



UK DECIDES TO LEAVE EUROPEAN UNION

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<http://teachingkidsnews.com>

The people in the UK* have voted to leave the European Union (the EU).

The European Union** is a group of 28 countries in Europe that have agreed to co-operate—to all become one group, in many ways. For instance, people in European Union countries can travel, live and work easily in any other EU country. And businesses that are in the European Union can send products back and forth more easily. Nineteen of the EU countries all use the same money (currency)—the Euro.

On Thursday, June 23 there was a very important vote. People in the UK were asked this question:

Should the UK:

[] Remain a member of the European Union?

[] Leave the European Union?

The polls predicted (before the vote) that people would vote to remain in the European Union. But the polls were wrong. More people voted to leave the European Union.

The vote was:

Leave the EU: 51.9%

Remain in the EU: 48.1%



More than 30 million people voted. “Voter turn-out” (in other words, the number of people who voted) was very high, at more than 71%. That is a sign that people were very interested in this issue and wanted to be involved in the final decision.

Prime Minister David Cameron headed the campaign to remain in the EU. Since the vote ended up going against his idea about the way the UK should be, he decided to resign—quit his job. He said he hopes to be replaced by a new Prime Minister by October 2016.



There are many things that will be affected by this historical decision, not just for the UK but for Europe and the rest of the world. For instance, right after the vote, the British pound dropped in value—by quite a lot. This is a complicated thing to explain, but essentially many money experts lost some confidence in the UK’s ability to be financially stable for now. The British pound will almost certainly rise back up, but no one knows when that will happen.

Some people are also worried that the “remain” vote means that people from outside the UK can’t as easily travel in the UK or work or move there. In other words, immigration will be affected.



The people who voted “leave” say they want the UK to be less influenced by other countries and to have its own laws rather than having to go by the rules of the EU.



Related links

The BBC (a respected news organization in the UK) has this excellent explainer on the referendum vote: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>

Some facts about the UK and the EU:

*There are four countries in the UK. They are: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**There are 28 countries in the EU. They are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. This list came from Europa.eu, which gives links for more information on each of these countries.

The UK has never used the the “euro” as its money. Nineteen of the 28 EU countries use Euros. But the UK never used Euros; they stayed with the British pound which they will continue to use now that they have voted to leave the EU.