



**KS3:**

## **Democracy and diversity**

### Introduction

The European Union is a group of countries that have democratic forms of government. This is one of the things that each has in common. The purpose of this exercise is to find out some of the important things that make them different from each other.

### The task

The task is to use the website [www.citizensofeurope.org](http://www.citizensofeurope.org) to compare the countries that make up the EU and identify the things that are special to each of them. Look out for unusual things.

### Process

You have 20 minutes. Go the Member States pages and click on individual countries and you will find pages to explore. Work in pairs. See how many countries you can cover. List on paper the most important things that make them different from each other. You can include their democratic institutions of government.

### Evaluation

At the end of the task put into groups the main special qualities of the countries. See how many groups you can get and single out one or two that you think are the most important and why. It might be language, it might be something else.

### Conclusion

This is one of the advantages of a democratic system of government. It's a way of running things that can allow all sorts of differences to be retained. We will now look at some of the differences and similarities in the way countries run their democracies.