

What have they ever done for us?

Another lesson by Adam. R. Mathews

1. You're going to watch a video by Monty Python. What do you know of them? Have you ever seen any of their films?

Watch the clip and answer these questions:

What have 'they' done? To whom?

What have the Romans ever given 'us' in return?

(Watch the clip again here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExWfh6sGyso>)

2. In pairs, think of the benefits and drawbacks of EU membership.

Pros	Cons

3. Now watch the video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JxpRyGmLfQ>)

What are the "irritations" of EU membership for Britain?

What does he say are the more positive aspects?

How big is the EU budget? How does it spend the money? What goes where? Who is a net winner and loser?

You are going to look at some graphs about the European Union. First, can you explain the differences in these terms?

Pie / bar / column / area / line chart
Rise / fall
Level off / fluctuate
Steadily / sharply

majority / the largest share
Percentage / absolute
Bottom out / peak
Net / gross

You are going to read about the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy. First read the title and decide if the article is in favour or against the CAP.

Make notes as you read. What are the CAP's objectives and how does it achieve them? If you don't understand any words, ask your teacher

Saving Europe's farmers – why we need the CAP

By Adam R. Mathews

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was born at the end of the 1950s as a way for the European Economic Community (as it was then known) to increase agricultural production and food security. Its objectives have since changed and it is now used to try to protect agriculture by controlling prices and levels of production and subsidising rural life in order to safeguard the countryside.

It does this in a number of ways. For a start, it makes direct payments to farmers and land holders so they are able to maintain their property. In times of overproduction, it also steps in to subsidise exports and stop the farmers going out of business. To help with this, tariffs and quotas are used to stop cheap imports from flooding the market, and undercutting European producers.

Now use your notes to explain what you read to the others.

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Bad for Europe and the World – the case against CAP

By Adam R. Mathews

The Common Agricultural Policy has changed a lot from its original aim, to stop food shortages in Europe. In today's world of free international trade it looks outdated. Overseas, the European Union tries to persuade countries to 'open their borders to trade', but at home it's a different story – if you're a small producer from outside the EU you have very little chance to sell there.

But the CAP causes problems at home too. Instead of working towards a natural countryside, it subsidises the use of pesticides and herbicides and helps maintain the *status quo* in society by unfairly helping the wealthy landowners. More than 40% of the EU's budget is spent helping around 5% of the population.

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