

name: class: date:

The Expansion of the European Union



The European Union (EU), a unique _____ and economic partnership, originally started with just six countries. Over the years, the EU experienced significant growth, expanding its _____ to include many more nations. This expansion process involves countries meeting strict criteria, including maintaining _____, respecting human rights, and having a functioning market economy. The first major enlargement occurred in 1973, when the _____, Ireland, and Denmark joined the EU. This was a significant step, as it marked the beginning of the EU's growth beyond its initial _____. The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe in the 1980s and 1990s led to a further _____ of expansion. In 2004, the EU saw its largest single expansion, welcoming ten new _____, mostly from Eastern Europe. This enlargement was notable for uniting former communist states with Western Europe, symbolizing a new era of _____ and peace in Europe. The EU's expansion continued with the addition of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, and Croatia in 2013, bringing the total number of member states to 27. The process of joining the EU requires extensive _____, as candidate countries must adopt and implement thousands of EU laws and regulations. The expansion of the EU is not just a political process; it also reflects the _____ of people across Europe to live in a united, peaceful, and prosperous continent. However, the process is complex and has faced various challenges, including economic disparities and _____ differences among member countries.

political

United Kingdom

democracy

membership

aspirations

countries

cultural

cooperation

negotiations

wave

founders