Part or Whole: Increasing or Decreasing?
Learning how to find percents utilizing the European Union.

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Grade Level
6-8

Duration
1 class period

Overview
More and more countries are joining the European Union. Percents are a common part of students’ lives. This lesson will show students how to utilize percents as they learn about relationships between the EU countries.
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Purpose
In this lesson, students will learn how to apply knowledge and compute percents using data on the European Union.

Materials
- How to Teach Percents handout
- How to Teach Percents Answer Key
- Percentages of the European Union handout
- Percentages of the European Union Answer Key
- Transparencies of graphs #1, #2, and #3
- Transparency of European Union map with country names
- European Union map without country names

Objectives
The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate application of percents by solving percentage problems using data from the European Union.

Procedures
1. Place the transparency of the European Union map with country names on the overhead. Distribute the blank map of the European Union. Have the students copy the countries that are current members of the EU, the applicant countries, and the rest of the European countries. Discuss why the European Union is important to Europe and compare it to the United States of America. (The EU was developed to strengthen the economy of the countries of Europe.) For background information on the EU click on link for Background and look at EU Newspaper. The EU membership changes every year the current map is at the following website: http://www.eurunion.org/legislat/agd2000/agd2000.htm

2. Place overhead graphs #1, #2, and #3 (one at a time) on the overhead projector. Have students count the total squares and the number of colored squares. Help students realize that there are 100 squares and 50 are colored. Point out that this graph shows 50%. Then do the same with the other 2 graphs.

3. Show the overhead of “How To Teach Percents.” Discuss the overhead with the students.

4. Have the students practice the last two problems by themselves and go over the answers with them to make sure they understand.

5. Distribute the Percent Questions on the European Union worksheet and have the students work on the questions individually.

6. Have each student write down two percent questions. Then have the students turn to someone next to them and they each solve the other’s problems.

Assessment
Grade students’ Percentages of the European Union questions for math comprehension. A score of 80% or higher is considered mastery.

Grade students’ maps of the European Union for geographic accuracy. A score of 80% or higher is considered mastery.

Extensions
Create circle graphs from the percents of the questions on the European Union.

Utilize the lesson on The Impact of the European Union on the GeoLiteracy CD produced by the Arizona Geographic Alliance 2001 to learn more about the EU. To order the
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CD go to their website at

http://la.alliance.asu.edu/azga/

Sources

http://www.eurunion.org/
