

UK leaving Europe is bad for science

14th June, 2016



People in Britain will soon vote on whether or not to stay in or leave the European Union (EU). Newspapers have called it 'Brexit', which means Britain's, or British, exit. It is one of the biggest

issues for Europe in decades. British people have very strong feelings about leaving and staying in the EU. A group of scientists has come together in support of staying in Europe. All of the 13 scientists are Nobel Prize winners. The group says leaving the EU would be a "key risk" to British science. A spokesman explained how important it was for science that Britain remained in Europe. He said: "Inside the EU, Britain helps steer the biggest scientific powerhouse in the world."

Another top British scientist, Professor Stephen Hawking, said Brexit would be, "a disaster for UK science". Many other scientists agree, saying Britain would receive less money from the EU for research. They add that British scientists could no longer work as often or as closely with colleagues in European countries. Professor Hawking said many young European scientists come to Britain to work. He said this could slow down after a Brexit. However, many other scientists say Brexit would be better for British science. The campaign group Scientists For Britain says that the UK would not suffer financially from Brexit. It says the top two countries funded by an 80-billion euro EU science programme are not EU members.

Sources: *BBC.com / telegraph.co.uk / reuters.com*

Writing

It is best for the UK to be in the EU. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Britain / vote / exit / issues / decades / scientists / support / risk / powerhouse / scientist / agree / colleagues / slow down / campaign / suffer / financially / members

True / False

- British people will soon vote whether or not to remain part of the EU. T / F
- Thirteen UK scientists said the UK should stay in the EU. T / F
- The scientists have all won a Nobel Prize. T / F
- One scientist said he wanted Britain to make a science powerhouse. T / F
- Professor Stephen Hawking said it was better for the UK to leave the EU. T / F
- Professor Hawking said fewer European scientists would work in the UK. T / F
- The campaign group Scientists For Britain is anti-Brexit. T / F
- The group Scientists For Britain said the UK would get no EU money. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. stay | a. leading |
| 2. issues | b. guide |
| 3. group | c. be affected by |
| 4. risk | d. topics |
| 5. steer | e. catastrophe |
| 6. top | f. remain |
| 7. disaster | g. collaborators |
| 8. colleagues | h. danger |
| 9. suffer | i. financed |
| 10. funded | j. collection |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Brexit?
- Do you think it is better for the UK to leave or stay in the EU?
- What are the good things about being in the European Union?
- How important is the UK for science?
- Would science really suffer if the UK left the EU?
- Is it better for a country to be part of a union or be totally independent?
- How important is the European Union?
- What British scientists (past and present) do you know of?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. vote on whether or | a. feelings |
| 2. the biggest issues for Europe | b. group |
| 3. people have very strong | c. in the world |
| 4. a key | d. British scientist |
| 5. the biggest scientific powerhouse | e. in decades |
| 6. Another top | f. closely with colleagues |
| 7. Britain would receive less | g. financially |
| 8. no longer work as often or as | h. not to stay |
| 9. campaign | i. money from the EU |
| 10. the UK would not suffer | j. risk to British science |

Discussion – Student B

- How important is the UK in the world?
- What are the bad things about being in the European Union?
- Why might it be better for the UK to leave the EU?
- Why might it be better for the UK to stay in the EU?
- What do you think of the UK?
- What's the difference between the UK and GB?
- How important is science?
- What questions would you like to ask a British scientist?

Spelling

- one of the biggest essisu
- in ecdesda
- people have very strong nilesfeg
- come together in prtpuso of staying
- Britain nrmaeed in Europe
- the biggest scientific pwhueesoor
- a itdsrea for UK science
- Britain would ereivce less money
- aelsuolecg in European countries
- agmpcian group
- would not suffer yinianflalc from Brexit
- the top two countries dnefud

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. h	5. b
6. a	7. e	8. g	9. c	10. i

Brexit Role Play

Role A – UK scientist

You think the UK should stay in the EU because science will be better. You need to work with European colleagues. You need research money from the EU. More European scientists will come to work in the UK. Tell the hotel owner and farmer they are wrong and why Brexit would be a disaster.

Role B – UK farmer

You think Brexit is better for the UK. You think food from British farms would sell better around the world. There are too many rules for farmers in Europe. Food prices would be cheaper if the UK left the EU. Tell the scientist and soccer club owner they are wrong.

Role C – UK hotel owner

You think you would make more money if the UK left the EU. It would be more expensive for British people to holiday in Europe so they will stay in UK hotels. Other people will like Britain's greater independence. Tell the scientist and soccer club owner they are wrong.

Role D – UK soccer club owner

You think Brexit would be a disaster for English football, especially the Premier League. Hundreds of top players would not get a work permit to play for UK clubs. No UK club would ever win the Champions League. Tell the hotel owner and farmer they are wrong.

Speaking – Science

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important science at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • computer science | • planetary science |
| • neuroscience | • chemistry |
| • biology | • mathematics |
| • political science | • physics |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.