

The Union Song

Teacher's Notes

All FunSongs action songs should be taught through suggestion, mime and movement. *Important!* Make sure you know the song and its teaching actions before introducing it to your students.

Link to full teaching video

Learning the song

1. Tell your class they are going to learn an action song about the European Union. In L1 (the children's native language), invite your class to say what they know about the European Union. Direct the discussion towards the themes in the song.
2. Play the song. Sing along with the guide voice and do the gestures as illustrated.
3. Teach the song line by line, gesture by gesture. Avoid the use of L1 as much as possible. Use the expressive gestures to teach and reinforce the meanings of the words and phrases. Don't show the class the text of the song!
4. Build up the children's knowledge gradually two-steps forward, one-step back.
5. When you are ready, ask the class to stand and perform the song along with the Guide Voice version.
6. Now try it with the Karaoke version.

Working on the language

1. Reading practice - In the next or following lesson start by asking the class to sing and mime the song. Then give each child a copy of the words. Now play through the song so everyone follows the written text. Next play the Karaoke version through with everybody reading and singing.
2. Use this communicative transfer activity to focus on the song's structure. Ask the class to say what their capital cities got.
Teacher: What's Rome (Madrid, Paris, etc.) got?
Class: It's got the Coliseum, (the Prado, the Eiffel Tower).
3. Practise *Let's* with this pair work activity. Divide the class into pairs. Each partner must guess the name of the activity his or her partner mimes and then suggest it by saying *Let's* as in the examples below.:
Student A: *Mimes dancing*
Student B: Let's dance!
Student A: *Mimes playing tennis*
Student B: Let's play tennis!

A Union Song wall display

Make a European Union wall display for your classroom. This can consist of symbols and images based on the verses in the song:

- A large Union Flag surrounded by the flags of the fifteen countries.
- Specimens of European notes and coins.
- A map of Europe with hands like the one featured in the illustrated actions sheet.
- "No Entry" signs or "War No Thanks" signs alongside photographs or drawings of war scenes.

Worksheets

Suggestions for using the worksheets

Worksheet 1 – The European Union Flag

A simple introduction to the EU for younger learners. Use this to practise spelling colours and numbers. You can then ask them to colour the sheet.

Worksheet 2 – Come and play with us!

This worksheet highlights the concept of friendship between the member countries of the EU. Before colouring, practise "How many" and "Are there". Give out the worksheet and then ask your class these questions:

- How many stars are there on the Union flag? (12)
- How many kids are there in the picture? (10)
- How many countries are there in the EU today? (27)
Where are they?

Worksheet 3 – This is the world!

A cross-curricular activity combining English with basic political geography. "Australasia" means Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea though the expressions "Oceania" or just "Australia" are sometimes used. "Peace" is the word spelled out in the grid. You can also set this sheet for homework.

Worksheet 4-5 – European capitals game

What you need to play:

- A **dice** for each group of 2, 3 or 4 players
- An **A3 photocopy** of the capitals map for each group or couple
- Small coloured **flags** to act as markers for each player. Your kids can make before they start to play. Ask them to colour and cut up a small square of paper with a European flag of their choice.
- A copy of the **Capital Questions** sheet (Worksheet Five) for each group or couple

Rules of the European Capitals game

1. Each player positions his or her flag at the START position in southern Italy.
2. Taking turns, players throw the dice and move forward the same number of steps as the number rolled on the dice.
3. When a player lands on a step with a capital (3 Rome, 8 Madrid, 9 Lisbon, etc.,) he or she tries to answer the corresponding question on the Question Sheet correctly. If the answer is wrong the player moves back one step. The player who reaches Athens first is the winner.

Suggestion

- Move around the classroom helping with questions and difficult pronunciation.
- Encourage everyone to speak English as much as possible. To help them do this pre-teach phrases such as:
Come on roll the dice!
It's your turn
Here is your question for Lisbon!
- Complete the lesson with a collective rendition of "The Union Song".
- For homework ask your students to write a short essay about the game. They should mention all the countries they visited.

Worksheet 6 – EU Cloze

A useful fill-in-the-gaps exercise to reinforce the spelling of EU countries.