

European Studies Module



A European Schools Partnership Project

Funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme

European Studies Module:

Ages 4-15

Purpose of study

This study module has been put together for the purpose of ensuring pupils in our schools learn about the Europe they live in and understand some of the ways in which we are linked from the past and how we might link in the future. Equipping our pupils with deeper understanding about Europe's cultural heritage will ensure they are better able to appreciate and enjoy other cultures and better able to live and work across the continent.

Aims

This Programme of Study has been put together as part of an Erasmus+ European Partnership and has the following aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Improve their knowledge of European history through exploring its traditions, historic events and changes over time
- Explore what it means to be European today, in terms of our differences, similarities and common values
- Think critically about European collaboration and how it can be used to make improvements and solve problems into the future

Subject content

Ages 4-6

Pupils should be taught to:

- know that they live in the continent of Europe
- learn some traditional songs and games from countries across Europe
- know that Europe has experienced two World Wars
- know and understand that different countries celebrate in different ways because of their traditions or religious beliefs
- share some information with another school in Europe

Suggested activities:

- Pupils will learn four simple songs from different countries and be taught the translations, performing them to the school.
- Pupils will learn about a few traditional games from other countries and be taught the origins of the games. Pupils will then teach the games to older pupils at the school.
- Pupils will explore the traditional festivals of either Easter or Christmas in several European countries, to include learning that these are only marked by Christians.
- Pupils will make a link with another European school in order to exchange Christmas cards or simple letters.

Subject content

Ages 6-8

Pupils should be taught to:

- recognise the shape of some European countries and place them on a map of Europe
- know about some native wild animals from countries across Europe
- know the most typical souvenirs of some European countries
- know about the agricultural regions of Europe
- have a basic understanding of EU and non-EU membership, including common currency

Suggested activities:

- Pupils will learn the shape of their own and neighbouring countries and locate them on a map. They will learn what the European Union is and whether or not their country is a part of this union.
- Pupils will be given a native wild animal from a different European country. They will produce a mini-project about it, showing where and how it lives.
- Pupils will match pictures of traditional souvenir items to the different countries they are from, through being given clues, or through research.
- Pupils will colour in a map of Europe based on the different agricultural regions. They will make a key to show what the different areas are.
- Pupils will use websites to research or play games which enhance their knowledge of the above.

Subject content

Ages 8-10

Pupils should be taught to:

- know some facts about unusual traditions marked throughout Europe, by studying festival days
- study some relevant national heroes from across Europe and their role in historical events
- be aware of cultural heritage, its diversity and richness
- know and understand some of the differences and similarities in the lives of children at school across Europe
- learn and compare gastronomy from different countries

Suggested activities:

- Pupils will learn about several unique festivals celebrated across Europe and learn about the context and history surrounding them.
- Pupils will make a portrait gallery with some historical heroes across Europe and write a short biography of them.
- Pupils will collect information about some UNESCO world heritage sites.
- Pupils will explore the current school experience of a similar-sized school to theirs in another country, through making a link in eTwinning and doing a brief school study.
- Pupils will collate and try out some simple recipes from different parts of Europe and make a visual cookbook.

Subject content

Ages 10-12

Pupils should be taught to:

- know about famous artists and where they were born in Europe
- recognise some of the differences and similarities in the artwork styles of famous European artists and experiment with recreating them
- know about the various religions found in Europe
- consider the similarities and differences in religion and culture in order to gain a greater understanding of each other

Suggested activities:

- Pupils will learn about great European artists and compare their artworks.
- Pupils will make a trip to an art museum to help them visualize the artwork and help them appreciate and analyse it.
- Pupils will make their own art exhibition in their school.
- Pupils will learn about the different religions that can be found in Europe.
- Groups of pupils will concentrate on a religion and make a presentation for the group. This can also be connected with a religious celebration.
- Pupils will share their experiences with pupils from other European schools via eTwinning.

Subject content

Ages 12-14

Pupils should be taught to:

- compare the characteristics of different historical periods and their impact on the present and the future
- understand the differences and similarities in European cultures
- understand that despite the differences we share common values
- list the problems of today that can be solved by joint cooperation

Suggested activities:

- Pupils will create a timeline of significant historical events, inventions, social achievements, transport, music, clothing, through historical periods (1900-1945; 1946-1959; 1960-2007; 2008-present) using a digital tool, and compare the impact on the present and the future.
- Pupils will make an illustrated map of Europe with famous buildings, natural landmarks, traditions and gastronomy.
- Pupils will explore the Declaration of Human Rights and create their own poster of common values for Europe.
- Pupils will collaborate through eTwinning, identifying some relevant problems and working with another school to collaborate on possible solutions.

Subject content

Ages 14-15

Pupils should be taught to:

- name each European country and note basic information about them
- be aware of the main historical events that took place during the two world wars and their impact on today's Europe and the world we live in
- know the impact of the industrial revolution on Europe today
- know the origin of the European Union according to the 12 historical steps
- analyse a problem, relevant to modern living, which could be solved through collaboration

Suggested activities:

- Pupils will learn the flags, capital cities, national symbols, currency and political systems of European countries.
- Pupils will produce a study of the most important battles and events of the two world wars, and take a closer look at events which happened near their own region.
- Pupils will make a presentation of the steps of the industrial revolution, noting the most valuable inventions and their inventors, together with recognising its benefits and drawbacks.
- Pupils will come up with a problem that needs solving (for example; running a carbon neutral school, lack of social mobility for the elderly, reduction in green-spaces, social-media obsession) and work with another school in Europe through eTwinning/Skype/email, to come up with a common solution to be acted upon in both schools.

This study module has been put together by staff and pupils of the following schools:

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