

Six Main Bodies of the United Nations Puzzle

OBJECTIVE(S)

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Name the 6 main bodies of the UN
2. Recognize the basic function and purpose of the 6 main bodies of the UN

REQUIREMENTS

Level: 7-12 Grade(s)

Time: 10 minutes

Materials Needed:

Handouts
Scissors
Glue
Paper/Pencils/Markers

PROCEDURE (Please use additional space as needed)

I. Lesson Introduction/Activation of Prior Knowledge

This activity will review the 6 main bodies of the UN for those students who can tell them by name, and will aid those students who are having trouble remembering the 6 main bodies. By the end of this activity, students should know the 6 main bodies of the UN and be familiar with their basic function and purpose.

Explain the following to your students:

The UN is a unique international organization of 193 member States, representing virtually every country in the world. It was founded after the Second World War to maintain international peace and security; develop friendly relations among nations; and promote social progress, better living standards and human rights. The Member States are bound together by the principles of the UN Charter, an international treaty that spells out their rights and duties as members of the world community. The United Nations is not a world government and it does not make laws. It provides the means to help resolve international conflicts. At the UN, all the Member States — large and small, rich and poor, with differing political views and social systems — have a voice and a vote in this process.

II. Activity (Indicate if activity is independent, pair or group work)

This activity can be done independently or in small groups. Pass out an envelope filled with the 12 boxes from the completed puzzle already cut up. Have the students match the functions and names of the 6 main bodies of the UN. They can do this on their desks, or they can paste their matches to the empty handout.

III. Closing/Wrap-Up

Review the answers of each group. As a class, go over the correct matches, and review the incorrect matches, explaining why the incorrect matches are incorrect. Students should understand why the UN has several main bodies and why each of their unique functions help the organization work more effectively and efficiently. For classes preparing for an upcoming Model UN conference, take some

time to explain any other committees they may be simulating and how they fit into the system. You can use the UN system chart as a guide.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Future In-class Follow-Up for Teachers: A Mini Quiz on Learning about the United Nations. (High School Level) Provide the students with the names of the 6 main bodies of the UN and ask the students to write out each of their basic functions. (Middle School Level) Provide the students with the functions of the 6 main bodies and ask the students to write out the names of each main body beside the correct function.

Homework: This activity reviews the 6 main bodies of the UN. (High School Level) Ask the students to name one additional body of the UN, which is not among the 6 main ones gone over in class. (Middle School Level) Ask the students to create their own UN body, providing an explanation of what its purpose would be and how its main function would help the UN run more effectively and efficiently.

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Directions: Cut up each square and match the correct UN body with its description.

UN Body	Description
General Assembly (GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All UN Member States are represented in this committee • Each country has one vote. • Topics discussed include: globalization, health, conflict in Africa, protection of the environment and consolidation of new democracies. • This committee cannot force action by any State, but its recommendations are an important indication of world opinion and represent the moral authority of the community of nations.
The Security Council (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its primary responsibility is maintaining international peace and security. • There are 15 members. • There are five permanent members — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. • The other 10 are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. • Member States are currently discussing making changes to the membership to reflect today's political and economic realities.
The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It coordinates the economic and social work of the United Nations and the UN family of organizations. • This Council has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. • This Council focuses on such issues as social development, the status of women, crime prevention, narcotic drugs, and environmental protection.
The Trusteeship Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Council was established to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories administered by seven Member States and ensure that adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government or independence. • This Council is made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council --China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States. • The aims of the Council's system have been fulfilled to such an extent that all Trust Territories have attained self-government or independence, either as separate States or by joining neighboring independent countries. • This Council suspended operation on November 1, 1994, with the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations trust territory. • By a resolution adopted on May 25, 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as occasion required -- by its decision or the decision of its President, or at the request of a majority of its members or the General Assembly or the Security Council.
The International Court of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also known as the World Court, this is the main judicial organ of the UN. • Consists of 15 judges elected jointly by the General Assembly and the Security Council. • This body decides disputes between countries.
The Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This body carries out the substantive and administrative work of the United Nations as directed by the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the other organs. • At its head is the Secretary-General, who provides overall administrative guidance.

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Directions: Paste each UN body next to the corresponding description below.

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