

You are just about to get an opportunity of a life time. You and three friends decide to create a lasting memory by taking a trip to Europe. This is pretty exciting, but there is a lot that must be done to ensure the best trip possible! You have to find a lot of information and make many choices about transportation, lodging, food, and money before you go.



When you have finished this quest your group will have planned the "best" trip possible. This task must be accomplished in the following way:

**Here are the rules:**

\* You must travel at least 15 days and no more than 22 days. The day you leave home counts as Day 1 and the day you arrive home counts as the last day.

\* Each person contributes \$3000 U.S. to the

trip, including transportation. Use current foreign currency exchange rates in your calculations.

\* You must have a place to sleep each night. Sleeping on the plane, train or bus can only replace lodging if the trip is more than 5 hours long.

\* You must travel together at all times.

\* Assume your travel occurs during the month of June.

**Here is how you plan the trip:**

**Activity 1:**

***Task 1: Where do we go and how do we get there?***

Choose four of the following cities to visit. Each group member should choose one of the following cities to visit. Each member will be responsible for finding most of the information for the city he/she chooses. (If there are only three members in your group, choose the fourth city together and the tasks for that city will be divided equally):

- Amsterdam, Netherlands
- London, England
- Paris, France
- Berlin, Germany
- Florence, Italy
- Madrid, Spain
- Zurich, Switzerland



**Task 2: Gather airfare information (at least three to each city).**

Each person should find airfares on three different airlines to the city they chose. You should investigate one way as well as round trip fares.

<http://airtravel.about.com/travel/lodgtrans/airtravel/msubnam.htm> (Links to airlines.)

**Task 3: Find the distance to each city.**

<http://www.indo.com/distance>

**Task 4: Choose a route for your trip, including where you will fly into and out of.**

You must now choose the route for your trip.

- (a) Select the city you will fly into and out of. Use the airfare data your group gathered to make this decision. You do not necessarily have to choose the cheapest. (It may have more stops and take more time than a more expensive flight.) You will need to justify your decision in your report.
  
- (b) Select the order in which you will visit the other cities. Remember, you will need to end up at the city you are flying home from.

[http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map\\_collection/europe.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/europe.html)

<http://www.allstates-flag.com/flags/geo-euro.html>

**Task 5: You will use a Eurail pass to travel around Europe.**

Choose the one that best suits your needs based upon the route you have chosen.

**Transportation within Europe:**

<http://www.budgettravel.com/eurail.htm>

<http://www.villageinc.com/eurail.htm>

**Task 6:** You will keep track of your costs using a spreadsheet which

- (a) Includes cells for cost for transportation, lodging, food, attractions and souvenirs. Amounts are subtotaled and totaled
- (b) Cost information is correct. Currency is converted to US dollars  
[http://www.worldcargoalliance.com/Library/Banking/conversion\\_links.htm](http://www.worldcargoalliance.com/Library/Banking/conversion_links.htm)
- (c) Formulas are used in cells used to do calculations. (Don't just do them on your calculator then put the number into the spreadsheet.)

*What will we do while we're there?*

*Activity 2*

**Task 1:** You will choose what attractions you will visit and how you will spend your time in each city.

(a) Each person should use a decision matrix to decide what attractions to visit in their city.

Items to consider are:

Interest level,  
accessibility,  
cost  
cultural relevance.

You will use a decision matrix to do this for each city. To find out how to do a decision matrix, see the document on decision matrices...

Attractions and City information:

<http://www.excite.com/travel/countries>

click on the country, then it will show you a list of cities, the city pages have:

- o Fact Sheet
- o What to Do
- o Where to Eat
- o Where to Stay
- o Specialty Guides
- o News & Media

**Task 2:** Based upon the attractions you will visit, decide how many days you will stay in each city. Remember, the whole trip should last 15 to 22 days.

**Task 3:** Create an itinerary. This is simply a daily list of what you will do. Include what you will do and see and where you will stay each night. Include time for travel as appropriate.



*How much will all this cost?*

**Activity 3**

**Task 1:** Find the cost to visit each attraction included in your itinerary and enter them into your budget spreadsheet.

**Task 2:** Each person should find hotel rates for their city. You may use average rates for each city. Use these rates to calculate your total hotel costs. Enter this information into the budget spreadsheet.

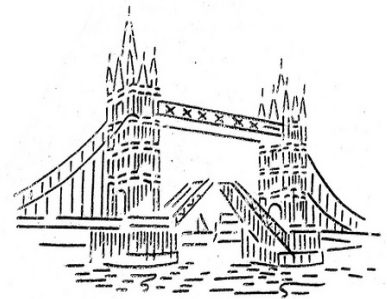
<http://pl.worldres.com/destination/europe/dest.asp>

<http://www.hotelguide.com/thg/entry/europe.htm>

<http://home1.gte.net/goeurope/hotels.htm>

<http://luxurytravel.com/europe/index.html>

<http://www.europeanvisits.com/hotels/hotels-main.htm>



**Task 3: Cost of food:** Plan to eat one meal at a decent restaurant each afternoon or evening. You can find out about restaurants and meal prices on the Internet.

- Each person should find meal prices for their city.
- Add 15% to the meal price for a gratuity.
- For the other two meals and incidental expenses you must allow an additional \$15 U.S. per day. Some hotels will have breakfast included so this should be sufficient.
- Enter this information into the budget spreadsheet.

**Task 4: Souvenirs etc.:** You are probably not going to go all the way to Europe and not buy anything to bring home.

- Each person must allocate at least \$25 U.S. times the number of people in your family for gifts.
- Enter these costs into the budget spreadsheet.

**Task 5:** Your ideal trip probably costs too much. If so, go back and replan so you can do this within budget. If your ideal trip cost much less than the allotted money, you are not taking advantage of this opportunity. Go back and plan some more stuff to do or better food to eat.



**Task 6:** Create a pie chart/bar chart of your budget. The categories should be transportation, food and miscellaneous, lodging, and souvenirs. The chart should display the percent of budget spent on each category.

**Share your trip plans with the rest of us**

**Activity 4**

**Task 1:** After you have planned your trip you will collate all of your information into a five to seven page report describing why you chose to plan the trip the way you did. You should include a printout of your airfare data and graph, budget spreadsheet, decision matrices (one for each city) and itinerary. A reference list containing sites and publications used must be included. The following should be included:

**A. General Topics**

- \* How is airfare related to distance?
- \* What item(s) impacted your budget the most?
- \* Describe how you chose the attractions to visit?
- \* What is your itinerary for each day?

**B. Airfare investigation (hand in printed copy and disk):**

- \* Airfares obtained from reliable sources. (Describe in report.)
- \* Several fares to each city averaged.
- \* Distances to each city correct.

**C. Budget Spreadsheet (hand in file on disk):**

- \* Includes all costs.
- \* Costs and currency information are correct.
- \* Programmed to automatically sum totals and do currency conversions.
- \* Easy to Understand

**D. Decision Matrix**

- \* Ratings done correctly indicating understanding of concept.
- \* Highest rated attractions are the ones chosen to visit. (In other words, you actually used the results!)

**E. List of references**

All sites, books, magazine articles, newspaper articles or other media used to obtain information should be listed and cited within the report as appropriate.

**Task 2:**

After you have planned your trip you will make and present a Power Point presentation describing your planned trip to your classmates.

**It is expected that your presentation will**

- \* be done using Power Point.
- \* demonstrate equal participation by all group members.
- \* be well prepared, clear and interesting.
- \* contain relevant graphics, sound and Excel charts imported into Power Point.

**Your work will be assessed (and graded) according to some clear guidelines.**

- Content, Format and appearance of report
- Budget
- Itinerary
- Presentation

*Grading:*

*There are 24 Total points you could earn.*

*21 to 24 points = A (95%)*

*18 to 20 points = B (85%)*

*15 to 17 points = C (75%)*

*12 to 14 points = D (65%)*

*9 to 12 points = F (55%)*

*6 to 8 points = F (45%)*

*Below 6 points = No Credit (0%)*

