



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Union Insights

**Directions:** Read the passage about the European Union. Then answer the analysis questions using complete sentences.

### Understanding the European Union

The European Union is a group of European countries that work together to make shared decisions about things that affect the region. It began as a way to help countries trade more easily and avoid conflicts by encouraging cooperation. Today, the EU focuses on many areas such as the environment, travel, trade, and human rights.

One important feature of the EU is that many of its members use a shared currency called the euro. This makes it easier for people to buy goods, travel, and do business across different countries. The EU also allows citizens of its member nations to move freely between countries for work or study. Even though the countries share responsibilities, each nation still keeps its own government and laws. The purpose of the EU is not to make countries identical but to support unity while respecting differences.

### Analysis Questions

1. Why was the European Union originally created?
2. How does using a shared currency help people within the EU?
3. What does it mean when the passage says citizens can move freely between member countries?
4. Why is cooperation important for countries in the EU?
5. In your opinion, what is one potential benefit of countries working together in a group like the EU? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.