

LESSON 6: Activity 1

Teacher resource sheet: The €5 Europa series (optional)

The Europa Series €5 banknote was unveiled at an event at the Archaeological Museum in Frankfurt on 10 January 2013. The €5 banknote is the first one in the Europa series to be introduced.

These banknotes are called the Europa series because a portrait of Europa – a figure from Greek mythology and the origin of the name of the European continent – appears in the hologram and watermark of the banknotes. The portrait of Europa was taken from a vase on display at the Louvre in Paris which was found in southern Italy and is over 2,000 years old.

The “ages and styles” design and the dominant colours used in the Europa series are not different for the design that was used before, but these banknotes have better security features and the Europa series takes into account the countries that have joined the EU since 2002. For instance, the map of Europe shows Malta and Cyprus, “euro” is written in the Cyrillic as well as in the Latin and Greek alphabets, and the initials of the ECB (European Central Bank) appear in nine – instead of five – languages.

Information adapted from: http://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/shared/files/130110_presskit_europa_en.pdf?42584317d8cd4cb9c572a60dcabdfc0c

