

Partners Across Borders

Read how European Union members cooperate while remaining independent nations.

SS6E8.d "Describe the purpose of the European Union and the relationship between member nations."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two statements that explain the European Union's purpose. Circle two details that show how member nations work together while keeping their own governments.

How EU Nations Work Together

- ① The European Union, or EU, is a group of 27 European nations that choose to work together. It grew from efforts after World War II to make another war less likely by linking countries through cooperation. Today, the EU aims to support peace, economic cooperation, and shared solutions to problems that cross borders. Its members can work together on issues such as trade, pollution, consumer safety, and crime. The EU does not include every country in Europe, and membership is voluntary.
- ② Member nations remain independent countries with their own governments, languages, and many national laws. At the same time, they send representatives to EU institutions, where members discuss and help make decisions for the whole union. Some EU rules apply across member nations, which can make trade and travel easier. For example, goods can move more freely across many internal borders. People who are EU citizens may live, work, or study in another member nation, although rules and limits can apply.
- ③ Working together does not mean that all members make every choice in the same way. EU nations agree on some shared policies, but national governments still control many areas, including education and most health care. They must follow EU agreements and laws in areas where the union has authority. Members also negotiate, vote, and sometimes disagree before decisions are made. Not every member uses the euro currency or belongs to the passport-free Schengen Area. These differences show that member nations are partners with shared responsibilities, not one single country.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two purposes of the European Union named in the passage?

2 How can an EU member nation be independent and still work with other members?

3 What are two ways EU cooperation can make life easier for people or businesses in member nations?

4 Why do differences in use of the euro and membership in the Schengen Area matter?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that Lunora is an EU member nation. Write four sentences explaining how Lunora could work with other EU nations to address plastic pollution that crosses borders, while still making one decision through its own national government.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two statements that explain the European Union's purpose. Circle two details that show how member nations work together while keeping their own governments. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two purposes of the European Union named in the passage?	The EU aims to support peace, economic cooperation, and shared solutions to problems that cross borders. Any two are acceptable.
2	How can an EU member nation be independent and still work with other members?	It keeps its own government, language, and many national laws, but sends representatives to EU institutions and follows EU agreements and laws where the EU has authority.
3	What are two ways EU cooperation can make life easier for people or businesses in member nations?	Goods can move more freely across many internal borders. EU citizens may live, work, or study in another member nation, with rules and limits.
4	Why do differences in use of the euro and membership in the Schengen Area matter?	They show that EU members do not make every choice the same way. They are independent partner nations, not one single country.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lunora works with other EU nations to reduce plastic pollution that crosses borders. This shared action supports the EU purpose of solving problems together. Lunora sends representatives to discuss common rules for cutting plastic waste. Its national government still decides how its schools teach students about recycling.

Accept responses that describe cooperation with other EU members on a cross-border problem and accurately identify a purpose of the EU. The response must also show that Lunora retains a national decision in an area such as education or health care.