**Refugee Crisis and Brexit**

**A+B=C?**

A. **European Union** - Europe tore itself apart in WWI (1914-1919) and again in WWI (1939-1945). After those wars, Europe found itself in the middle of a cold war between US and the USSR. These were the world’s new nuclear super powers who just might fight their war on European soil. To end conflict in Europe and to regain status in the world, Europe formed the European Union. The European Union (EU) is a group of 28 countries that operates as a unified economy and government. Nineteen of the countries use the euro as their official currency. The European Single Market was established by 12 countries in 1993 to ensure the so-called four freedoms: the movement of goods, services, people and money.

B. **Refugee Crisis** - According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 4.8 million have fled to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, and 6.6 million are internally displaced within Syria. Meanwhile about one million have requested asylum to Europe.

C. **Brexit** - June 23rd 2016 – 72% of British voters showed up to vote and 51.9% of them voted to leave the EU. It will take until December 2018 for the divorce to finalize.

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| **BREXIT** | | **Stronger In (Remain in the EU)** |
| **Control** | **Control in Britain**  The EU has too much control in Britain. Britain needs to decide things for Britain. | **Loss of Control in Europe**  Britain would no longer have a say in the EU’s decisions. |
| **Security** | **Increase Security inside Britain**  Open borders open Britain up to terrorist attacks. | **Increase Security in Europe**  The EU allows European countries to share intelligence to hunt down terrorists, to negotiate with world super powers as a much larger player, and to solve European problems with diplomacy and not war. |
| **People** | **Immigration**  Under EU law, Britain cannot prevent anyone from another member state coming to live in the country. The result has been a huge increase in immigration into Britain, particularly from eastern and southern Europe. The current refugee crisis could hit Britain. | **Emigration**  If you leave the EU. Britons no longer benefit from the same right to live and work anywhere else in the EU. |
| **Banks** | **More freedom for the banks**  Without EU regulations banks could reinvent themselves and make more money. | **Hurt the banks**  Other nations will no long use Britain’s banks as the gateway to the EU. |
| **Economy** | **Save the Membership fee**  Leaving the EU would result in an immediate cost saving of about $11 billion. | **Cost Money in the Long Run**  EU is negotiating with the US to form the world’s biggest free trade area. This could eventually save the British economy way more than $11 billion. |

Directions: As a group, for each issue, decide which side (Brexit or Stronger In) you think is correct by circling their argument. On the back of this sheet, pretend that you are a British citizen on June 22nd 2016. Give your specific plan for how Britain should vote and what the world should do about the Syrian refugees. This is an audition for the Your World Game.