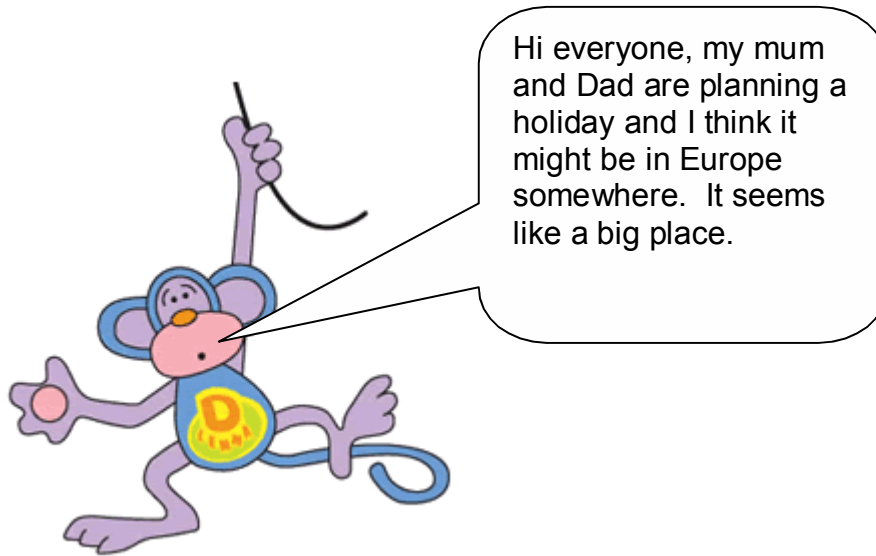


Di Lemma goes on holiday



Di Lemma's parents decided to go on holiday, so his mum went to the shop and brought back some brochures. "Its going to have to be somewhere in Europe" said his mum. "Oh" said Di Lemma, I want to go to Italy. James at school said that is the best place in the world to buy a pizza" Di Lemma's parents laughed and his Dad said "Italy is in Europe! So it is a possibility."

"Cool" said Di Lemma, "I can take my £20 spending money and spend it on the biggest Pizza." "Well you will have to get it changed to Euros before you can spend it" said his Dad. "What are they?" said Di Lemma.

Do you know what Euros are? Have you been anywhere to spend them? Why will Di Lemma have to change his pounds to Euros?

"Euro is the name of the money you can spend in most European countries." said his Dad. "So we aren't part of Europe then, as we don't have the same money?" asked Di Lemma

"Well no" said his Dad "England is part of Europe even though we don't use euros, but we are part of the European Union." Di Lemma looked very confused. Di Lemma's Dad told him to go and get his map of the world and he would sit down and explain it to him.

Can you find England on a map of the world? With a teacher, see if you can find other countries that are in Europe. Either draw around these with a bright pen or list them in your group.

After drawing an outline around Europe on his map, Di Lemma could see what Europe was, but he still didn't understand what the European Union (EU) meant as in joined up countries.

“The EU was set up in the aftermath of the Second World War to bring peace, stability and prosperity to Europe” said Di Lemma’s Dad. Di Lemma wasn’t really sure what this meant, so his Dad explained that it meant that if all the countries worked together, they would get more done and be happier.

Di Lemma was a bit worried when his Dad mentioned war. He didn’t want to go on holiday to a place where a war might be going on. His Dad explained that this would be unlikely as many of the countries had signed a treaty to agree to work together and not fight.

Can you think of other examples of how working together can help people?

Di Lemma wondered that, even though they said they wouldn’t fight or disagree, how could they keep this promise?

How are rules kept? How do you agree on rules at school when lots of people have different ideas?

Di Lemma’s Dad explained that the treaty European countries had signed meant agreeing to a common market, a set of rules for all countries. This meant that some countries changed their own laws. “Obviously they felt that this was more important than staying on their own!! And better for the countries safety and economy” said his Dad. “What does economy mean?” asked Di Lemma

Do you know what economy might mean?

Di Lemma’s Dad explained that it meant the country’s financial system or its wealth.

Are all the countries in Europe the same size? Would bigger countries be richer?

Di Lemma realised that Europe was a big and culturally different place, thanks to his Dad’s short history lesson. He would be sure to pay attention at school from now on and was still looking forward to his holiday in Europe, even if they didn’t go to Italy. He was curious about all the other places!

A research project could investigate the size of populations in each European country and how big these countries are. It can then help to determine how the bigger countries can help support the smaller countries. It may be that small countries have larger populations, so pupils may want to think of reasons why this might be the case.

Di Lemma says bye until next time.....