪🇺



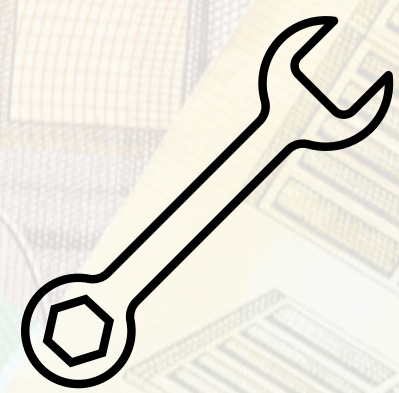
OBJECTIVES

- Discover the euro and understand why this common currency is important for Europe.
- Discover six famous European figures chosen to appear on the new banknotes.
- Research historical figures using Wikipedia.
- Write a structured response based on your research.
- Explore ten design proposals and formulate a reasoned choice.



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Listening and Video Comprehension
 - Written Expression (Short Answers)
 - Information Research
- **Social Studies/Culture**
 - Countries and Institutions of Europe
 - European Historical Figures
 - Money and Economics
- **Arts**
 - Appreciation of Visual Works (Banknote Design)



COMPETENCIES

- Researching and interpreting information
- Listening to and understanding an informative video
- Reading and understanding an informative text
- Producing a structured response
- Exercising critical judgment



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask students if they know what the euro is and which countries use it
- Show them a euro note (or a picture) and ask them what they see on it
- Ask them why current banknotes show imaginary bridges and windows rather than real people
- Collect their hypotheses: what would they put on a banknote if they could draw it?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — A Currency That Unites. Watching of a video on the history of the euro, then answers to four comprehension questions.

Q1 — Before the euro, Europeans had to exchange their money at every border, which cost time and money.

Q2 — To simplify trade between countries, facilitate travel, and strengthen European unity.

Q3 — You can travel to another country in the eurozone without having to exchange currency, which simplifies shopping and price comparisons.

Q4 — No. Only 21 of the 27 countries in the European Union use the euro. Some countries, like Sweden and Poland, have kept their own currencies.

STEP 2 — Famous European Faces. Research on Wikipedia and matching of six European figures with their field and one of their achievements. Ex: Maria Callas → Performing Arts → Tosca

Q5 — Ludwig van Beethoven → Music → 9th Symphony

Q6 — Marie Curie → Science → Nobel Prize in Physics and Chemistry

Q7 — Miguel de Cervantes → Literature → Don Quixote

Q8 — Bertha von Suttner → Peace → Lay down your arms!

STEP 3 — And the winner is... Exploration of the ten design proposals on the ECB website, then writing of a reasoned response explaining the favorite design.

Q9 — Open-ended response. For example, the student could write: “I would choose design E from the People theme because the colors are bright and modern. I like the idea of having famous people on the banknotes because it allows you to learn a little bit of history every time you look at them.”



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them most (the characters chosen, the number of countries using the euro, the public consultation).
- Ask: Do you prefer characters or birds on the banknotes? Why?
- Make the connection with the country's currency: What characters or symbols are found on it?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 *Euro facts for kids.* Kiddle Encyclopedia
<https://kids.kiddle.co/Euro>

