



PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTIVITY

What is the United Nations and what is the UN Charter?

Preparation: Read the fact sheet that accompanies this activity. For further information please visit www.unesco.org.uk/un_matters and www.un.org

Learning outcomes:

- ⇒ To identify ways countries can avoid conflicts
- ⇒ To rewrite the UN Charter as school rules

Starter (Circle activity)

- Using a blow up globe, throw the globe across the circle and ask the child who caught it to call out the name of a country. They can look at the names on the globe if they need to. Keep passing the globe about the circle so that everyone has had a turn.
- Ask the children if they know how many countries there are in the world. (195)
- Explain that just like in school or at home where children can have arguments and fall out, countries can fall out with each other. In school you might have school or classroom rules to avoid children falling out.
- Discuss what they think the 195 countries might do to stop falling out with each other?

Main activity

- Explain that countries are made up of people represented by a government and that governments can and do fall out.
- Discuss why they might fall out and display the list. Have some ideas ready. What can happen when countries do fall out?
- Introduce the United Nations. (See factsheet)
- The UN is a group of 192 countries that have agreed on a set of rules laid out in the UN Charter. The United Nations does not want people to fight or to suffer.
- When a country joins the United Nations it has to agree to obey these rules.



- Two very important rules are that:
 - Countries must avoid using force or threatening to use force against another country
 - Countries must try to settle their differences by peaceful means.

- Look at the UN Rules – how do they compare to the school/classroom rules in your school?

- Rewrite the following UN rules as class rules.

United Nations Rules

1. All member countries are equal
2. All member countries must obey the UN rules
3. Countries must try to settle their differences by peaceful means
4. Countries must avoid using force or threatening to use force
5. The United Nations may not interfere with the domestic affairs of any country
6. Countries should try to assist the United Nations
7. The aims of the United Nations are to:
 - i) Keep peace throughout the world
 - ii) Develop friendly relations between nations
 - iii) Work together to help poor people live better lives
 - iv) Eliminate poverty, disease and illiteracy in the world
 - v) Stop environmental destruction and
 - vi) Encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms

Plenary

Do your school/classroom rules look similar to the UN rules?

Is it good to draw up a charter? Why? Why not?