

# 13. Passport to Europe

*Paired Units: History: 11. Ireland and the EU*

Go on a virtual tour of six capital cities of the EU. Explore major landmarks and facts such as language and currency. The cities covered in the unit are Brussels, Warsaw, Stockholm, Lisbon, Tallinn and Bucharest. Examine what a capital city is, and how many of the EU capitals are connected by train.

## Notes

There may be children in the class who come from or have spent time in one of the cities covered in this unit, or in another EU capital. Meeting and discussing diverse cultural backgrounds can be valuable to all children, so encourage them to share customs and experiences in a safe and open environment.

Depending on what stage of the Brexit process is happening, there is an opportunity to tie the unit into a modern political affair, and to highlight that the European Union is distinct from Europe, as it is a political agreement rather than a geographical description.

If bringing in/preparing food, check allergies and other dietary considerations.

When examining maps, refer to Skills: Mapwork on p. 50 of the Student Book. When carrying out research, refer to Skills: Research on p. 118 of the Student Book.

## Curriculum Information

### Geography

Strand and Strand Unit	Skills
<p><b>Human environments: County, regional and national centres</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>become familiar with the names, locations and some well-known features of the capital cities of the European Union</li> </ul>	<p><b>A sense of place and space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A sense of place</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A sense of space</li> </ul> <p><b>Maps, globes and graphical skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Using pictures, maps and models</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maps and globes</li> </ul> <p><b>Geographical investigation skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Questioning</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Predicting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Investigating and experimenting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Estimating and measuring</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Analysing</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recording and communicating</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating</li> </ul>

### Resources

- Explorers Geography & Science 5th Class Digital: 13. Passport to Europe: Unit Stimulus
- Digital maps
- Explorers Geography & Science 5th Class Student Book: 13. Passport to Europe pp. 74–79
- Maps of Europe

### Useful Links

Read a brief history of the EU:

[europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history\\_en](http://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history_en)

Find fast facts for each of the EU nations:

[europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries/member-countries\\_en](http://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries/member-countries_en)

Find out more about the Schengen area:

[ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/schengen\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/schengen_en)

Get more information on Interrail passes:

[www.interrail.eu/en/interrail-passes/what-is-interrail](http://www.interrail.eu/en/interrail-passes/what-is-interrail)

Visit the XE website, which has a useful currency converter:

[www.xe.com/currencyconverter/](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/)

### Keywords

European Union, euro, currency, capital city, Brussels, Warsaw, Stockholm, border, passport, Lisbon, Tallinn, Bucharest

### Lesson Suggestions

- Use the digital Unit Stimulus to explore the map of countries in the European Union. The landmark on Ireland is the Spire of Dublin. Italy is famous for pizza. Other countries that appear include: Spain, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, Cyprus and Bulgaria.
- Use the digital map of Europe to locate the countries featured in the unit.
- Ask children to choose one of the capital cities featured in the unit and find out what language or languages are spoken there. Ask them to research how to say 'hello', 'goodbye', and 'my name is...' in their chosen language.
- The euro is not used in Warsaw, Stockholm and Bucharest. Find out the exchange rate for one or more of the currencies used in these cities (see 'Useful Links'). Ask children for the approximate prices for some common items, such as a chocolate bar or a sports drink. Help them convert the prices into each city's currency.

### Lesson Suggestions

- Research photographs or recipes for any of the ‘tasty treats’ featured in the city ‘Fast Fact’ boxes. If cooking facilities are available, prepare one or more of the recipes. Some foods (such as Belgian-style waffles, Swedish meatballs, or Portuguese custard tarts) might be sold locally for children to try.
- Ask the children to choose one of the city flags and research it. Can they find out what the different colours or symbols represent?
- Look at the fast facts about the EU nations provided in the ‘Useful Links’ section. Create a fact file for two EU nations that are not featured in the unit.
- Choose one of the capital cities featured in the unit. Compile a list of five questions about your chosen city. Then, research the answers to them. Children can share their answers with each other, swapping facts and information.
- Research and print out a city centre map for one of the featured cities. Plan a route to visit some of the main attractions in the city.
- Use Google Maps to find each of the capital cities featured in the unit. Zoom out to see their position in Europe in relation to Ireland. Choose one capital city and estimate how long a flight from Ireland to the city might take. Check the answer using Google Maps. Use what you’ve learned to try and make your estimation for the next city more accurate. Keep going until all the capital cities have been estimated.
- As per the ‘Working as a Geographer: Investigating and Experimenting’ activity on p. 79 of the Student Book, have each child choose another EU capital city and write an entry for it, in the style of the entries in the unit.
- As per the ‘Working as a Geographer: Using Pictures, Maps and Models’ activity on p. 79 of the Student Book, choose 10 EU capital cities and plan a route to visit them all.

### Linkage and Integration

**Geography:** *Human environments: People and other lands.*

**History:** *Explorers History 5th Class: 11. Ireland and the EU pp. 60–63. Also linked to Continuity and change over time: Transport and Barter, trade and money.*

**SPHE:** *Myself and the wider world: Developing citizenship.*

**Language:** Explore the theme of *Siopadóireacht* (when discussing foreign currencies).

**Mathematics:** Work with converting currencies linked to *Number: Operations and Decimals and percentages.*

**Language:** Explore the theme of *Siopadóireacht* (when discussing foreign currencies).

### Home/Parental Involvement

Parents, guardians or family members may have visited some of the capital cities covered in the unit and may be able to share photographs and memories.