

Assembly notes on Europe

Intro -- Why are we talking about Europe this week?

Slide two -- What is this picture about?

- It shows the geographical continent of Europe which stretches all the way from the Arctic in the north to the Mediterranean Sea in the south, and from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Ural Mountains (in Russia) in the east.
- It is the 6th largest continent in the world.

Slide three -- Discuss how to untangle all the different ideas of Europe

- Ask for volunteers to help sort it out
- Throughout history, the understanding and shape of Europe changed multiple times due to diverse desires to dominate over its space.
- It is an idea with many different possibilities. For example, it could be geographical, political or cultural or a combination of all three.

Slide four -- Some key facts about Europe

Slide five -- What is this picture about?

- This takes us back to the very beginning of European art and culture. It is an old cave painting in France. It is probably about 20,000 years old.
- Lascaux is famous for its Palaeolithic cave paintings, found in a complex of caves in the Dordogne region of southwestern France. The paintings consist primarily of large animals, once native to the region.

Slide six -- This video is an amazing watching experience. Using moving graphics and music, it shows the borders and populations of each country in Europe, for every year since 400 BC. (11:44).

Slide seven -- Why was the European Union founded?

- The Second World War ended in 1945. It had been a time of terrible destruction and killing and it had started in Europe. How could the leaders of European countries stop such dreadful things from ever happening again? They needed a really good plan that had never been tried before.
- A Frenchman called Jean Monnet came up with a very daring new idea that the governments of France and Germany should no longer run their own coal and steel industries. Instead, these industries should be organised by people from all countries involved in World War II.

Slide eight -- Hillary Clinton was talking about how hard it is to get different people in different countries to team up and agree things together.