

Adapted from a lesson by Heather Olin
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Turkey and the EU: To Be or Not To Be... A Member Nation

Objectives

- Students analyze the arguments for and against Turkey's membership in the European Union.
- Students write a persuasive letter to the President of the European Commission, either for or against Turkey's acceptance into the EU.

Time Required

2 days-1 day in library or computer lab for research, 1 day to write a persuasive letter

CA H-SS Standards

10.10.0 Students analyze instances of nation-building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.

10.10.1 Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.

10.10.2 Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.

10.10.3 Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

10.11.0 Students analyze the integration of countries into the world economy and the information, technological, and communications revolutions (e.g., television, satellites, computers).

Materials Needed

- Individual Internet access
- Handout #1- Overview questions about the EU
- Handout #2- T-chart of pros and cons

Procedure

Preparation

- Prepare materials needed. Make one copy of Handouts #1 and #2 for each student. Access to a computer lab is needed.
- Students may be grouped so that pairs may review and record the information on each website or it may be done individually

Step 1: Research

Access and take notes on the following websites, or print off the information and underline the important issues and arguments about the European Union and Turkey's inclusion.

Turkey in the European Union: Will Turkey Be Accepted for Membership in the EU?

<http://geography.about.com/od/politicalgeography/a/turkeyeu.htm>

This site provides the arguments both pro and con for Turkey's admission into the European Union.

European Union

<http://countrystudies.us/turkey/89.htm>

Part of the Country Studies site, this page discusses the arguments related to Turkey and European Union admission. It links to much more information about the history and economy of Turkey.

EUROPA – Europa and Neighborhood Policy

http://europa.eu/abc/12lessons/lesson_3/index_en.htm

The European Union is open to any European country that fulfills the democratic, political and economic criteria for membership. Here is information about the criteria for membership.

Step 2 – Recording the information

1. Students answer the questions on Handout #1 about the European Union and Turkey's bid for accession into the European Union.
2. Students fill in the T-chart in Handout #2 with at least five reasons for and against Turkey's admission to the European Union. Students may find more than five reasons, but at least five should be used.

Step 3 - Taking a position

In small groups or individually, students analyze the information gathered in the T-chart and come to a conclusion about whether or not they think that Turkey's bid to the EU should be accepted.

Step 4 – Assessment

Students individually write a persuasive letter regarding their position. The letter will be addressed to Jose Durao Barroso, the President of the European Commission. It must include the stance of the student and at least three reasons they believe that Turkey's bid should or should not be accepted. The letter must be in formal format, at least one page long, with an introduction, three body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph.

Enrichment

Explore issues related to the current economic crisis and European Union Membership at this New York Times site from February 16, 2010:

Western Union: Debating Benefits and Challenges of EU Membership

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/02/16/western-union-debating-benefits-and-challenges-of-eu-membership/>

- Students will analyze bids of other nations to the EU and will compare their demographics and reasons for acceptance with those of Turkey.
- Students will create a timeline of the European Union, along with the acceptance of other member nations and major events.

Students with differing opinions will debate the reasons for and against Turkey's inclusion in the European Union.

Handout #1

Background: The European Union

Using the EUROPA website, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is the European Union?
2. What is the purpose of the European Union?
3. What are the EU member nations?
4. What do these member nations have in common?
5. What nations are candidates for the EU?
6. What does the EU look for in determining which nations can become member nations?

Handout #2

Reasons For Turkey's Acceptance into the EU	Reasons Against Turkey's Acceptance into the EU