

The European Union

Name:

Date:



European anthem

Listen to the music of the video. Have you heard it before? Why is it such an important piece of music and who composed it? Talk about it in class.



Youtube: Europahymne

To watch the youtube video just scan the QR code.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71-hTdiHlhU>



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Ode to Joy - the search for the European anthem

The piece is used today as the anthem for the European Union. Although the European Union - also called the EU - hasn't existed for very long, the piece itself is already a few hundred years old. Read what the composer of the anthem says about it and answer the questions below.



Ode to Joy

Hello everyone,

I am Ludwig van Beethoven, a famous composer from Germany. Today I want to tell you an exciting story about how I composed a piece of music that later became the anthem of Europe. This anthem is called "Ode to Joy" and comes from my 9th Symphony.

It all began in 1823 when I was writing the music for the final piece of my 9th Symphony. This symphony is a large musical work that ends with a choir – meaning that many people sing together. For this finale, I used a poem by Friedrich Schiller called "Ode to Joy." It is about friendship and unity among all people in the world. But why did I choose this particular poem? Well, I wanted to create something special that would carry the message of peace and brotherhood into the world. Because I firmly believed that all people should live together in friendship, no matter where they come from.

Many years later, in 1972, the Council of Europe decided to adopt my "Ode to Joy" as their anthem. They thought that the melody and the message perfectly matched the values they stand for – freedom, peace, and solidarity. In 1985, it was then decided that my music should also become the anthem of the European Union. It is meant to serve as a symbol of unity and cooperation among the countries of Europe.

The European anthem has no lyrics in order not to favor any particular language and because music is a universal language that can be understood by everyone. Therefore, you only hear the melody of my "Ode to Joy" when the European anthem is played.

And so, a piece of music that I wrote almost 200 years ago became an important symbol for all of Europe. Isn't that amazing?

Best regards,

Ludwig van Beethoven

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Choose the correct answers.

What is the main theme of the poem 'Ode to Joy' used by Beethoven in his 9th Symphony?

- ☐ Love and romance ☐ Friendship and unity among all people ☐ War and heroism
☐ Nature and tranquility

Why did Beethoven choose Friedrich Schiller's poem for the finale of his 9th Symphony?

- ☐ He wanted to experiment with a new style ☐ It was the only poem available
☐ He wanted to convey a message of peace and brotherhood ☐ He was commissioned to use it

When did the Council of Europe adopt 'Ode to Joy' as their anthem?

- ☐ 1823 ☐ 1985 ☐ 2000 ☐ 1972

What values does the European anthem's melody and message represent?

- ☐ Military strength, power, and dominance
☐ Economic growth, technological advancement, and innovation
☐ Cultural heritage, tradition, and history ☐ Freedom, peace, and solidarity

Why does the European anthem have no lyrics?

- ☐ Because Beethoven's original composition had no lyrics
☐ The original lyrics were lost over time
☐ It was too difficult to translate the poem into all European languages
☐ To avoid favoring any particular language and because music is a universal language

What year did Beethoven complete the composition of his 9th Symphony?

- ☐ 1812 ☐ 1824 ☐ 1823 ☐ 1799

What symbolic purpose does Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' serve for the European Union?

- ☐ As a tribute to Beethoven's musical genius ☐ As a representation of Europe's military strength
☐ As a symbol of unity and cooperation among European countries
☐ As a reminder of historical conflicts

Which organization first adopted 'Ode to Joy' as an anthem?

- ☐ NATO ☐ European Union ☐ Council of Europe ☐ United Nations

Europe and the European Union

Now you know how the EU got its anthem and what the idea behind the EU is. But what exactly is the European Union and which countries are actually part of it? First, read the info box and then answer the tasks below.



Europe and the European Union

Europe is a continent that comprises many different countries, such as Germany, France, Spain, and Italy. In total, there are 44 countries in Europe. Each of these countries has its own culture, language, and history. Europe is renowned for its beautiful cities, such as Paris, Rome, and Berlin, and for famous landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower, the Colosseum, and the Brandenburg Gate.

The **European Union (EU)** is a special group of 27 countries in Europe that work together to promote peace and prosperity. It was founded so that the countries in Europe could collaborate more closely and solve problems together. An important part of the EU is the single market, where people, goods, services, and money can move freely between the member countries. This means, for example, that one can travel from Germany to France or shop in Italy without any problems. The EU also has its own currency, the Euro, which many, but not all, member countries use. The EU is concerned with many issues, such as environmental protection, security, and education. It even has its own parliament, where representatives from all member countries sit and make decisions together. In this way, the countries in Europe work together to make life better for all Europeans.

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Which countries are part of the EU?

Below you will find a list of 20 countries, all of which are located in Europe. Do you know which of them are part of the EU? Mark the EU member states

1. France
2. Norway
3. Germany
4. Italy
5. Switzerland
6. Spain
7. Poland
8. Serbia
9. Ukraine
10. Netherlands
11. Belgium
12. Iceland
13. Sweden
14. Russia
15. Albania
16. Austria
17. Greece
18. Bosnia and Herzegovina
19. Monaco
20. Finland

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EU countries introduce themselves

Learn more now about three countries that are members of the EU, and find out how EU membership has affected these countries.

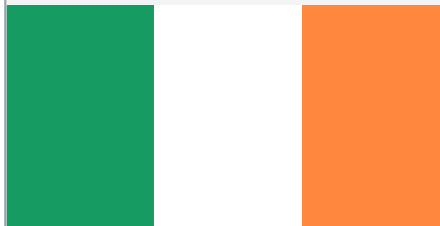
Spain



Spain, officially the Kingdom of Spain, is a country located in Southern Europe with a population of approximately 48.8 million people. The country covers an area of 505,990 km², making it the fourth largest country in Europe. Spain has been a member of the European Union since January 1, 1986. Politically, Spain is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy, with King Felipe VI as the head of state and Pedro Sánchez as the Prime Minister. Economically, Spain is the 15th largest economy in the world with a GDP (nominal) of \$1.647 trillion and a GDP per capita of \$34,045. The country uses the Euro (€) as its currency. The EU membership has significantly impacted Spain by enhancing its economic diversification and benefiting from the free movement within the EU.

Spain is known for its rich history, diverse culture, and vibrant economy. The country's membership in the EU has further integrated it into the European community, boosting its economic growth and cultural exchange.

Ireland



Ireland, officially known as the Republic of Ireland, is a country located in North-Western Europe occupying most of the island of Ireland. It has a population of approximately 5.28 million people and covers an area of 70,273 km². Ireland has been a member of the European Union since January 1, 1973. It is a unitary parliamentary republic with Michael D. Higgins as the President and Simon Harris as the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). Economically, Ireland is one of the most prosperous countries in the world with a GDP (nominal) of \$564.02 billion and a GDP per capita of \$106,059, ranking it second globally. The country uses the Euro (€) as its currency. EU membership has greatly benefited Ireland, particularly in terms of economic development and trade.

Ireland is renowned for its high quality of life, strong economy, and cultural heritage. The country's integration into the EU has been pivotal in its economic success and international relations.

Romania



Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. It has a population of around 19.05 million people and covers an area of 238,398 km². Romania has been a member of the European Union since January 1, 2007. The country is a semi-presidential republic with Klaus Iohannis as the President and Marcel Ciolacu as the Prime Minister. Economically, Romania is growing with a GDP (nominal) of \$369.97 billion and a GDP per capita of \$19,530. The national currency is the Romanian leu (RON). The EU membership has provided Romania with substantial benefits, including economic growth, infrastructural development, and enhanced political stability.

Romania is known for its picturesque landscapes, rich cultural history, and developing economy. The EU membership has played a crucial role in modernizing the country and integrating it into the European community.

For each sentence, decide if it's true or false.

Spain is the fourth largest country in Europe.

☐ True ☐ False

Ireland has a population of approximately 19.05 million people.

☐ True ☐ False

Romania's currency is the Euro (€).

☐ True ☐ False

Pedro Sánchez is the Prime Minister of Spain.

☐ True ☐ False

Romania has been a member of the European Union since January 1, 1986.

☐ True ☐ False

Michael D. Higgins is the President of Ireland.

☐ True ☐ False

Spain's GDP per capita is \$106,059.

☐ True ☐ False

Ireland has been a member of the European Union since January 1, 1973.

☐ True ☐ False

Now take another look at all the information you have received about the topic 'European Union' and then answer the question: Do you think the European Union is a good invention? Justify your opinion in a short text.

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The EU member states

The following word puzzle contains 15 EU member states. Can you find them all?

D	A	L	M	D	M	F	P	Z	J	Z	F	G	D	C	D	V	E	A	B	U	M
P	A	D	L	B	P	Q	N	A	U	S	T	R	I	A	Z	L	M	U	Y	R	J
N	H	O	U	W	Y	G	R	V	O	F	V	E	Z	P	V	S	J	Q	A	D	N
J	L	X	E	P	L	T	A	V	T	L	G	E	K	C	Y	H	S	W	Z	C	O
A	Q	G	U	W	F	U	A	F	R	A	N	C	E	A	M	I	L	W	D	G	A
Y	F	N	E	N	V	E	J	E	Q	T	T	E	D	B	J	T	N	O	E	N	L
F	V	Y	F	M	C	F	O	H	Z	V	Y	F	S	F	J	E	F	P	Y	D	X
L	U	Z	M	L	G	I	K	M	G	I	R	G	P	P	E	J	Q	O	V	E	A
U	T	Q	S	M	N	N	T	J	M	A	L	T	A	Q	I	R	E	L	A	N	D
T	T	V	F	G	A	L	S	A	E	F	S	K	I	X	T	T	L	A	T	M	N
E	S	T	O	N	I	A	E	S	L	O	V	E	N	I	A	S	O	N	K	A	Y
G	Z	K	J	I	O	N	X	F	H	K	T	Y	M	Y	L	Z	E	D	S	R	R
K	E	F	E	W	Y	D	Q	B	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	Y	G	Y	M	K	V

AUSTRIA

FRANCE

ITALY

IRELAND

BELGIUM

POLAND

SPAIN

GERMANY

GREECE

DENMARK

LATVIA

MALTA

FINLAND

ESTONIA

SLOVENIA