



WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

In the heart of Park Leopold, in the European quarter, is a marvellous Art Deco building dedicated to the memory and future of Europe. From Antiquity to the present day, the permanent exhibition guides us through History.

What do we share with other European countries?

What divides us? What unites us?

This museum, one of its kind, helps us to understand and ask questions about our European citizenship.

This booklet was created by kidsgazette with the support of the House of European History, an initiative of the European Parliament. The selected topics were chosen together with children. They don't represent the whole of the permanent exhibition, which is much larger and more complex. The texts and choice of photos are in no way the responsibility of the House of European History.

*You're 8 years or older? Here's what we suggest: take a copy of this booklet, grab someone we'd call an 'adult' by the hand, and begin your tour! Ask questions, express your opinion, discuss things with your adult... be patient with him or her, even if they talk too much! The adult may be delighted with the sound of their own voice and might be astonished that you have your own ideas and relevant thoughts... We sometimes wonder why kids don't have the right to vote. **Ok, let's go!***



Europe has a history! As you go through this remarkable building, our kid reporters, **Jonas [9 years]**, **Celine [11 years]** and **Ariane [11 years]** will explore a few aspects, among many.

PROFILE OF EUROPE

What is Europe? Is it a well-defined space, and if so, what is it defined by? Where is it situated in the world?



THE MYTH

Originally, Europa was a mythical Princess from Phoenicia (today's Lebanon). The Greek god Zeus fell in love with her beauty and carried her off. He turned himself into a white bull and carried her to the island of Crete.

Can you find Crete on the map?

1. Which European country does the island belong to? [Ask for the solutions at the welcome desk]

Europe and Taurus photo © Europa riding the bull From temple Y, Selinunte Sicily, ca. 580-560 BCE. Replica of a metope. Museo Archeologico Regionale Antonio Salinas, Palermo, Italy.

On the second floor, look out for the quote from the Dutch writer and poet. "Above all, Europe is a mental space", Cees Nooteboom, 2012



GEOGRAPHY

Look at the maps in the window. Here we realise that it's all a matter of perspective.

If you go to Australia or to China, what does the map of the world look like? Is the European continent at the centre?

2. Imagine that you're Chinese. Where is Europe on the map?

The map of Europe surprises us. We, who thought we were so important... Continue your visit by taking the stairs to the third floor.



3. What might the impressive sculpture in the stairway represent?

In this period of citizenship, we've decided to go through the exhibition by focussing on democracy. Do you know what that means and where the word comes from?



DEMOCRACY/ TOTALITARIANISM

The word Democracy comes from the Greek word 'demos', which means 'people', and 'kratos', which means 'power'. That's why we talk about people power and government by the people.

On the third floor, you'll discover that democracy has taken time to establish itself in Europe over the centuries.

Democracy was invented in ancient Greece. At that time, men got together to vote by a show of hands according to the principle of majority voting. This made it a direct democracy. A representative democracy is when citizens choose representatives to take decisions in their name. That's the current system in Belgium, France and Germany.

The 18th century was a period of revolutions. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen came into being during the French Revolution in 1789.



In your opinion, what were people demanding at that time and why did they choose to revolt?

Advert for Maison du Peuple, Brussels, Belgium 1899
Poster © Amsad-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Ghent



In the 19th Century, workers had no legal protection or social security. Their work and life conditions were difficult. By the end of the century, they had improved their situation, with the right to vote becoming more widespread (where previously it was only granted to men of property).



This is one of the first voting ballot boxes.



Take a look at the hilarious shoe hat created by Salvador Dali.

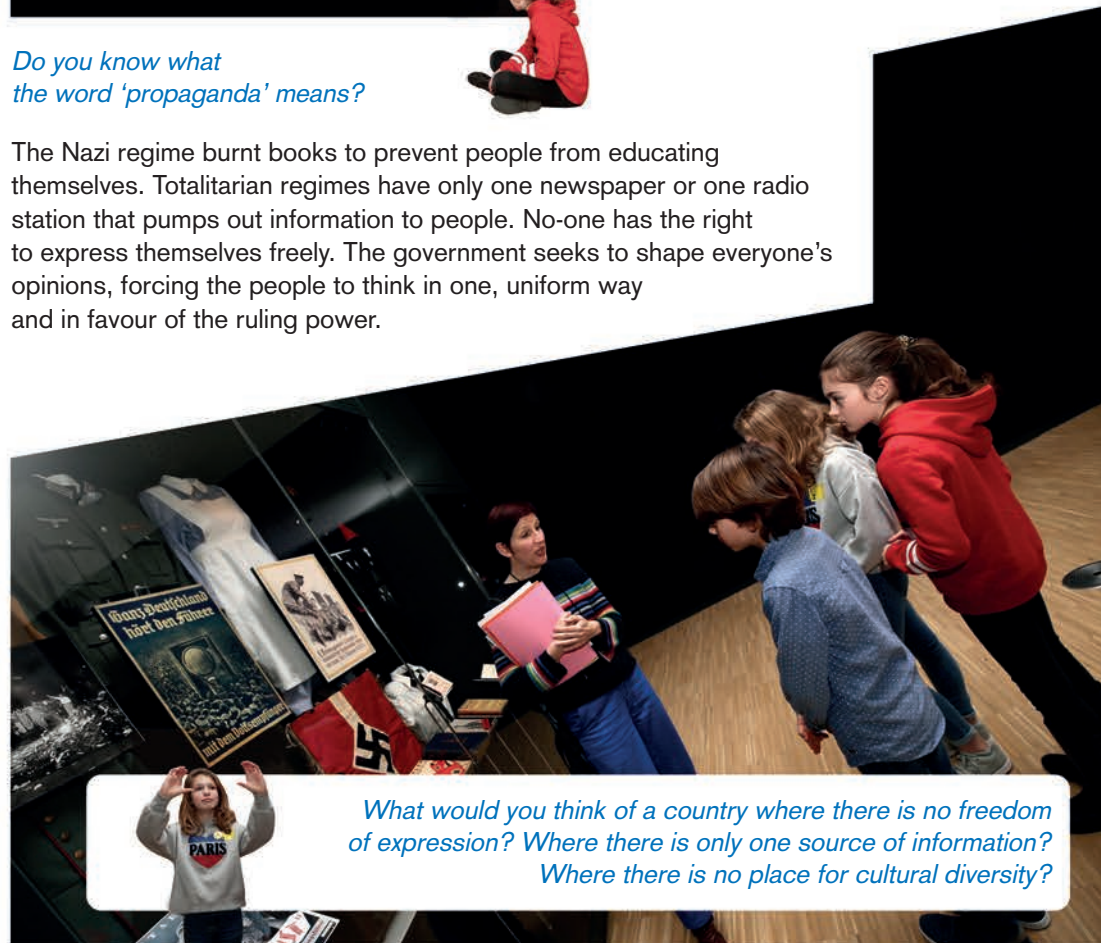
4. Do you know the name of the African-American singer who took Paris by storm during this period?

At the end of the first world war, people had a great desire for liberty. And for entertainment. During the Roaring Twenties (1920s), culture became central to society and the most original and eccentric artists expressed their creativity. They helped people to start looking at things in different ways. New democracies emerged, which went further in granting rights to men and women.



Do you know what the word 'propaganda' means?

The Nazi regime burnt books to prevent people from educating themselves. Totalitarian regimes have only one newspaper or one radio station that pumps out information to people. No-one has the right to express themselves freely. The government seeks to shape everyone's opinions, forcing the people to think in one, uniform way and in favour of the ruling power.



DEMOCRACY AND THE POWER OF CITIZENSHIP

On the fourth floor, it's a return to peace and to the reconstruction of a divided continent. The first discussions around what would become the European Union were held, with countries like France, Germany and Belgium determined never to relive the terrible wars of the past.



But human rights and democracy had yet to take hold throughout Europe.

In the 1960s and 1970s, student and feminist revolutions, as well as environmental activism, raised many questions. As they still do! In Eastern Europe, a series of popular movements and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 saw countries gain independence from the Soviet Union.

And during this period, the European Union was created, bit by bit. The first elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (the right to vote for all European citizens) took place in 1979.



7. What is the name of the first president of the European Parliament?

Explore **floors 5 and 6**
to continue reflecting and
sharing your ideas.
To be considered a full citizen,
you need the right to vote.



YOUR PROMISES AND YOUR DREAMS

In Belgium, it was only in 1948 that women got the right to vote, much later than men! It's this right that allows us to defend and advance our ideas. Our elected representatives must fulfill their promises. In cases of disagreement, people sometimes take to the streets to protest. Peaceful protest is another democratic right. Democracies and Europe must never stop questioning how things are done. History shows us that nothing is secure.



Imagine that you are standing
for parliament as a representative
of the European people.
You're asking people to vote
for you. What promises would
you make to your fellow citizens?

Here are our promises!



The House of European History is a place to remember, even those moments we would rather forget. It's said that memory helps us to rebuild and make choices. It's memory that allows us to plan the right direction for the future. Children, women and men have prepared the way for us. This building is dedicated to the collective memory of the European continent. It's a place that stimulates thought and develops an inquiring attitude. It's about bringing history to bear on current situations. **Open every day and free entry. Info: historia-europa.eu.eu**