

## The Euro: Classroom Exercises – Exchange students going to Europe

**Grades:** 9-12

**Subjects:** Social Studies, Mathematics, Economics

**Overview:** Students plan a trip to Europe and have to deal with fluctuating exchange rates.

**Materials Needed:** Paper; a calculator for each group; Travel guides (web or print), current exchange rate,

- “The EURO: Money Changes Everything” paper background information [available here](#) (especially worksheets pp18-19)
- Posters can be downloaded from the web site [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org) (click on For Youth, Fun!, AudioVisual Library).
- Computer or newspaper on which to find current \$/€exchange rate. It is available online at the Financial Times web site ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)) or in major print newspapers.

**Procedure:** Next year you have the opportunity to study abroad as an exchange student in Paris. In order to get acclimated to your new environment you plan to travel through the EU to see the sights.

### Part 1:

Plan your trip. Use travel guides and online resources such as <http://www.visiteurope.com/us> to find a list of locations you want to visit and figure out the amount of money you are likely to spend.

Create a travel plan that includes the following:

- The 3 areas you will visit. (These must all be in the Euro zone. See page 8 of “The EURO: Money Changes Everything” background paper for a list of countries.)
- One hotel for each area and the cost for lodging.
- The average price for meals and the cost for food for one day.

Find the price of all of these in euros and convert to dollars using the provided exchange rate. \$1 = 0.75€ or €1 = \$1.3257

### Part 2:

As you get close to leaving on your trip you discover that the value of the dollar has risen compared to the euro. Recalculate the amount of dollars that you will have to spend and find the difference, using the exchange rate: \$1 = 1.2€ or €1 = \$0.8

### Educational Content Standards for Washington State:

Social Studies (Economics): 2.1, 2.3, 3.2

Math: 1.1, 3, 4, 5.2, 5.3

Karen Boschker and Eric Sieberson  
EU Center of Excellence, University of Washington, Seattle