

GREAT DECISIONS

Lesson Plan: EU and Turkey

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Students will need either internet access or handouts of the applicable information below.

Subject of Lesson:

In this lesson students will come to understand several different issues regarding Turkey and the European Union, mainly the issues surrounding the membership of Turkey to the EU. They will be taught through discussion, in-class activities and homework; what is the EU, why does Turkey want to join, why does the EU want it as a member? Etc. They will also develop opinions on the matter thru an in-class activity and a homework assignment, both requiring research.

Instructional Aids, materials, or tools needed:

Map of Europe and Turkey - <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/profiles/turkey.html>

What is the EU? - http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/governments/index_en.htm

References/handouts:

Article on Turkey's EU bid - www.csmonitor.com/2005/1007/p04s02-woeu.html?s=yaht

Country statistics - <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/profiles/turkey.html>

EU enlargement - http://europa.eu.int/pol/enlarg/index_en.htm

Press release from EU -

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/716&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

BBC – “Should Turkey be admitted to the EU?” -

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/talking_point/2546795.stm

Lesson Outline/Discussion:

This lesson will be best taught following the reading of Great Decisions 2006 in order to initiate the discussion below.

First, open the talk with students with encouraging discussion on what they already know about Turkey. What does the country have that others want? Is it in a strategic location for natural resources or a travel destination, or a gateway to the Middle East for the West? Give students some background basics about Turkey.

Now, what about the European Union? What is it? Who are the current members? Why does Turkey want to be a member? Why is this issue so important to the EU, to the United States?

Give students background basics on the European Union.

Explain the current situation – Turkey wishes to gain membership to the EU, it is a long process, etc.

Now develop a more in-depth discussion with the following questions to the class:

Is geography the sole factor in the EU's decision making process on the introduction of member states? Culturally, what does the intermixing and combining of separate racial, social and political groups into one do? Are the lines being blurred? Would it be possible or feasible for Mexico to join the United States in the way that Turkey may join the EU?

What makes a country European? Is Turkey a European country? What does it mean for the EU if they allow Turkey to become a member state? And what does it mean for Turkey to be allowed, or even considered to be apart of the EU? Why are some countries such as Austria, against it? Will the possible addition of Turkey to the EU strengthen relations between East and West, in particular US and Europe's relationship with the Middle East?

In Class Assignment:

After discussing the EU, Turkey's history, current situation, and asking the above questions for a more in-depth discussion, ask for student opinions on the issues. Try to find students who agree with Turkey's membership, disagree, and who are impartial.

Now divide the class into these three groups.

Ask the two opinionated groups to form a case, which they will present to the class, for their opinion using the below additional resources and class discussion.

Ask the impartial group to do research on the subject with the below additional resources, and to gather pros and cons on the issue as they will serve as judges hearing the cases.

After the three groups have completed their cases and research, have the two opinionated groups present their cases to the impartial group, who are now the judges. After the cases have been presented, allow each a quick rebuttal if wanted.

Now the judges must make a ruling on what they heard on if Turkey should be allowed membership or not. The ruling must be based on issues, not just a yes or no.

Have students take the Great Decisions 2006 quiz on turkey after this discussion and exercise.

Additional resources:

Turkey and Cyprus

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4203544.stm>

http://www.eubusiness.com/East_Europe/050909124303.597kcwo1/view

<http://english.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/9811095C-8C63-4A7F-98B7-EB5EE9355148.htm>

Turkey and the Vatican

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4249028.stm>

EU demands on Turkey

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=33405>

Europe in 12 Lessons

http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/12lessons/index_en.htm

Economist Profile

<http://www.economist.com/countries/Turkey/>

Wikipedia background information

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EU>

CIA World Fact Book, EU

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ee.html>

CIA World Fact Book, Turkey

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/tu.html>

Cafebabel articles - EU thoughts on Turkey membership

<http://www.cafebabel.com/en/dossier.asp?id=206>

US importance on the matter

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/2315057.stm>

http://www.eubusiness.com/East_Europe/050608144457.ydtmtvlg

Serious Talks Begin

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/europe/10/03/eu.turkeytalks/index.html>

Tensions between EU and Turkey

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0902/dailyUpdate.html>

EU - Turkey country profile

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/turkey/>

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Homework:

Have each student prepare a 1-2 page research report on one of the below listed subjects. Ask for the use of at least three sources, cited. Sources should be from well noted scholarly journals, news outlets, universities, etc. Subjects are specific and the reports should be also. Students may suggest a topic if one below is not chosen, make sure that the topic relates to Turkey and the membership to the EU, and is researchable.

Turkey and Cyprus

Human Rights in Turkey

Turkey's Kurdish population and other minorities

Turkish Nationalism

European Union enlargement

EU reluctance to Turkey's membership

US support of Turkey

Turkish culture, differences compared to EU

Turkey and Iraq, Its role there

Armenia and Turkey

EU timeline for membership