

**WEB QUEST: Overview of the European Union**

**Directions:** Your task is to research the European Union by visiting the websites provided in the gray boxes and answering the questions below. If you have any additional questions about the European Union, visit the links at the end of the webquest and write your questions and answers in the space provided.

**What is the EU?**

Go to Europa.eu -> click “Basic Information” under “How the EU Works” or type in the following website:  
[http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/index_en.htm)

1. What is the European Union and how many countries belong to the EU?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What was the original purpose of the European Union? Why do you think it was formed after World War II?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How has the European Union changed since its inception?

**History of the EU**

Click “History” from the menu on the left or type in the following website:  
[http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/eu-history/index_en.htm)

4. Read the short overview of the EU’s history and write a paragraph or two that summarizes, in your own words, the history of the EU from 1945 – today.

### **EU Symbols**

Click “EU Symbols” under “Basic Information” from the menu on the left or type in the following website:  
[http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/index_en.htm)

5. What does the EU flag look like and what does it symbolize?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is the EU motto and what does it mean? How is it similar or different to the United States’ motto – E Pluribus Unum?

### **EU Institutions**

Click “Institutions and Bodies” from the menu on the left or type in the following website:  
[http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm)

7. List the three main institutions involved in creating EU legislation and explain what they do.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Briefly describe, in principle, how decisions in the EU are made.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Choose three of the other EU institutions and briefly describe what they do.

## Joining the EU

Click "Countries" from the menu on the left or type in the following website:

[http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm)

10. List the 27 EU member countries and 5 EU candidate countries below. On the map, color the current EU member countries using one color and color the EU candidate countries using another color. Ignore the non-EU related nations.

### Member Countries

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27. \_\_\_\_\_

### Candidate Countries

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4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



11. Click “Joining the EU” from the menu on the left. How does a country join the EU?

12. Click the hyperlink titled “conditions for membership”. What are the conditions for membership to the EU?

### **Money and the EU**

Click “Money and the EU” under “Basic Information” from the menu on the left or type in the following website:

[http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/money/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/money/index_en.htm)

13. How is the EU’s budget funded? What does the EU’s budget pay for?

14. Click the link for “Euro/monetary Union”. What is the Euro and how many EU countries use it?

15. What is the Eurozone? List three countries that are part of the Eurozone:

16. What is the purpose of the Euro?

17. Who manages the Euro and what is their main goal?

## EU Policies

Click “Policies and Activities” from the menu on the left or type in the following website:

[http://europa.eu/policies-activities/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/policies-activities/index_en.htm)

18. Click “policy areas”. Choose three policy areas and summarize what the EU does in that area.

## EU Treaties

Type in the following website:

[http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/decision-making/treaties/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/decision-making/treaties/index_en.htm)

19. What is a treaty and what does it do?

20. Research the following EU treaties and write a short summary of the purpose and main changes of each treaty below.

- **Treaty of Lisbon: (2009)**
  
- **Treaty of the European Union – Maastricht Treaty: (1993)**
  
- **Treaty of Rome: (1958)**

## Extra Credit: EU Kid’s Corner

Type in the following web address:

[http://europa.eu/kids-corner/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/kids-corner/index_en.htm)

21. Choose one of the games for ages 12+ (outlined in blue) on this page and briefly describe what it’s about and what you learned from it.