

## Geography and Culture: Looking Ahead at East and West

For a glimpse of the future of eastern and western Europe, do the following map activity.

Identify on the map these original members of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Mark them with a Euro sign (€). (The Euro is the monetary unit—“dollar”—members of the EU began using in 2002.) Would you say the EU is made up of largely western or eastern European nations?

Locate these candidates for joining the EU in 2004: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Mark them “€?” Their admission to the EU is not automatic; each must (1) elect to join and (2) meet certain economic standards to the satisfaction of present EU members. }

**Discuss: Do you think the terms “eastern Europe” and “western Europe” will have a different meaning in 2010? Why or why not?**

*Want to learn more? Use an Internet search engine to find out more about one of these Czech topics: “Bohemia,” “Moravia,” “Silesia,” “Wenceslaus,” “Charles V,” “Jan Hus,” “The Astronomical Clock of Prague,” “The Brno Dragon,” “The Battle of White Mountain,” “The Habsburgs,” “Dr. Faustus,” “The Revolutions of 1848,” “Alfons Mucha,” “Antonin Dvorak,” “Czechoslovakia,” “Božena Nemcova,” “Alois Jirasék,” “Tomas Mazaryk,” “Franz Kafka,” “Prague Spring,” “The Velvet Revolution,” “Vaclav Havel,” “RUR and ‘Robot’”*

**Just for fun: One of the names above is a woman. Do you know which?**

*Answer: Božena Nemcova. In Czech, the ending “-ova” indicates the person named is a wife or daughter. In Prague, you can buy Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowlingsova or CDs by Brittany Spearsova.*