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## United in diversity — The European Union



In the last century, many European countries fought each other in two world wars and millions of people died. Europe's economy was badly damaged and the map of Europe had to be redrawn as the borders of some countries changed.

Two Frenchmen, Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet, put forward the idea that the two previous enemies, France and Germany, should in future work together in the production of coal and steel instead of using it to make weapons to fight each other.

So, on 9 May 1950, Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, proposed setting up a club called the "European Coal and Steel Community". France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Luxembourg were the first countries to join this club which was formed in 1952.

It worked so well that, in 1957, these six countries decided to start another club - the "European Economic Community" which went on to become the "European Union", aimed at making laws and policies together to improve trade and support farmers. This method of cooperation was later extended to other areas where the club members felt that more could be achieved by working together than alone.

Each member country has a voice in this process and most of the decisions are made by both government ministers and the men and women elected by the people to sit in the European Parliament.

The work of the club members was so successful that more and more countries in Europe wanted to join up. Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom decided to join the Communities in 1973. In 1981 Greece became a member followed by Spain and Portugal in 1986. Austria, Finland and Sweden joined in 1995 and, in 2004, 10 countries joined at



the same time - the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta. In 2007 Bulgaria and Romania were welcomed into the European Union, which now has 27 member states, and still more are interested in joining.

The European Union is one big market place for all member states, based on four freedoms:

**Free movement of people** allowing us to travel but also live, study or work abroad;

**Free movement of goods** allowing us to buy and sell products from/to each other;

**Free movement of services** allowing us to share the skills and expertise we need from each other;

**Free movement of capital** allowing us to transfer or invest our money to/in other member states.

This is all very normal and taken for granted by young people who have never known anything different. Many adults also do not know that this freedom is a result of the work of the growing number of club members for nearly 60 years, and means that many more things besides travelling have become easier through membership of the European Union.

But what do we know about the member states of the European Union? At first glance our booklet seems to show them in a random order, but if you look at the names in their own languages you will find that they are in fact arranged alphabetically. Hungary is known by another name in Hungarian and Germans call their country "Deutschland".

In the back of the booklet you will find stickers with coins, flags, buildings, etc. which you can either stick onto the empty fields inside of your passport or onto the map.

Let's take a tour of Europe and see what else you can find out about our neighbouring countries and let's not forget to have lots of fun.



# Belgium



België • Belgique •  
Belgien



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Capital: Brussels

Surface area: 30 528 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 10.5 million

Languages: Dutch, French and German

National Day: 21 July

Ascension of King Leopold I  
to the throne (1831)



Hallo!  
Salut!



**The Atomium:** Built in 1958, the 102-metre high monument represents a magnified iron crystal made of nine atoms. Recently renovated and opened to the public, the Atomium puts on interesting exhibitions, especially for children. Going up in the lift gives you some of the best views of Brussels.



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### **The Manneken Pis:**

Sculpted in 1619, this statue of a little man weeing into a fountain has become one of Belgium's best-known monuments. He even has an extensive wardrobe of different costumes likely to make any woman jealous!

**Food:** Belgium is famous for its moules-frites (mussels and chips), as well as its chocolate!

**Famous Belgians:** Magritte (artist), Eddy Merckx (cyclist), Hergé (creator of Tintin) and the Smurfs!

**Find Out:** How many costumes does the Manneken Pis have to choose from?



# Bulgaria

България



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Capital: Sofia

Surface area: 110 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 7.7 million

€1 = BGN 1.95580

Language: Bulgarian

National Day: 3 March

Anniversary of liberation from  
the Ottoman Empire (1878)



animaparc

## Alexander Nevski

**Cathedral:** This cathedral in Sofia is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world. It was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century to honour the soldiers who died in the 1877 war with Turkey.



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## Rila National Park:

This is the biggest national park in Bulgaria and is situated about 100 km south of Sofia. It is known for its numerous lakes and rivers. Many endangered wild animals, such as

bears and wild swans, live here. The name Rila comes from the word "Roula" meaning lots of water.

**Food:** Banitza (cheese pastry), shopska salata (a white cheese, tomato and cucumber salad) and bob chorba (a bean and chilli soup).

**Famous Bulgarians:** Julia Kristeva (philosopher), Christo Javacheff (artist), Dimitar Berbatov (football player).

**Find Out:** Which mountain range runs through the centre of Bulgaria?



# Czech Republic

Česká Republika



Capital: Prague

Surface area: 79 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 10.3 million

Language: Czech

National Day: 28 October

Commemorates becoming  
an independent state after World War I



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€1 = CZK 27.48

Ahoj!

### St. Vitus Cathedral:

This Gothic cathedral is the most well known church in the Czech Republic and the tallest church in Prague. It is not only a church but also the final resting place of a number of Czech kings.



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### St. Charles Bridge:

It is named after King Charles IV. When it was constructed at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, this medieval bridge was the only way

to cross the River Vltava (Moldau) in Prague.

Modern test methods have found organic matter in the mortar, so the legend that eggs were used to strengthen it could actually be true.

**Food:** Knedlíky (potato or bread dumplings) and bramboráky (potato pancakes).

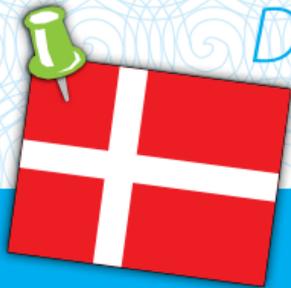
**Famous Czechs:** Alfons Mucha (artist), Antonín Dvořák (composer) and Milan Kundera (writer).

**Find Out:** Which one of these words — Internet, robot or hotel — is of Czech origin?



# Denmark

Danmark



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Capital: Copenhagen

Surface area: 43 094 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 5.4 million

€1 = DKK 7.4522

Language: Danish

National Day: 5 June

Denmark became a  
constitutional monarchy (1849)

Hej



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 **Nyhavn:** "New Port" was built by King Christian V in the 1670s and is thus the oldest part of Copenhagen harbour. The street is lined with many small restaurants facing onto a picturesque harbour. In warmer weather people fill every available table in the outdoors seating areas. Today the canal is packed with old wooden ships from when Nyhavn was the main centre of all sea trade from Copenhagen.

### **The Little Mermaid:**

This mermaid, sitting on a rock in Langelinie in Copenhagen harbour, owes her fame to the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale by the same name. There is some uncertainty as to who the model was for the sculpture – the ballet dancer Ellen Price or the wife of the sculptor Edvard Eriksen.



**Food:** Frikadeller (meatballs) are very popular as well as smørrebrød (open sandwiches). Classics include buttered rye bread with fish or matured cheese with meat-jelly and rum.

**Famous Danes:** Hans Christian Andersen (author), Søren Kierkegaard (philosopher), Viggo Mortensen (actor).

**Find Out:** Can you name three Hans Christian Andersen fairytales?



# Germany

Deutschland



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Capital: Berlin

Surface area: 356 854 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 82.5 million

Language: German

National Day: 3 October

Commemorates the re-unification  
of Germany (1990)

Guten  
Tag



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### **The Brandenburg Gate:**

The former city gate, which was built between 1788 and 1791 by Emperor Friedrich Wilhelm II as a symbol of peace, is one of the main symbols of Berlin. It was closed when the Berlin Wall was

erected in 1961, but after the German people tore down the wall in 1989, it became a symbol of the freedom and unity of the City of Berlin.

### **The Reichstag:**



The Reichstag was almost destroyed by fire in 1933 and damaged during World War II. The building has since been renovated and became the German House of Parliament in 1992.



**Food:** Bratwurst (sausage) is still eaten a lot and all kinds of potato dishes are also popular. Sauerkraut (cabbage in vinegar brine) no longer features prominently in German cuisine.

**Famous Germans:** Goethe (writer), Michael Schumacher (racing driver), Melitta Bentz (inventor of coffee filter).

**Find Out:** *Where in Germany was the composer Ludwig Van Beethoven born?*



# Estonia

Eesti



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Capital: Tallinn

Surface area: 45 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 1.3 million

€1 = EEK 15.6466

Language: Estonian

National Day: 24 February

Commemorates independence  
from Russia (1918)

Tere



**The Town Hall:** It is thought to date back to the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century and its Gothic architecture is well preserved. It is currently open to the public and still used for receptions.



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**The Pharmacy  
of Tallinn:**

Situated on the Town Hall Square in Tallinn, the Pharmacy dates back to 1422 and is the oldest pharmacy in Europe which is still in use, although medieval medicines like bat powder and snakeskin are no longer sold!

**Food:** Classic Estonian dishes include verivorst (blood sausage), leib (black bread) and kartulid (potatoes).

**Famous Estonians:** Jaan Kross (author), Carmen Kass (model) and Markko Märtin (racing driver).

**Find Out:** Estonia has a coastline on which large body of water?



# Ireland

Éire



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Capital: Dublin

Surface area: 70 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 4.2 million

Languages: English and Irish

National Day: 17 March

Saint Patrick's Day



Dia Dhuit

**Dublin Castle:** Once the site of a Viking Fortress, this historical landmark has been used for many different purposes. It was once a Court of Justice and the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed there in 1921. Today it is used for state visits and part of it is open to the public.



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### **Irish High Cross:**

High crosses have existed in Ireland since the 7<sup>th</sup> Century and are also called Celtic crosses. These standing stone crosses, incorporating a circle, were used in religious ceremonies but also to mark borders.

**Food:** Ireland is home to Irish stew and coddle (a vegetable stew with sausages and bacon).

**Famous Irishmen:** James Joyce (author), Bono and Bob Geldof (musicians), Maureen O'Hara (actress), Grace O'Malley (pirate).

**Find Out:** What well-known book did Bram Stoker write and which other European country was the main character from?



# Greece

Ελλάδα



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Capital: Athens

Surface area: 131 957 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 11.1 million

Language: Greek

National Day: 25 March

Proclamation of the war of independence  
from the Ottoman Empire (1821)



Yia'sou



**The Parthenon:** This temple, dedicated to the Greek Goddess Athena, was built in the 5th Century BC on the Acropolis of Athens, which was used both as a church and marketplace. It is regarded as an enduring symbol of ancient Greece and of Athenian democracy.



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### **Athos:**

Athos is the name of a beautiful peninsula as well as a Greek holy mountain (2 033 metres high). Women are not allowed on the island, not even female animals other than cats.

**Food:** Moussaka (eggplant casserole), keftedes (lamb and mint meatballs), baklava (a sweet pastry dessert).

**Famous Greeks:** Plato (philosopher), Aristotle Onassis (shipping magnate), Alexander the Great (Macedonian King and conqueror), Maria Callas (opera diva).

**Find Out:** Name the main port of Athens.



# Spain

España



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Capital: Madrid

Surface area: 504 782 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 45.2 million

Languages: Spanish, Catalan, Basque and Galician

National Day: 12 October

Commemorates the sighting of land  
by Christopher Columbus (1492)



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### The Sagrada Familia:

Designed by Gaudi, Barcelona's most famous architect, this cathedral was unfinished at the time of his death in 1926 and is still under construction today. It is an excellent example of Art Nouveau architecture.

**El Escorial:** At one time a monastery and royal palace, the Escorial is located about 45 km from the centre of Madrid. It is now a museum and art gallery.



**Food:** Spanish food includes paella (chicken, seafood and rice), tortilla (potato omelette) and chorizo (spicy sausage).

**Famous Spanish people:** Pablo Picasso (artist), Penelope Cruz (actress), Raúl González (football player).

**Find Out:** Name the three ships of Christopher Columbus.



# France



France



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Capital: Paris

Surface area: 550 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 64.5 million

Language: French

National Day: 14 July

Commemorates the storming  
of the Bastille (1789)



Bonjour

**The Eiffel Tower:** Named after its architect Gustave Eiffel and built for the universal exhibition in 1889, it is the most frequently visited monument in the world. The tower weighs 7 300 tons and is the tallest structure in Paris (324 m).



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**Notre Dame:**

The construction of this Gothic cathedral on the River Seine in Paris began in 1163. It gradually fell into a state of disrepair until regaining fame through Victor Hugo's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame". The success of the book launched a campaign to restore the cathedral to its former glory in 1845.

**Food:** Bouillabaisse (fish stew), the French also love their cheese and are the proud inventors of the baguette.

**Famous French:** Thierry Henry (football player), Pierre-Auguste Renoir (painter), Juliette Binoche (actress).

**Find Out:** What is Jean Monnet famous for?



# Italy



Italia



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Capital: Rome

Surface area: 301 263 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 59.3 million

Language: Italian

National Day: 2 June

Anniversary of the Republic (1946)

Ciao



**The Colosseum:** This great amphitheatre of antiquity is an architectural and engineering wonder. It could seat 50 000 people who came to see gladiators and games in Roman imperial times. Though the amphitheatre has not been used for entertainment since the early Middle Ages, it is a major tourist attraction and a symbol of ancient Rome.



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**Pompeii:** This city was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, which covered the city and its people in volcanic ash until its discovery in 1748. Excavators found human remains, perfectly preserved in volcanic ash, as well as a wealth of art, jewellery, etc.

**Food:** Italy is most famous for its pasta and pizzas. Italians are also very fond of gelato (ice-cream)!

**Famous Italians:** Leonardo da Vinci (painter, sculptor, inventor), Marco Polo (who travelled to China), Enzo Ferrari (sports car manufacturer), Maria Montessori (educator).

**Find Out:** According to Roman mythology who are the founders of Rome?



# Cyprus

Κύπρος



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Capital: Nicosia

Surface area: 9 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 0.8 million

Language: Greek

National Day: 1 October

Independence Day to mark independence  
from the British Empire



Yia'sou



## The Archbishop's

### Palace:

Archbishop Makarios III was the first president of Cyprus (1960-1977). His palace in Nicosia is open to the public and contains a Byzantine museum with a large collection of religious icons.



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### Petra tou Romiou:

Known in English as the Rock of Aphrodite, this spot has amazing views of the sea and is the birthplace of the Greek goddess Aphrodite. Legend has it that the rock is where she rose out of the swell of the sea.

**Food:** Meze (a series of appetisers and savouries) and fasolada (sailor's beans).

**Famous Cypriots:** Osman Túrkey (poet), Hüseyin Çağlayan (fashion designer), Zeno (philosopher).

**Find Out:** What was Aphrodite the goddess of?

# Latvia



Latvija



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Capital: Riga

Surface area: 65 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 2.3 million

€1 = LVL 0.6988

Language: Latvian

National Day: 18 November

Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia (1918)



Sveiki

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### The Doma Cathedral:

Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, this is thought to be the largest church in the Baltic States. One of its key attractions is its magnificent organ which dates back to 1844.

### The Historic Centre of Riga:



Riga's centre has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is renowned for its Art Nouveau architecture. This style of architecture is defined by flowing, curved designs often with flowers and birds.



**Food:** Latvians enjoy borscht (beetroot soup), rasols (potato salad) and pickled mushrooms.

**Famous Latvians:** Mikhail Baryshnikov (dancer and actor), Arvid von Blumenthal (who claimed to have been the real life inspiration behind Crocodile Dundee!).

**Find Out:** Which river flows through the capital Riga?



# Lithuania

Lietuva



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Capital: Vilnius

Surface area: 65 300 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 3.6 million

€1 = LTL 3.4528

Language: Lithuanian

National Day: 16 February

Commemorates independence from  
Russia (1917)

A cartoon fox character with orange fur, wearing a blue suit and a yellow star on its tail. It is standing with its hands on its hips and a small thought bubble above its head.

Labas

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### **Gediminas Monument:**

Legend has it that the Grand Duke Gediminas had a dream in which he saw an iron wolf standing where the castle is now, howling like a hundred wolves in unison. It was interpreted as God's will that he shall build a fortress there, which he did in 1230.

### **Trakai:**

There are about 200 lakes around the historic city of Trakai. Trakai Castle is built on an island in the largest lake, and this is where Lithuania's best known ruler, Grand Duke Vytautas the Great, was born.



**Food:** Lithuanians enjoy kibinai (similar to Cornish pasties), cepelinai (meat-filled dumplings) and sweet or savoury pancakes.

**Famous Lithuanians:** Salomėja Nėris (poet), Laurynas Gucevičius (architect), Aaron Klug (Nobel peace prize winner).

**Find Out:** In which year did Lithuania become a member state of the European Union?



# Luxembourg

## Luxembourg



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Capital: Luxembourg  
Surface area: 2 586 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 0.5 million

Languages: French, German and Letzeburgesch

National Day: 23 June  
Celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday



Moien

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### Staatssparkasse:

When in 2006 the State Savings Bank was 150 years old, a commemorative 10-euro coin was issued. Banking is very important to Luxembourg - 23,000 people work in more than 150 banks located here.

### Notre Dame Cathedral:



Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, was chosen in 1666 by the City of Luxembourg as "Patron Saint of the City". During times of the plague many people prayed to her for help and she has remained the object of fervent worship ever since.



**Food:** Bouneschlupp (a soup with French beans)  
Judd mat Gaardebounen (neck of pork with broad beans).

**Famous Luxembourgers:** Joseph Kutter (painter),  
Gabriel Lippmann (Nobel Prize Winner).

**Find Out: What did Gabriel Lippmann win the Nobel prize for?**

# Hungary

Magyarország



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Capital: Budapest

Surface area: 93 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 10.1 million

€1 = HUF 287.28

Language: Hungarian

National Day: 20 August

Feast of St Stephen, founder of the state



Szia

### The Hungarian Parliament:

It is situated in Budapest and is currently the third largest parliament in the world (after those of Romania and Argentina). It was inaugurated on the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the country in 1896. Over 40 million bricks, half a million precious stones and 40 kg of gold were used in its construction.



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**The Chain Bridge:** One of Budapest's most famous landmarks, this suspension bridge links the two cities of Buda and Pest which are divided by the River Danube. Built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, it transformed two provincial towns into a growing city.

**Food:** Typical Hungarian fare includes goulash (meat dish), halaszele (fish soup) and vanillas kifili (vanilla biscuit).

**Famous Hungarians:** Harry Houdini (magician), Ernő Rubik (inventor of the Rubik's cube), Peter Esterházy (author), László Bíró (inventor of the ballpoint pen).

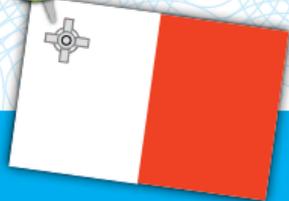
**Find Out:** Name two European Union member states that border Hungary.



# Malta



Malta



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Capital: Valletta

Surface area: 316 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 0.4 million

Languages: Maltese and English

National Day: 21 September

Malta's independence from Great Britain in 1964



Bongu

**Valletta:** Malta's capital city is named after the Grand Master of the Order of St. John, Jean Parisot de la Valette, who laid the foundation stone of this fortress city in 1566. It was finished in a remarkably short 15 years.



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### **St. Paul's Cathedral:**

Built on the site of a Norman church which was destroyed in an earthquake in 1693, St. Paul's cathedral, which crowns the city of Mdina, is topped

by a magnificent dome designed by the cathedral's architect Lorenzo Gafa.

**Food:** Traditional food includes *stuffat tal-fenek* (rabbit stew) and *pastizzi* (savoury pastries).

**Famous Maltese People:** Dun Karm Psaila (poet), Giuseppe Cali (painter), Agatha Barbara (first female president).

**Find Out:** Complete the title of the famous thriller novel 'The Maltese .....'



# Netherlands

Nederland



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Capital: Amsterdam

Surface area: 41 864 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 16.3 million

Language: Dutch

National Day: 30 April

Queen's Day (referring  
to Queen Juliana) (1938)

Hallo



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**Windmills:** The Netherlands is a land of windmills.

Although over 1 000 windmills in Holland are still standing today, many of them are no longer in use. Windmills were used primarily to drain water and to produce flour, paper, oil and saw timber. For five centuries, windmills were the primary source of power in Holland.

**Volendam:**

This historical village is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Holland today. It is famous for its fishing boats and the traditional Dutch costumes still worn by some of its residents today.



**Food:** Erwtensoen (pea soup with bacon), often eaten with rye bread.

**Famous Dutch People:** Rembrandt and Vincent Van Gogh (painters), Ruud van Nistelrooy (football player), Margaretha Zelle (Mata Hari, dancer and alleged spy in World War I).

**Find Out:** What is the Dutch word for clogs?



# Austria

# Österreich



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Capital: Vienna

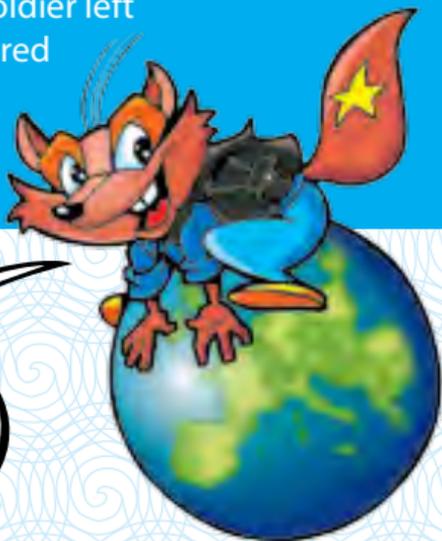
Surface area: 83 858 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 8.3 million

Language: German

National Day: 26 October

Day when the last allied soldier left  
and Austria formally declared  
its neutrality (1955)



Grüss  
Gott

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**Vienna Prater:** This is the oldest amusement park in the world and is situated in a large public park in the centre of Vienna. It houses over 250 rides, including the Riesenrad, which is a Ferris wheel. Originally a royal hunting park, it was opened by the Emperor Jozef II to the public in 1766.

### Hundertwasser

**House:** This is an apartment and office building designed by the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Unique features include uneven floors, a grass top roof and large trees growing from inside rooms.



**Food:** Austrians enjoy Wiener Schnitzel (breaded veal cutlet), Tafelspitz (boiled beef served with apple and horseradish sauce) and Apfelstrudel (apple and pastry dessert).

**Famous Austrians:** Gustav Klimt (Artist), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Composer), Sigmund Freud (psychiatrist).

**Find Out: What Austrian-born actor is now Governor of California?**



# Poland

Polska



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Capital: Warsaw

Surface area: 313 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 38.1 million

€1 = PLN 4.384

Language: Polish

National Day: 11 November

Anniversary of regaining independence  
from Austria and Germany  
after World War I (1918)

Cześć



## Józef Antoni

**Poniatowski:** He is Poland's most glamorous warrior. He joined the Polish army in 1789 at the request of his uncle who was the king of Poland. He fought with a Polish corps for Napoleon against Russia in 1812 and became a marshal of France. He covered the withdrawal of the French troops in Leipzig; then, cut off from aid, he plunged his horse into a river and drowned.



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## **Palace of Culture and Science:**

This is the tallest building in Poland (237 metres high including the spire). It is used for exhibitions and TV broadcasts. As the building was a gift to Warsaw from Stalin, Poles sometimes refer to it naughtily as "Stalin's Penis".

**Food:** Poland is home to zurek (sour rye meal mash); the national dish is bigos (cabbage and meat).

**Famous Poles:** Pope John Paul II, Fryderyk Chopin (composer), Marie Curie (physicist and chemist).

**Find Out:** What was Pope John Paul II's original name?



# Portugal

## Portugal



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Capital: Lisbon

Surface area: 92 072 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 10.6 million

Language: Portuguese

National Day: 10 June

Death of the celebrated poet Luis Vaz de Camões  
in 1580



Olá!

## Bridge across the

**Tagus river:** Also known as the “25<sup>th</sup> April bridge”, this suspension bridge is a spectacular sight from any direction. With an overall length of 2 278 metres (approx. 1.5 miles), it is longer than San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge, which it resembles. Its foundations, which go down 80 m (262 ft) below the riverbed to stand on basalt rock, also hold the world record.



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## The Belem Tower:

The tower, situated in the Belem district of Lisbon, was built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century to commemorate Vasco Da Gama’s expedition. The influence of Moorish art can be found in the arched windows and balconies.

**Food:** Fish such as bacalhau (salted cod) and sardines are central to Portuguese cooking, as is fish soup.

**Famous Portuguese:** Vasco Da Gama (Explorer) and Fernando Pessoa (poet), Nelly Furtado (Canadian singer of Portuguese ancestry).

**Find Out:** Which sea route did Vasco Da Gama’s expedition discover?



# Romania

România



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Capital: Bucharest

Surface area: 238 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 22.3 million

€1 = RON 4.243

Language: Romanian

National Day: 1 December

Anniversary of the Union of  
all Romanians into a single state (1918)



Bună

ROMANIA

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### **The Parliament Palace:**

It covers 330 000 square metres and is the largest administrative building in the world after the US Pentagon. It was built by the dictator Nicolae Ceaușescu, who treated his people very badly, it was therefore later renamed Parliament Palace and is now a symbol of Romanian democracy.

### **Bran Castle:**



Built in 1212, this castle on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia is commonly known as 'Dracula's Castle'. Legend has it that Vlad III the Impaler, the Romanian ruler on whom the novel Dracula is loosely based spent two days locked in its dungeon while the Turks controlled Transylvania.



**Food:** Mititei, the national dish, is a barbecued dish of small skinless sausages.

**Famous Romanians:** Eugene Ionesco (writer), George Enescu (composer), Queen Marie of Romania (Marie of Edinburgh, born 1875 in Kent).

**Find Out:** What was the original name for the Parliament Palace?



# Slovenia

Slovenija



Fix  
right coin  
here!

Capital: Ljubljana

Surface area: 20 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 2 million

Language: Slovenian

National Day: 25 June

Commemorates the proclamation  
of independence from Yugoslavia (1991)

Živijo



**Postojna Cave:** Formed by the Pivka River, the Postojna Cave is a 21-kilometre labyrinth of passages under the earth, filled with stalagmites, stalactites and other rock formations. Signatures on the walls (early graffiti) prove that people have been visiting the cave since the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.



*Fix  
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here!*



### **Tromostovje:**

The Triple Bridge is one of the symbols of Ljubljana. Since 1931 it has consisted of a stone arch bridge in the middle flanked by a pedestrian bridge on either side.

**Food:** Potica (nut roll with fillings), Štruklji (dumplings), Sarkelj (raisin bread) or fancoska solate (diced potatoes and vegetables in mayonnaise).

**Famous Slovenians:** Jožef Stefan (physicist), Franc Miklošič (linguist), Jože Plečnik (architect of the Triple bridge) and Britta Bilač (athlete – high jump).

**Find Out:** When did Slovenians start paying for things using Slovenian euro notes and coins?



# Slovakia

Slovensko



Capital: Bratislava

Surface area: 49 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 5.4 million

Language: Slovak

National Day: 1 September

Constitution Day (1992)



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here!



**St. Michael's Gate:** The gate is part of the town's remaining 13<sup>th</sup> Century Medieval fortifications. There were previously four gates. A statue of St Michael was placed on top of the tower in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.



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**Bratislava Castle:** This

main castle of Bratislava stands on the hill of the Little Carpathians. On a good day you can see as far as Austria and Hungary. The castle itself contains four towers, a courtyard and an 80m-deep well.

**Food:** Halušky (potato dumplings with sheep's milk cheese and smoked bacon); cabbage soup is traditional Christmas fare.

**Famous Slovaks:** Žigmund Pálffy (ice-hockey player), Andy Warhol (American artist of Slovak descent), Andrea Verešová (model).

**Find Out:** How do you say "Thank you" in Slovak?



# Finland

*Suomi • Finland*



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right coin  
here!

Capital: Helsinki

Surface area: 338 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 5.3 million

Languages: Finnish and Swedish

National Day: 6 December

Commemorates independence from Russia (1917)



Hei

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right picture  
here!



**Helsinki Cathedral:** It is situated on Senate Square in the heart of Helsinki and can be seen from miles out at sea. 350 000 people per year visit the cathedral, some of them to attend religious events, but most are tourists. The cathedral seats 1 300 people.

### **Finlandia Hall:**

Designed by Alvar Aalto using lots of marble, Finlandia Hall in Helsinki is a conference centre and concert venue. It is a good example of the Finnish penchant for buildings which are modern and functional. The main concert hall can house 1 700 people.



**Food:** Finland is famous for pickled herring, lihapullat (meatballs), gravlax (cold smoked salmon).

**Famous Finns:** Jean Sibelius (composer), Tove Jansson (author of The Moomins), Fredrik Idestam (founder of Nokia), Tarja Halonen (first female president).

**Find Out:** To which language is Finnish most closely related?



# Sweden

Sverige



Fix  
right coin  
here!

Capital: Stockholm

Surface area: 450 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 9.2 million

€1 = SEK 10.5341

Language: Swedish

National Day: 6 June

Day of Swedish flag,  
coronation of Gustav Vasa (1523)

Hej  
Hej



**Gamla Stan:** This is the old town of Stockholm. It dates back to the 13th Century and consists of cobbled medieval streets and alleyways. It is home to the Stockholm Cathedral and the Nobel Museum.



### **The Royal Palace**

**Stockholm:** The palace was completed in 1760 and is situated next to the Parliament. This is where the Swedish royal family works; they actually live in a smaller palace called Drottningholm Palace outside of Stockholm.

**Food:** Swedish food includes smörgåsbord (a buffet of savoury delicacies), köttbullar (meatballs), gravad lax (dill-cured salmon) and falukorv (sausage).

**Famous Swedes:** Alfred Nobel (chemist and founder of the Nobel Prize), Sven-Göran Eriksson (football coach) and ABBA (music).

**Find Out:** Name three multinational Swedish companies.



# United Kingdom



Fix  
right coin  
here!

Capital: London

Surface area: 242 500 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 60.6 million

€1 = GBP 0.91725

Language: English



Hello

Fix  
right picture  
here!



**Tower Bridge:** The combined bascule and suspension bridge spans the River Thames close to the Tower of London. The bridge was opened in 1894 by the Prince of Wales, who went on to become King Edward VII. In 1952 a crowded double-decker bus jumped over the gap when the bridge started to open while it was halfway across.

**Big Ben:** Inside one of the most famous clock-towers in the world, Big Ben - the hour bell itself - is named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the politician who commissioned it. It has become an international symbol of the United Kingdom and more specifically of London.



**Food:** British food includes bacon and eggs, fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and bangers and mash.

**Famous British people:** David Beckham (football player), Paul McCartney (musician) and William Shakespeare (playwright and poet).

**Find Out:** Can you name two of Shakespeare's plays?



The United Kingdom is made up of four parts sometimes known as the "home nations": England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which have differences as well as things in common. For example, they all use the same money, called "pounds sterling", though some of the coins and notes look different in the different countries. The flag of the United Kingdom is called the "Union Flag" or the "Union Jack", but England, Scotland, and Wales also have their own flags.

## England



**Main cities:** London, Birmingham, Liverpool,  
Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester

**Surface area:** 130 395 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 50.7 million

**Languages:** English and Cornish

**National Day:** 23 April - St. George's Day



## Broadway Tower:

Built on an ancient beacon site to resemble a mock castle, it is one of England's outstanding viewpoints. At 312 m above sea level, it is the second highest point on the Cotswold Ridge

from where it is possible to see as many as thirteen counties on a clear day.

**Food:** Steak and kidney pie, cornish pasties, Yorkshire pudding and lamb chops.

**Famous English people:** Isaac Newton (mathematician and scientist), J.K. Rowling (author), Norman Foster (architect).

**Find Out:** Who is the main character of J.K. Rowling's books?



# Scotland



**Main cities:** Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen,  
Dundee, Inverness

**Surface area:** 78 782 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 5.12 million

**Languages:** English, Gaelic and Scots

**National Day:** 30 November  
St. Andrew's Day



## Edinburgh Castle:

This castle sits on a lump of volcanic rock and dominates the city of Edinburgh. The oldest part of the castle still standing today is 900 years old.

The castle was last taken by force in 1573 following two years of siege.

**Food:** Haggis (a spicy meat pudding), cock-a-leekie soup and crannachan (raspberries, oatmeal, and cream).

**Famous Scots:** Sean Connery (actor), Robert Burns (songwriter and poet), Mary Queen of Scots.

**Find Out:** What famous spy did Sean Connery play in films?



Edinburgh

# Wales

Cymru



**Main cities:** Cardiff, Swansea

**Surface Area:** 20 779 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 2.96 million

**Languages:** Welsh and English

**Public Holidays:** Wales does not have its own public holiday but celebrates its national day on 1 March (St. David's Day); 25 January is St. Dwynwen's Day (the Welsh saint of love)

The Welsh flag is known as 'Y Ddraig Goch', Welsh for the red dragon.





## Snowdon/ Eryri:

Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales, as well as the highest mountain range south of the Scottish Highlands. It is located in Snowdonia

National Park and is 1 085 m high – the same height as Table Mountain in South Africa.

**Food:** Laverbread (made from seaweed); bara brith (fruit bread); cawl cennin (leek soup) and Welsh cakes.

**Famous people from Wales:** Laura Ashley (designer/entrepreneur), Huw Edwards (newsreader), Fireman Sam.

**Find Out:** Wales is known as the land of song - can you name three famous singers/groups from Wales?



# Northern Ireland

**Main City:** Belfast

**Surface Area:** 14 139 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 1.68 million

**Languages:** English, Irish and Ulster Scots

**Public Holidays:** 17 March — St. Patrick's Day  
12 July — Battle of the Boyme



## The Giant's Causeway:

This world heritage site is made up of about 40 000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of a volcanic eruption over 60 million years ago.

The tops of the columns form stepping stones that lead from the cliff foot and disappear under the sea. The tallest are about 12 metres high and the solidified lava in the cliffs is 28 metres thick in places.

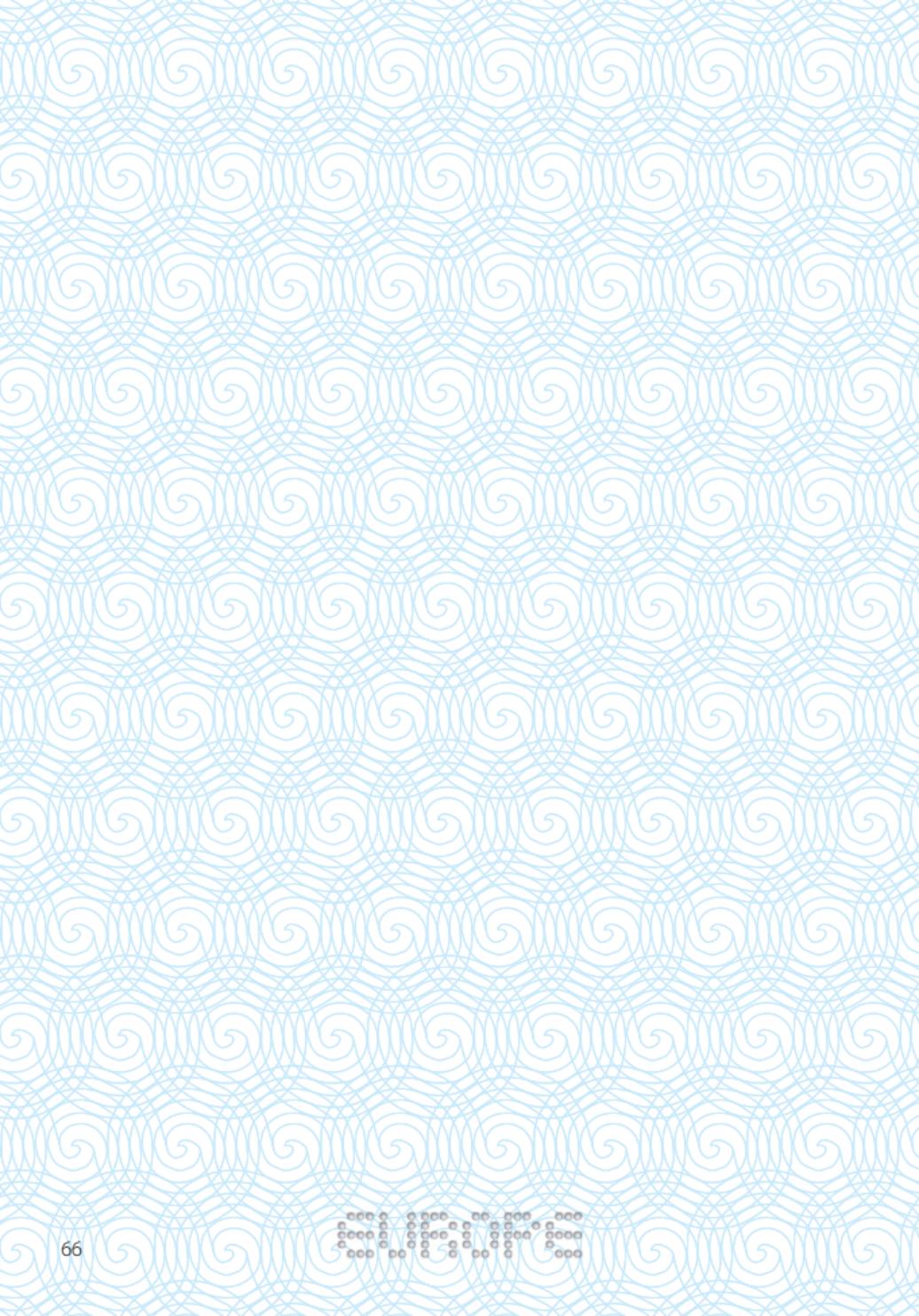
**Food:** The Ulster fry, champ (mashed potatoes with butter, milk and spring onions) and Irish stew.

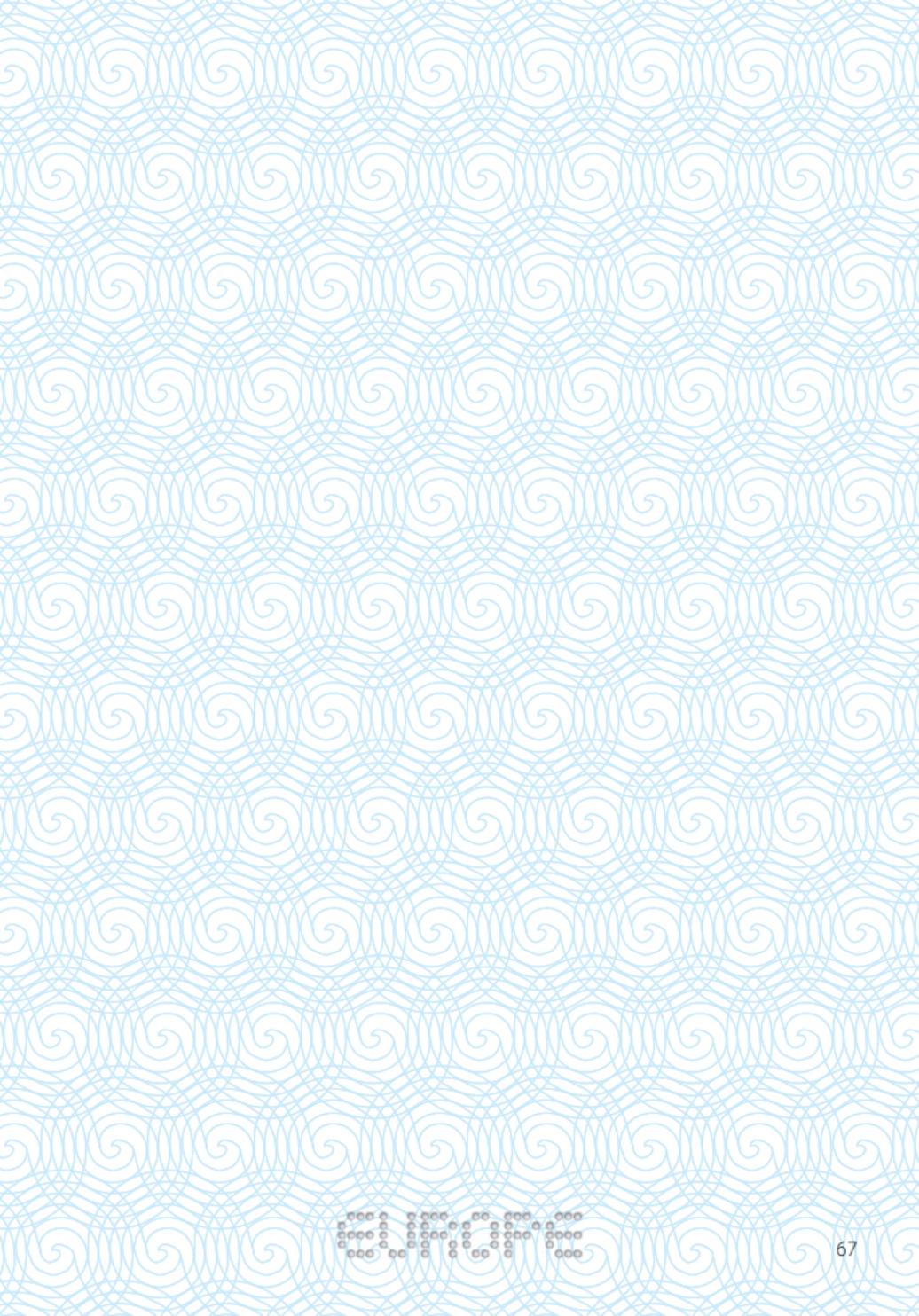
### Famous people from Northern Ireland:

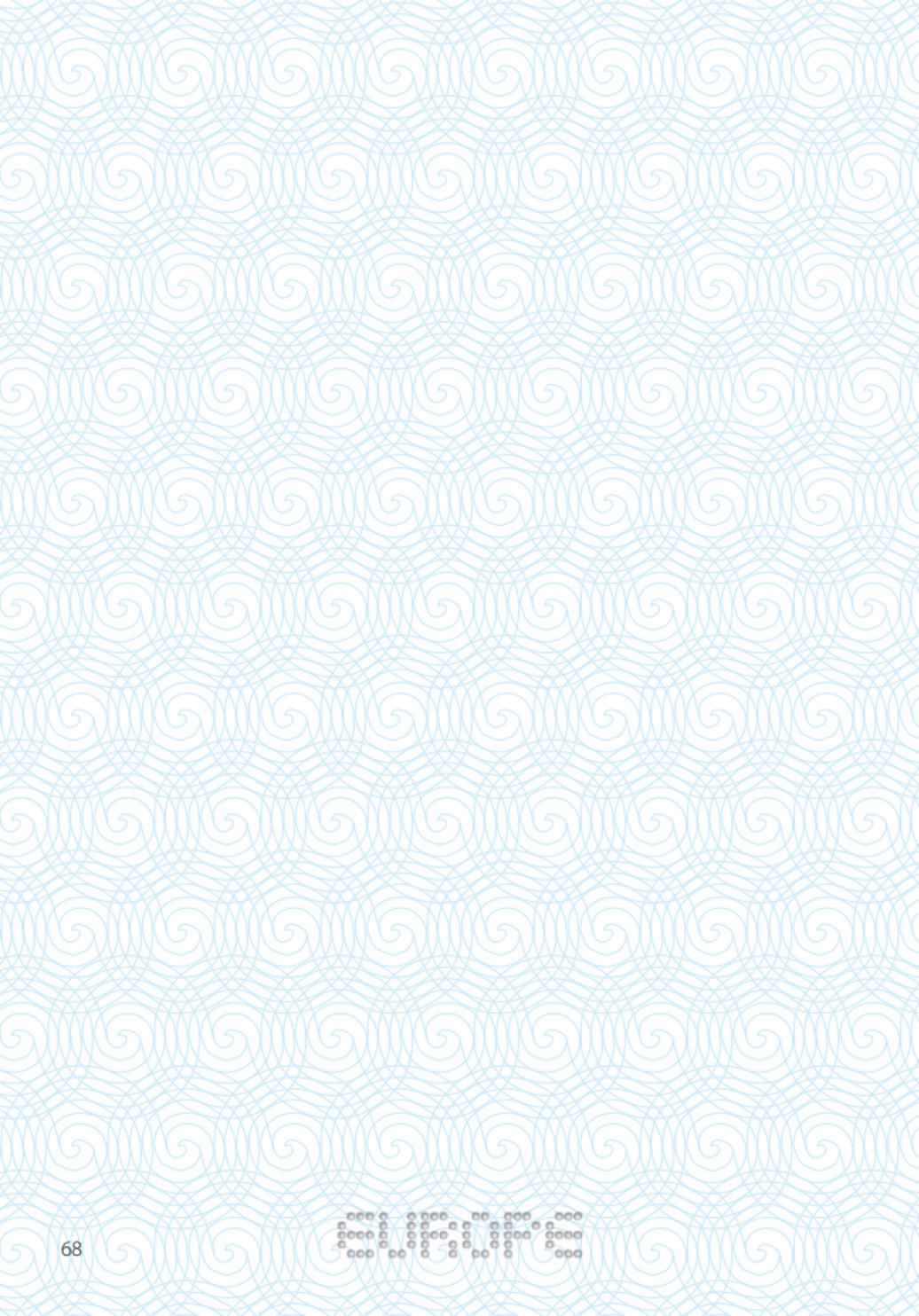
George Best (footballer),  
Liam Neeson (actor),  
Seamus Heaney (poet).

**Find Out:** Popular mythology attributes the creation of the Giant's Causeway to an Irish Giant – what is his name?









# Coins

The different Eurocoins have a common design on one side of the coin - a map of Europe - but every country in which Euros are officially used has a national image on the other side. No matter which Eurocoins you have in your wallet you can spend them in any of the 16 countries where people now pay with the same currency, making the Eurozone a club within the club. 11 member states in the European Union still have their national currencies. Peel off the stickers and fix them in the empty fields on the page to which they belong.

*All exchange rates are from February 2009.*

*As well as the eurozone members, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican City may produce euro coins.*



*Euro common side*



*Belgium*



*Germany*



*Ireland*



*Greece*





*Spain*



*France*



*Italy*



*Cyprus*



*Luxembourg*



*Malta*



*Netherlands*



*Austria*



*Portugal*



*Slovenia*



*Slovakia*



*Finland*





*Bulgarian lev/BGN*



*Czech koruna/CZK*



*Danish krone/DKK*



*Estonian kroon/EEK*



*Latvian lats/LVL*



*Lithuanian litas/LTL*



*Hungarian forint/HUF*



*Polish zloty/PLN*



*Romanian leu/RON  
(1 Leu = 100 bani)*



*Swedish krona/SEK*



*British pound  
sterling/GBP*



*EU emblem*



# Monuments

Carefully remove the stamps and fix them to the correct page in your passport.

**BELGIQUE**



EUROPA

**BELGIË**

EUROPA



БЪЛГАРИЯ

BULGARIA

**ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA**



EUROPA



EUROPA



DANMARK



EUROPA

DEUTSCHLAND



EESTI

EUROPA

EUROPA



ÉIRE

**IRELAND**





**ΕΛΛΑΔΑ**



EUROPA

ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

**ESPAÑA**



EUROPA

**FRANCE**



EUROPA



**ITALIA**



EUROPA

**ΚΥΠΡΟΣ**

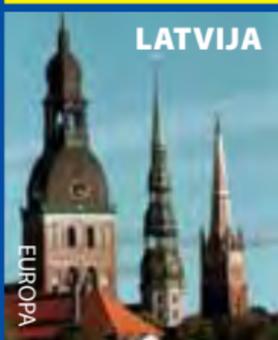


EUROPA

**ΚΥΠΡΟΣ**

**KIBRIS**

**LATVIJA**



EUROPA

**LIETUVA**



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**LUXEMBOURG**



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**MÁGYARORSZÁG**



**MALTA**



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EUROPA

**NEDERLAND**



EUROPA

**ÖSTERREICH**



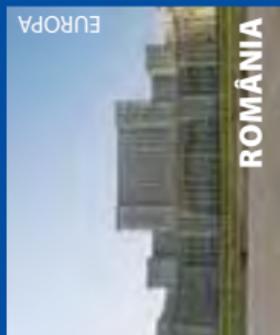
EUROPA

**POLSKA**



EUROPA

**PORTUGAL**



EUROPA

**ROMÂNIA**



EUROPA

**SLOVENIJA**



EUROPA

**SLOVENSKO**



EUROPA

**FINLAND**

**SUOMI**



EUROPA

**SVERIGE**



**UNITED KINGDOM**

EUROPA



# Flags of the European Union

The European flag has 12 stars on a blue background. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of countries in the EU; the circle of gold stars represents solidarity between the people in Europe.



*Belgium*



*Bulgaria*



*Czech Republic*



*Denmark*



*Germany*



*Estonia*



*Ireland*



*Greece*



*Spain*



*France*



*Italy*



*Cyprus*





*Latvia*



*Lithuania*



*Luxembourg*



*Hungary*



*Malta*



*Netherlands*



*Austria*



*Poland*



*Portugal*



*Romania*



*Slovenia*



*Slovakia*



*Finland*



*Sweden*



*United Kingdom*