

MEN WITH A VISION – FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

LESSON PLAN

Topic: Men with a Vision – Founding Fathers of the European Union

Overview

The topic of EU's historical background is not an easy one to convey to younger pupils – a number of dates, facts and difficult names make it a hard task for teachers and something the children are not particularly thrilled to study.

This lesson plan is devised as a way to make the children acquainted with the leading figures of the European integration in a fun way, by means of an online presentation, a card game to consolidate the information presented in the introduction and an art class decoration project to evaluate and check if the pupils managed to remember the basic facts, such as names, faces and nationalities of the EU's Founding Fathers.

Objective

Students will:

- find out how important it was to secure a system to prevent wars in Europe after WWII,
- learn that each grand idea, such as the EU, had people behind it whose vision made it come to life,
- meet twelve people who dedicated their lives to different aspects of European integration,
- review some basic terms connected with the integration process, such as the common market, the European Steel and Coal Community, treaty, declaration, Council of Europe, the European Commission etc.,
- revise information on some of European countries and flags.
- use the materials provided to compile classroom decoration to remind them of the names and faces of the people behind the European Union.

Materials

- an overhead projector,
- laptop or computer with the internet access,
 - tablets or smartphones for the students to use, with the internet access,
 - several sets of *Founding Fathers* cards (attachment 1) (one set per group of 3-5 pupils),
 - a set of *Founding Fathers* classroom decoration materials (attachment 2),
- cardboard, glue etc.

Directions

Step 1 – INTRODUCTION

- a. Talk to the students about the consequences of World War II – both physical (towns and cities in

ruins, millions of people killed etc.) and emotional (feeling of loss, despair, lost homes, no sense of security, families torn apart etc.) and how people, after the war was over, wanted to take steps that would prevent European nations from going to war against one another in the future.

b. Ask the students what they think could be a good way to secure peace.

Step 2 – PRESENTATION

a. Tell the students that you will now make them meet a group of twelve people who devoted many years of their lives to working towards European integration, so as to make sure that nations of Europe would cooperate in the future rather than wage war on one another.

b. Go to https://quizlet.com/_4hzipvf and when you open the „Founding Fathers” set, go to „Flashcards” section. It will show a picture of a politician and a very short description, with information such as nationality, position or a role in the integration process. Watch out! It is very basic, as it is designed for pupils of about 10 to 11 or 12. When you click the flashcard, it will flip and reveal the name. Have the children repeat the names of the Founding Fathers.

c. After you present the twelve people, you can go to the „options” section and change the mode – now the names will appear first and you can have the children try to remember the name and some facts about the person. When you click the flashcard, the picture and description will appear.

d. If you have planned a longer lesson (e.g. 90 minutes), you can encourage your students to use their tablets or smartphones to go to the Quizlet set (link above) and try to remember as much as possible by playing the „Match” game for a few times.

Step 3 – CONSOLIDATION

a. Divide the class into groups of 3-5 students and give out the card sets – one set per group. Explain that now each group is going to play a card game based on the rules of an old game called in English „Old Maid”.

b. The aim of the game is to get rid of all the cards by finding pairs (here: two halves of a *Founding Father” presentation card*) – the person who is left with the „Old Maid” card (here represented by the „Together since 1957” sign) is the loser and the one who got rid of his or her cards first is the winner.

c. If the children are not familiar with the game, here is a short presentation which the teacher may show before starting the activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M293tFOYsKk>

d. After finishing the game, the children should present their pairs to the rest of the group, summarising the information from the double card.

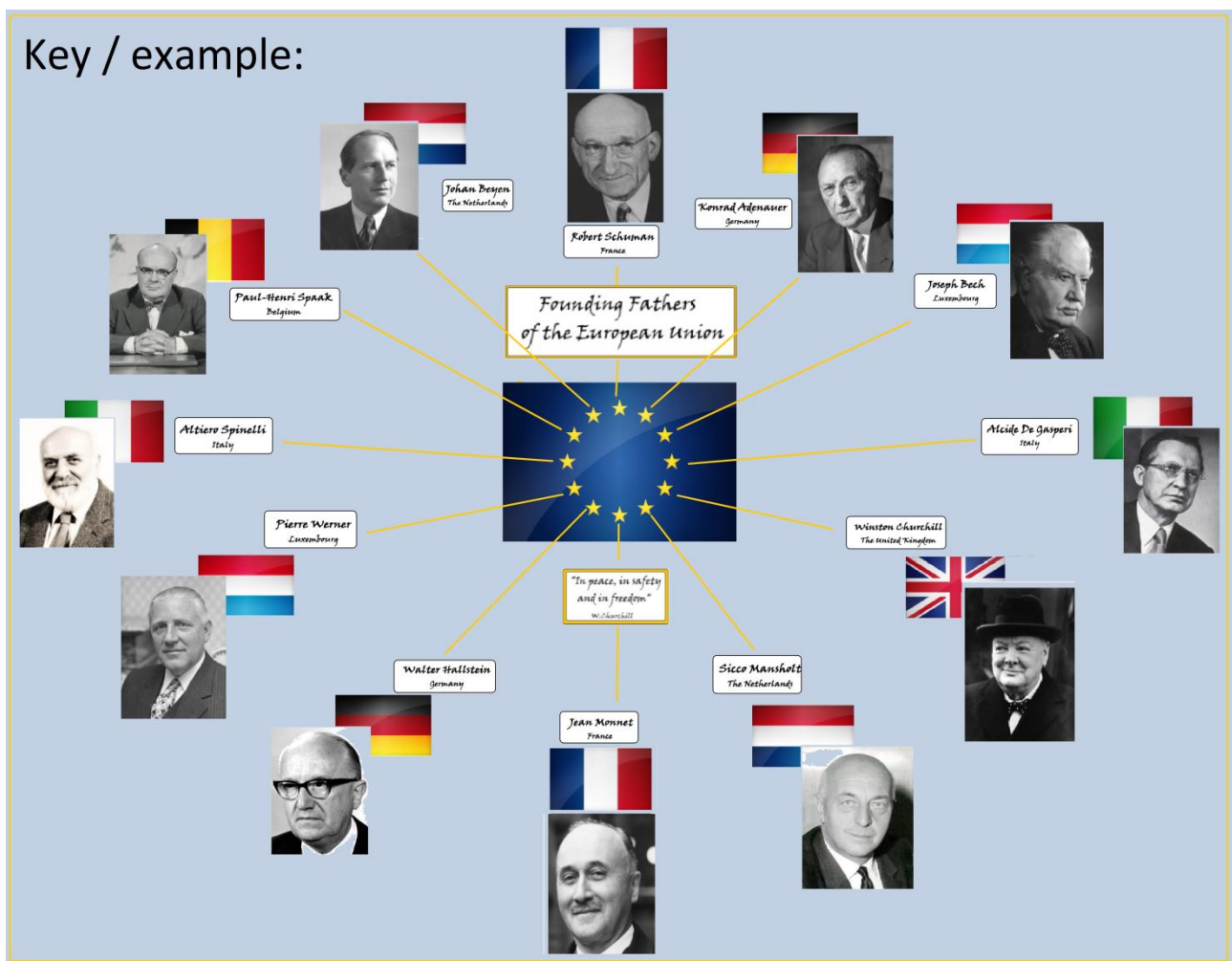
e. If time allows, you may encourage the kids to play the game for a few times so as to get familiarized with the names, photos and information.

Step 4 – EVALUATION

a. While the children play the card game, put the big EU flag onto a cardboard sheet (in the centre) and arrange different sections of the classroom decoration set in three places around the classroom: the photos of the Founding Fathers in one place, the cards with names and countries in another place and the country flags in the third place.

b. After the children finish playing the game, tell them that they are now going to show how much they remember about the Founding Fathers.

- c. One person from each team may approach the photo section and choose one photo. After the group agrees on the name of the person presented, another pupil goes to the name section and chooses a name card and yet another chooses an appropriate flag.
- d. The group then arranges the presentation of one of the Fathers on the cardboard sheet and asks the teacher to check. If all elements match, the group uses glue to stick the elements on the cardboard and can then proceed to choose another photo.
- e. The group which put the most presentations are the winners. Finally, the students can use their creativity to decorate the cardboard.
- f. The cardboard is then displayed in the classroom / hall etc.



g. If there is still some time left and the decoration is completed, we recommend playing the Founding Fathers Quizlet Live game.

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