

Acceptance of Genetically Modified Organisms in the European Union

Grades: 10 – 12

Subject: Social Studies - World History

Description: Students will work in small groups to research and present the viewpoint of an EU country on genetically modified organisms.

Time: 90 minutes for research

90 minutes for preparation / practice of presentation

90 minutes for presentations

Objective: 3.04 – Assess the impact of advances in genomics on individuals and society.

- Applications of biotechnology

Materials Needed:

- project guidelines
- computers with internet access and printer
- poster board
- markers
- graph paper
- overhead transparencies / projector

Directions:

- 1) Have students break into small groups (2 or 3). Teacher may wish to assign groups.
- 2) Assign each group a country from the European Union.
 - see attached list
- 3) Students should work together to research their country's views on the acceptance of genetically modified organisms.
 - prepare note cards / outline of information for presentation – be sure to include your sources
- 4) Prepare a presentation.
 - Presentation should include

- 1) The country's specific stance on GMO's / why do they feel this way?
- 2) List of current GMO's imported into the country and their source
- 3) Any special labeling requirements required in that country for these products
- 4) Approval process necessary for GMO products to be accepted by your country / regulations the product must meet
- 5) What does the country have to gain / lose by accepting GMO's ?

5) Present to the class.

- presentation should last 5 – 7 minutes
- a visual aid is a required part of the presentation (poster, overhead transparency, graph, handouts, etc.)
- all members of the groups should take an active part in the research and the presentation
- a question / answer session will be held following individual presentations (be prepared to answer questions)

Assessment: (This project will count as 1 test grade.)

- 1) Individual students will be required to turn in note cards or an outline of information in their presentation (be sure to include sources). – 20 pts.
- 2) Presentation
 - country's viewpoint on GMO's – 20 pts.
 - list of current GMO imports / their source – 5 pts.
 - special labeling requirements – 5 pts.
 - approval process / regulations – 5 pts.
 - what does the country have to gain / lose – 10 pts.
 - visual aid – 10 pts.
 - fluidity / clarity of presentation – 10 pts.
 - use of research time – 10 pts.
 - ability to answer questions from the group – 5 pts.

total = 100 pts.

Extension:

- 1) Hold a class discussion comparing the viewpoints of EU nations to that of the US and Canada. What are some possible reasons for the similarities / differences?
- 2) Hold an EU panel discussion debating the acceptance of a new genetically modified food into the food chain. Have students represent their country and actively support their research findings.

** for advanced students – have each student research their own country and do their own presentation

Standard course of Study:

World History - Goal 7 – Technology and changing global concerns

7.01 – Assess the degree to which discoveries, innovations and technologies have accelerated change.

7.04 – Describe significant characteristics of global connections created by technological change and assess the degree to which cultures participate in that change.

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Countries in the European Union

1. Belgium
2. Netherlands
3. Spain
4. Cyprus
5. Lithuania
6. France
7. UK
8. Portugal
9. Czech Republic
10. Malta
11. Germany
12. Ireland
13. Austria
14. Estonia
15. Poland
16. Italy
17. Denmark
18. Finland
19. Hungary
20. Slovakia
21. Luxembourg
22. Greece
23. Sweden
24. Latvia
25. Slovenia