

# European Union



# Purpose of the European Union

- For its members to work together for advantages that would be out of their reach if each were working alone
- Believe that when countries work together they are a more powerful force in the world because they involve:
  - More money
  - More people
  - More land area
- This helps make small countries more competitive in the world market...

	<b>EU</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Land Area (approx.)</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>3,700,000</b>
<b>Population (approx.)</b>	<b>500,000,000</b>	<b>305,000,000</b>
<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>	<b>\$14 Trillion</b>	<b>\$13.5 Trillion</b>
<b>GDP Per Capita</b>	<b>\$28,213</b>	<b>\$43,444</b>

- The US is much larger than separate European countries
- When the EU countries combine, they have more people and a larger economy; they can compete in a global economy

# What's the Big Deal?

- EU does NOT handle all the government business for the members (Confederation)
- Each country still makes its own laws, has a military, and elects its leaders

# Benefits for the Members

- Members may use a common currency (**euro**) that makes trade easier
- EU works to improve trade, education, farming, & industry among its members
- 1. No tariffs (taxes) among member countries – **free trade zone**
- 2. Citizens of one country can move freely to another country
- 3. Citizens can live and work in any other EU nation
- 4. Citizens can vote in local elections even if they aren't citizens of the country

# Euro

- The **euro** is the currency of MOST EU countries.
- Member countries can choose to give up their own currency and exchange them for euros.
  - French francs and German marks have been replaced by the euro
- Common currency makes trade between the countries much easier and less expensive
- 12 countries in the EU do not use the euro
  - United Kingdom has decided to continue to use the British pound

# Euro Coins and Bills



# There are 27 members of the EU





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# European Union Members

<b>Austria</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Latvia</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>Slovakia</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Greece</b>	<b>Malta</b>	<b>Spain</b>
<b>Czech</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>Sweden</b>
<b>Republic</b>	<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Poland</b>	<b>United</b>
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>Italy</b>	<b>Portugal</b>	<b>Kingdom</b>
<b>Estonia</b>			

# Non-Members

- There are several countries that are NOT EU members, including Turkey, Switzerland, Iceland, & Russia
  - **WHY?**
  - Turkey's culture (98% Muslim), stability, and location to the Middle East causes some EU members to not want Turkey to join
  - Switzerland has one of the world's highest standards of living and prefers its economy to not be regulated under the EU
  - The EU has strict limits on the fishing industry, and Iceland does not want the EU's control on its most important economic activity
  - Russia prefers to be an independent world leader over its resources and economy





# Why Should A Country Join the EU?

# Political Cartoon

- **Directions:** Create a political cartoon on page 57 of your spiral that shows the relationship between a non-EU member and the other countries of the European Union.
- The cartoon should personify one of the non-EU members below:
  - Turkey
  - Russia
  - Iceland
  - Switzerland

