

International Organizations

Name: _____



Working Together

Organizations are groups of people, businesses, or governments that work together to solve an issue.

International organizations involve governments or people from different countries working together to solve an issue that crosses country borders. Reaching across borders is what makes them “international.” There are two main types of international organizations.

Intergovernmental Organizations

“Inter” means *among* or *between*. It is a prefix that shows there is a connection between things. *Intergovernmental organizations* are organizations that are formed between governments. They are based on formal agreements between three or more countries that have come together for a specific purpose. For example, several governments might come together to share the national experts and resources to develop solutions for fighting hunger around the world.



American, British, and Spanish ships participate in a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military exercise.



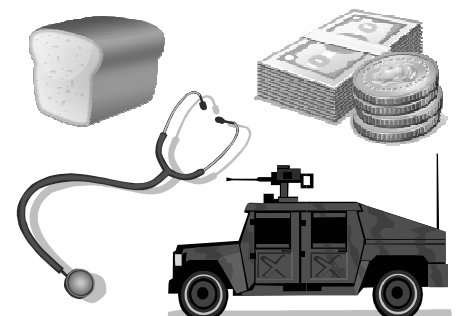
A bundle of clothes from the Red Cross in Finland waits to be donated to people in need.

Nongovernmental Organizations

“Non” means *not*, of course. *Nongovernmental organizations* (NGOs) are groups that work to solve problems around the world. Although they may have members that come from government organizations, they are not connected to any government. A nongovernmental organization is free to work toward its own goals without interference from any government. If an NGO wanted to fight hunger globally, it might collaborate with other NGOs or raise money independently to fund projects.

What International Organizations Do

International organizations have often been responsible for providing help to nations in need. They also keep the peace in countries that are having violent uprisings or civil war. In addition to using troops or volunteers to maintain peace, international organizations also work to provide better education and medical care to people in war-torn areas.



Reading

The United Nations

In October 1945, right after World War II, fifty-one countries started an organization with a goal of keeping peace, developing friendly relationships among countries, and improving the quality of life for the world's poor people. This organization, called the United Nations (UN), has 193 member nations today.

In its peacekeeping role, the UN sends troops to bring stability and peace to troubled areas of the world. UN peacekeepers are troops or police sent from member countries. They wear their own country's uniform with a UN helmet or beret. One of the UN's peacekeeping missions is in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country in Africa where tribes and smaller militias have been fighting for years. UN peacekeepers are there to protect civilians and aid workers from physical violence. They are also helping the country's government restore the rule of law. The UN currently has 15 similar missions around the world.

In its role to improve the quality of life for the world's poor, two of the most well-known UN organizations are the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). UNICEF works in poor areas of the world to help prevent disease and child abuse. UNICEF also support the rights and education of children, especially girls, who do not receive equal treatment to boys in many parts of the world. The WFP works to end hunger around the world. Part of this involves bringing food when there is an emergency. The other part involves preventing hunger in poor parts of the world. The WFP does this by providing school meals to encourage families to keep their kids in school, helping farmers find good markets for selling their products, and paying people with food in exchange for their labor building improvements to their communities.



Your Report

Follow the directions and answer the questions below, then explain to your group what the United Nations is all about.

Read. Read the article through one time so you know what's there.

Mark It Up.

- 1) Circle the year the United Nations was founded and the number of countries involved today.
- 2) Underline the main purpose of the United Nations. (This could be the reason why it was started or its main goal.)
- 3) Box the two main roles of the United Nations.
- 4) Put [brackets] around one example for each role.

Take Notes. You will use these when you tell your group about the United Nations.

The United Nations was founded in _____.

_____ countries are involved today.

The reason the United Nations exists is to _____

_____.

The United Nations has two roles:

1. _____
2. _____

A good example of something the United Nations does is _____

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a group of countries in Europe and North America that have signed a treaty agreeing to protect each other in case of attack. NATO was founded in April 1949 by twelve countries. Today, NATO has 28 member countries. NATO countries protect themselves by working together to help stabilize parts of the world that are in trouble.

One role of NATO countries is to help keep peace and security around the world, even in non-member countries. For example, NATO troops are in Afghanistan helping the government there to maintain control of the country and fight the threat of terrorism. In addition, NATO troops in both Afghanistan and Iraq are helping to train the militaries in those countries to be able to stand on their own. In another part of the world, "Operation Ocean Shield" uses naval ships from NATO countries to fight pirates and provide security to ships off the Horn of Africa.

NATO also uses its resources to help both member countries and non-member countries after a natural disaster. It does this because it believes the world will be more safe and secure if victims of natural disaster receive help quickly. For example, in 2010 Pakistan suffered major flooding and asked NATO for help. NATO agreed to deliver donations from countries and nongovernmental organizations. NATO airplanes delivered many supplies from member countries: generators, water pumps, and tents donated from Slovakia; food and medical supplies donated by Germany; field hospitals from Denmark; and blankets and tents from France, as well as baby food and high energy biscuits from nongovernmental organizations along with other aid donations.



Your Report

Follow the directions and answer the questions below, then explain to your group what the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is all about.

Read. Read the article through one time so you know what's there.

Mark It Up.

- 1) Circle the year NATO was founded and the number of countries involved today.
- 2) Underline the main purpose of NATO. (This could be the reason why it was started or its main goal.)
- 3) Box the two main roles of NATO.
- 4) Put [brackets] around one example for each role.

Take Notes. You will use these when you tell your group about the NATO.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in _____.

_____ countries are involved today.

The reason NATO exists is to _____

_____.

NATO has two roles:

1. _____

2. _____

A good example of something NATO does is _____

The European Union

The European Union (EU) is a partnership between countries in Europe that is designed to help them avoid conflict by making them dependent on each other. The EU began in 1951 with a treaty between six countries who agreed to operate their coal and steel industries together. This way, none of the six could manufacture its own weapons to use against the others in war. Later, the six countries began to adopt the same economic rules, such as paying farmers in all countries the same for their produce. They also allowed goods to be traded between the six countries without any taxes for moving products across borders. The idea was that countries that depended on each other would be less likely to go to war against each other. Today, the EU has 27 member countries.

One role of the EU is to create a single economy in which all of the members participate. All of the countries use the same unit of money, called the Euro. Goods trade freely between the member countries without being taxed.

Another role of the EU is to act as a single voice in the world for its member countries. The EU is run by a European government that is made up of representatives voted into office by citizens in the 27 countries. The government of the EU makes decisions about what the EU as a group will do about a wide variety of issues, such as terrorism. By acting as one unit, the members have more influence than they would if they each acted alone. For example, the EU might use its influence to negotiate peace between countries in conflict.

Finally, the EU plays a major role giving aid to countries around the world that have problems such as hunger, disease, and environmental contamination. For example, the EU keeps aid workers in the Caribbean to help people in those countries develop better ways to cope with natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. The EU is also actively distributing food to people in the poorest countries of Africa.



Your Report

Follow the directions and answer the questions below, then explain to your group what the European Union is all about.

Read. Read the article through one time so you know what's there.

Mark It Up.

- 1) Circle the year the European Union was founded and the number of countries involved today.
- 2) Underline the main purpose of the European Union. (This could be the reason why it was started or its main goal.)
- 3) Box the two main roles of the European Union.
- 4) Put [brackets] around one example for each role.

Take Notes. You will use these when you tell your group about the European Union.

The European Union was founded in _____.

_____ countries are involved today.

The reason the European Union exists is to _____

_____.

The European Union has three roles:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

A good example of something the United Nations does is _____

_____.