



Euro Expo!

You're off to the Euro Election Exhibition, also known as Euro Expo!

Task

Your Euro region committee will be giving information in the exhibition hall to other Euro regions. By finding out information from fellow exhibitors, you will produce a map of EU electoral regions in the UK. You will include annotated details and information about the EU electoral process.

Research your Euro region

Each group will be given a different Euro region to research. There are 12 regions:

North West	East Midlands	South East
North East	London	Northern Ireland
Yorkshire and The Humber	Eastern	Wales
West Midlands	South West	Scotland

Invent a name for your group based on the names in the table above. For example, the South West Euro Experts or Wales Euro Dragons.

www.election-maps.co.uk will give you information and a map of the election area.

www.europarl.org.uk will give you information on MEPs and all aspects of the EU.

Information you might like to include

- Boundaries of Euro regions
- Names of Euro regions
- Principal towns/cities
- Urban or rural Euro regions
- Names and number of MEPs
- Contacts/websites for MEPs
- Chief concerns/committees of MEPs
- Any other information (for example Objective One funding)
- A key, colour coding or diagrams

Design your exhibition stand

Your group will be given a big sheet of paper and coloured pens to show your Euro region information on. You can use diagrams, tables, and sketch maps. Set up your exhibition stand on a table. If you are feeling creative, feel free to make badges and hats – the sky's the limit!

The Euro Expo begins

Your group has to find out as much as possible about each Euro region, as well as *selling* your own Euro region. Half the group must stay with your exhibition stand, drumming up support (loudly if necessary – think of people on a market stall), and the other half visits all the other Euro region stalls to glean as much information as they can about each one. You might need to note down what you found out.

Remember, you have a limited time to do this and the end product will show how much you did (or did not!) find out. Your stallholders are depending on you!

Final individual Euro display

On a blank A4 (or A3) UK map, each person in your group must produce a Euro region election map with annotations. You will obviously have to share your information within your group, but you cannot ask other groups for further assistance.



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Who's my councillor?

Your mum is concerned about rising crime levels, your sister wants to complain about the amount of dog muck on the pavement, your dad wants more money put into the motorways and your auntie feels strongly about equal pay for women. Who are the people that will listen and act on your concerns?

Task

Create a display in Word® or PowerPoint® to show a map of your house and surrounding area, with the names and details (even photos) of all your councillors. An example is given for you, but you may decide to do yours differently from this.

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Go to <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/>. Now enter your postcode in the search box and press enter.

Now click on the boundary icon on the panel on the left and select the two boundaries you want to show.

You can now copy and paste this map into your document.

Who are your councillors?

Using google find the names of your MEP (still valid?) and the MP for your constituency.

If you live in Scotland or Wales you can find your Assembly Member, who is concerned with your interests in the Welsh Assembly (Cardiff), or your MSP in the Scottish Assembly (Edinburgh).

You can find them on <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgFindMember.aspx> or www.scottish.parliament.uk

It is more difficult to find information about parish councillors online. Parish councillors look at concerns in a small area, possibly only a few streets. Perhaps you know one of these personally.



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Be a vocal local!

You spend a lot of your day either in school, or getting to and from school, so you know the area pretty well, probably better than some of the councillors in charge. Here's your chance to help the councillors out. Can you be a *vocal local* – identifying problems or issues in the area around your school, and offering solutions?

Task

Task – First line to be changed to - Use <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/> to find a map of your school and its surrounding area. Enter your school postcode in the search box and press enter.

Think of three to five issues that concern you in your locality. Brainstorm with somebody else to come up with lots of ideas. For example, is there an area with no street lighting that is creepy in the dark? Is there a road covered in dog poo? Is there another school you have to walk past that you don't like passing? Your concerns will probably be different to the person who sits next to you.

Annotate your concerns on your map around the edge (put an arrow to the area if you like). An annotation is a bit like a label but it gives an explanation. For example, a label might just say 'litter', whereas an annotation might say 'litter from pupils along Marine Walk creates an eyesore for tourists and is dangerous to wildlife, especially seabirds'.

Underneath each annotation write a solution to the issue. How could it be improved or made better? For example, 'check that the litter is from pupils, then close the tuck shop and make pupils pick up litter in their break time. Get the RSPB to explain how litter can kill birds so pupils understand the problem'.

Now prioritise these concerns

This means put your concerns in order from the most important to the least important. You might give each concern a number from one to five, or you might think of a more creative way of prioritising.

Can you give some reasons why you put the issues in this order? Why is number one your top concern? Why is number five your least important concern? Do this wherever you have room, maybe on a separate sheet.

Extension: How else could you be a *vocal local*?

List as many ways (sensible and wacky) that you could get your voice heard, or your message across, about one of the local topics that you identified above. For example, a letter? A full orchestral piece entitled Symphony Number 2 in D Minor – ode to litter picking?



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MP for a day!

Your MP has chosen you to stand in for her for a day. Rt Hon John Bercow, the Speaker of the House, introduces you to all the MPs in the House of Commons at Westminster. He asks you to give a speech about your constituency

Task

Task – change text to the following;

Go to <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/>. Now enter your postcode in the search box and press enter. Use the zoom tool to show more or less details. To check your ward and parliamentary area, click on the boundary icon on the panel on the left and select the boundary you want to show.

In order to give the fullest picture possible to the other MPs, you should try to include answers to many or all of the following questions in your speech. Most answers can be found from the website, but some you may have to find out for yourself.

Physical characteristics

- Whereabouts is it in the UK?
- What is the map reference?
- Is it hilly or flat?
- How big is it?
- What is the area size?
- Is it near the sea or inland?
- What sort of weather do you get?
- Are there any famous landmarks?

Human characteristics

- Is it a rural or urban area?
- What is the main employment?
- Are there any famous buildings?
- Are there any large towns?
- What roads pass through the constituency?
- What are the names of the bordering constituencies?

Election areas

- What Euro region are you in?
- How many parishes are there in the constituency?
- What ward do you live in for local elections?
- You could also find out where some of the polling stations are.

Things to be proud of

Tell the House of Commons what you are proud of in the area. It may be beautiful, clean, friendly, and low in crime – whatever really does make you proud.

Issues that concern you

Finally, in your speech you would like to tell all the other MPs about three issues in your constituency that concern you or other people in the area. You must say why you are concerned and why you want them put right. For example, you might feel that there is a litter problem in the shopping centre which is unsightly, unhygienic and puts locals and tourists off going there.

You could start your speech like this:

My speech

Good morning. My name is

Today I am the MP for (put the name of your constituency in here).

I am here instead of (try to find out your MP's name and what party they represent).

I would like to tell you a little about my constituency. In physical terms (include all the details you have on physical characteristics).

Let me describe the human geography for you.

I would like now to tell you a little about the political geography and election information (include all you have found out about wards, parishes, polling stations, Euro regions.).....

.....

We are very proud of our constituency, firstly because of

Another source of pride is

A third point would be

However, if you lived in my constituency you would also be concerned about a number of things.

The first of these is.....

This needs sorting out because

The second issue is

The third concern is

I hope that you have enjoyed listening to my speech about my constituency and thank you for your time.



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A tale of two constituencies

A constituency is the geographical area that each Member of Parliament represents. There are 650 constituencies in the UK.

The constituents (the people in the constituency) elect their MP to the House of Commons by voting for the candidate who they think will do the best job.

Each constituency in the UK is different and the people in it will want different things from their MP. For example, people living near Heathrow Airport might complain to their MP about the noise pollution from planes. However, for people in Aberystwyth, mid-Wales, this is unlikely to be a big problem!

Task

In this task you need to compare two constituencies: Conwy, a rural constituency in North Wales, and Coventry, an urban constituency in the Midlands. You need to find out the different issues which bother constituents from each place. You might discover that they are concerned about the same issues.

The ten questions below are issues that constituents might see their MP about. Using www.election-maps.co.uk decide where the people in the questions below might come from. The answer might be Conwy, Coventry or it might be both. You must give the reasons for your answers.

How to

Type <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/> and click launch GB map

- For Conwy, in the search box type Conwy and select Conwy, Conwy. On the main map zoom in
- For Coventry, in the search box type Conwy and select Coventry, Coventry. On the main map zoom in
- One of the pair can look at Conwy, the other person can look at Coventry

An example of how to write down your answers is shown below; although you can write your own if you want to.

- Example question: Which constituents would be most concerned with the rising cost of hay for sheep feed?
- Example answer: The constituents in Conwy would be most concerned about the rising price of hay. This is because it is a rural area and many people work as farmers. If they cannot afford to feed their animals they might have to sell them and as a result could lose their jobs. People in Coventry are not likely to be farmers because most of the land has been built on.

In class be prepared to give your answer and the reasons for it. Remember, you might have a different answer to somebody else, but the important point is to be able to argue your case.

1. The residents in this constituency are very concerned about water quality and want the sea and beaches cleaned up. Which constituency?
2. Which MP might get complaints about young people hanging round street corners at night?
3. An elderly gentleman who writes to his MP to complain about bad street lighting might be from where?
4. The time it takes for an ambulance to arrive might be longest in which constituency?
5. Money gets spent on tourists rather than local people is a common complaint where?
6. The MP does a sponsored walk to raise money for The Mountain Rescue. In which constituency?
7. This constituency is very proud of its facilities which include the leisure centre, museums, shops and offices. Which constituency?
8. In which one of the two areas might the MP have to speak more than one language?
9. Which constituency is likely to have the best transport links for cars, buses and trains? What problems might this cause?
10. This constituency is densely populated (lots of people living in a square kilometre). Which constituency?



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Polling station decisions

Dawlish is a lovely seaside town in Devon, with beaches, cream teas and lots of tourists in the summer. There are also many elderly people in Dawlish who have retired there.

Everyone over 18 in Dawlish is eligible to vote when there is an election. A place must be chosen as the polling station where people will go to vote. Perhaps you are already aware of this, and have had a day off school when your school was chosen as a polling station.

Task

Using the information below and the map at <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/>, you decide where the best place would be to host the polling station. You must give reasons why you chose the location and also reasons why you did not choose other locations. You can use the writing frame in the final paragraph to help you structure the answers.

Include a sketch map of the area (taken from election maps website) showing which site you chose. You can also annotate this map to say why you made your choice.

How to

Click on *European region* and type in *South West*. Type the postcode *EX7 9AL* and zoom your map to a size where you can see the leisure centre, the museum and Luscombe Castle.

The candidates

- a) Dawlish leisure centre is a modern building with a swimming pool, two sports halls, a gym, changing rooms, squash courts and other facilities. It is a busy place, being well used by the community. The staff are very professional and the building is open from early morning until 9 or 10 pm. The Leisure Centre has a large car park. The location of the leisure centre is out of town, to the north, and is uphill from the centre of town. It is close to the main road to Exeter – a city about 12 miles away, and is not on a main bus route.
- b) The museum details old Dawlish life, exhibits include photos from 100 years ago, before there were cars. It is run by friendly volunteers and is busy in the summer, but is closed in the winter. The museum is in the centre of town near Brook Street, with the main shopping streets being about 500 metres away. It is quite a small building. There is a large car park nearby, which is pay and display, and buses are frequent. It is close to the main road to Exeter – a city about 12 miles away.

- c) Luscombe Castle is set in peaceful countryside to the west of the town. It is a beautiful property with gardens and grounds. Luscombe Castle is privately owned and therefore not usually open to the public. The roads leading to it are country lanes with only room for one car. There are few buses along this route. There is no actual car park but there is plenty of room in the surrounding area.

You can use the writing frame below to give you a structure

I decided that the best place to put the polling station in Dawlish was.....

The main reason for my decision was

Another reason I decided this was the best place was

A further reason was.....

I did not want to put the polling station at

Because.....

However, there were some good points to this venue, such as

In my opinion, the worst place to put the polling station is.....

It did have some points in its favour, such as.....

However, the negative factors that make it no good as a polling station are.....

.....



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Teachers – perfect or pants at politics?

Are your teachers the know politically? Or when it comes to Westminster, have they got no *Commons* sense? Are they up to date on Europe, or do they think an MEP is something to do with computers?

Task

Design and construct a questionnaire that will assess how much teachers know about the election areas the school is in and the people who represent them. For example questions might be:

- What is the name of the Parliamentary constituency the school is in?
- Who is the MP for this constituency?

Aim for a minimum of six questions that test your teachers' knowledge of the election areas at all levels; from Euro area to parish.

Please note that some teachers live a long way from their work, in different areas. The information here is based on the school area.

Go to <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/>. Now enter your school's postcode in the search box and press enter. Names of the people who represent you can be found using google.

If you live in Scotland or Wales you can find your Assembly Member, who is concerned with your interests in the Welsh Assembly (Cardiff), or your MSP in the Scottish Assembly (Edinburgh). You can find them on <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgFindMember.aspx> or www.scottish.parliament.uk

Carry out your fieldwork. Remember, the bigger the sample, the more accurate the results. As a guide twenty people would be an acceptable sample.

Present your results. You can do this using ICT (such as Excel), by hand or a combination of both. Try to show a range of presentation techniques (no death by bar chart!).

Describe your findings. Are your teachers in the know politically? Or are they pants at politics? Do they know more about national-scale politics (for example MPs) than local-scale politics? Or are they Muppets on Ministers?

Explain your findings. Are your teachers politically aware (or not)? Why do you think that is? Do they know more about Parliamentary politics than local politics? If so, why do they know more about Parliamentary politics?

Perhaps you could award a prize to the teacher who is the most politically aware, and a prize to the teacher who is least aware – the dinosaur on democracy!



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