

THE FLAG OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

LESSON PLAN

Topic: United Under a Starry Sky – about the EU Flag.

Overview

The lesson is dedicated to the youngest students of our target group and was devised in a way to enable the children to remember what the EU flag looks like, to consider the meaning of national symbols and to understand the necessity to obey certain rules while using symbols such as flags. This will be achieved by doing a small craft project, cooperating in a group and interacting with the teacher.

Aims

The students will:

- Find out what the EU flag looks like and what other patterns were historically taken into consideration
- Discuss the meaning of national symbols and how they should be treated
- Think about the meaning of different elements constituting the flags of their own country and of the European Union
- Learn about the rules of using symbols such as flags – the necessity to comply with the rules, prohibition to add or modify elements etc.

Materials

- Overhead projector, screen
- Laptop or computer with internet access
- Sets presenting the size of the flag and proportions of its elements (attachment 1) – one set per group
- Blue A3 cards (construction paper) – one per group
- Scissors, construction glue – for each group
- A variety of materials to make stars (different material for each group), such as: yellow tissue-paper, yellow yarn, yellow beads, yellow felt, tiny yellow noodles etc.

Directions

Step 1: INTRODUCTION

Students sit in a circle on the floor – a conversation about flags:

- what is a flag and why do people need one?
- when are national flags usually displayed?
- when did you last see your national flag on a building, in a house window etc. What was the occasion?

- what can you usually see on a flag?
- can you describe your country's flag?
- what do the colours on your country's flag mean?
- do you know flags of any other countries? Which ones?
- how should we treat a flag of another country? What should we never do?

Step 2: PRESENTATION

- a. A chat about a flag as a national symbol and the rules to use it, make it, draw it etc. (emphasize the fact that the what the flag looks like is subject to strict regulations and nothing can be altered or added – e.g. it is not allowed to add names on the flags!)
- b. What do we know about the EU flag? What does it consist of? – allow students' answers
- c. This was not the only suggestion what such a flag should look like – show the children some earlier patterns https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5gRL_mW9nk (from 1:20 to 5:01)
Which pattern did you like best?
- d. Talk about the flag that is now EU's official symbol, drawing the kids' attention to:
 - the blue background
 - twelve golden stars arranged in a circle
 - circle as the number symbolizing perfection, harmony
 - twelve as a symbolic number in our culture (considered a number of perfection and completeness) 12 months, 12 hours, many religious references to number 12)
 - emphasize the importance of being careful and paying attention to details while planning the outline of the stars on the flag, their symmetry, regularity etc.

STEP 3: GROUPWORK

- a. Divide the class into groups of no more than four
- b. Each group gets a blue A3 construction paper sheet, construction glue, scissors and a flag planning set (attachment 1)
- c. Representatives of each group come to the front of the classroom and choose materials to make stars from
- d. The group cooperates to recreate the star pattern on the blue paper, using the materials they have chosen.

Step 4: SUMMING UP

- a. Each group present the result of their work and explain how they managed to get the pattern right
- b. All the flags are displayed in the classroom or school corridor.

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