

## Student Worksheet #1: Outline About the United Nations (3 pages)



### What is the United Nations?

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization where countries meet to discuss global issues and work together.

Today, the UN has 193 member countries. It provides a place where governments can communicate, debate, and attempt to solve international problems peacefully.

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### When did the UN begin?

The United Nations was created in 1945, after World War II.

After the war, world leaders wanted an organization that could help prevent future global conflicts and encourage cooperation between countries.

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### What is the purpose of the UN?

**The main goals of the United Nations are to:**

- Maintain international peace and security
- Encourage cooperation between countries
- Promote human rights
- Help address global challenges such as poverty, conflict, and humanitarian crises

## **What is the UN General Assembly?**

**The General Assembly is the main meeting body of the UN.**

- It includes all 193 member countries
- Each country has one vote, regardless of its size or power

**Countries debate and vote on global issues such as:**

- Peace and security
  - Human rights
  - Development
  - International cooperation
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## **The UN Security Council**

**The Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security.**

**Five Permanent Members (with veto power)**

**These countries can block decisions made by the Security Council.**

- United States
- Russia
- China
- United Kingdom
- France

**Ten Non-Permanent Members (no veto power)**

**These countries are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.**

### **The Security Council can:**

- Respond to international conflicts
  - Approve peacekeeping missions
  - Impose sanctions
  - Authorize military action
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### **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which lists 30 basic rights and freedoms that all people should have.

These include freedoms such as speech, equality before the law, protection from torture, and the right to education.

**You can read the document here: [United Nations Declaration of Human Rights](#)**

**Many countries say they support these rights, but the document itself is not legally binding, and countries do not always follow it in practice.**

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### **Thought Question**

According to [Freedom House](#), if only 43% of countries in the world are democracies, how might that impact the decision-making in the UN?

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