

The United Nations

agreement = two or more people or countries promise to do something

allied countries = the countries that won the Second World War

body = group, organization

council = committee, assembly

create = make

decide = to make a choice about something

headquarters = the home of an organisation

human rights = one of the main rights that everyone in the world should have, like the right to say what you want etc..

join = to become a part of

membership = to become a member

neutral = not to be on anybody's side

peace = opposite of war

permanent = something lasting

recommend = advise, suggest

security = protection from danger

sign = to put your name on a document

solve = to find a way of dealing with a problem

very few = not very many

vote = here: one point

The United Nations is an international organisation of countries. It was **created** for many reasons:

- + There should be **peace** and **security** in the world after the Second World War
- + Countries should be friendly to each other
- + Countries should help each other **solve** problems
- + **Human rights** should be respected everywhere in the world.

After the Second World War the **allied countries** got together to discuss in which ways such an organization could be **created**. In 1945 50 countries got together in San Francisco and **signed** an **agreement** that created the United Nations. The United States invited the new UN to set up its **headquarters** in New York. The building was finished in 1952 and has been the **permanent** seat of the UN until today.



MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all peace - loving nations. Today there are about 200 countries in the UN - only **very few** have not become members.

Switzerland **joined** the UN in 2002 because the Swiss always wanted to be **neutral**.

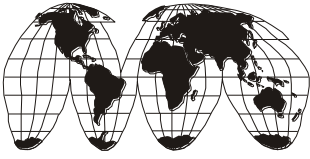
THE MAIN PARTS OF THE UN

There are 5 main parts in this organisation

1. The General Assembly
2. The Security Council
3. The Economic and Social Council
4. The International Court of Justice
5. The Secretariat

All countries get together in the General Assembly. It normally meets once a year, but it doesn't have any real power. It discusses problems and **recommends** ways to solve them. In the General Assembly each country has one **vote**.

The Security Council is the main **body** of the UN. It gets together almost every day and it has the most power. Member countries must do what the Security Council **decides**. There are 15 members in this **council** – five of them are **permanent**: The



The United Nations

agree = to have the same opinion

argue = quarrel, disagree about something

decision = choice

disease = illness

elect = vote

endanger = put in danger

in charge of = in control of

independent judges = a freely elected person who is in control of a court and decides how criminals should be punished

in need = if you need a lot of things like food, clothes, a place to live etc..

invade = if you march into another country with your own army

keep up = here: finance, give money to

obey = to do what someone orders you to

official = bureaucrat, representative

peacekeeping mission = a job in which soldiers travel to a dangerous area and try to keep peace there

prevent = stop from doing something

reach = to get to this position

right = are allowed to

seat = the place or town where an organisation always meets

settle = solve a problem

solve = find an answer for a problem, same as "settle"

take action = to do something

trouble = conflict

veto = to say no to something or somebody, even if all the others say yes

weapons = guns, bombs, knives and other things you need to fight

United States, Russia, China, France and Great Britain. These countries have a **right** to **veto** anything. The other 10 members change all the time. They stay in the Security Council for 2 years.

The Security Council makes very important decisions and all the countries have to **obey** them. It tries to keep peace in the world and also tries to **solve** conflicts that **endanger** world peace. It also sends peacekeepers to countries where there is **trouble**.

The World Court makes **decisions** when two countries **argue** about something. It has **independent judges** that are elected by the UN.

The **Secretary General** has a lot of power in the UN. He is the highest **official** and is **elected** for five years by the General Assembly. He often travels around the world to **settle** conflicts between countries.

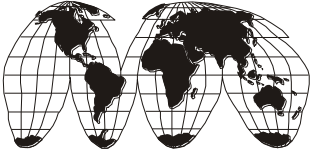
At present, Ban Ki-moon is Secretary General of the UN. He was elected in 2006 and comes from South Korea. Austria also had a man **in charge of** the UN. Kurt Waldheim was Secretary General from 1972 to 1981.

The United Nations also has many other organisations. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tries to find out if countries have atomic **weapons**. Its **seat** is in Vienna. The World Health Organisation is a UN programme to help control **diseases** all over the world. UNICEF is an organisation to help children **in need** in poor countries.

The United Nations needs a lot of money to **keep up** all of these organisations and programmes. It gets most of its money from the world's rich countries like the United States (about 25%), Japan, Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy. A lot of the money is used for **peacekeeping missions**.

In the past few years—after the end of the Cold War—the United Nations have played a more important role in the world. In 1991, the UN voted to **take action** against Iraq, which **invaded** Kuwait. But if important countries do not **agree** in the Security Council, like in the Iraq War of 2003, the United Nations cannot do very much to **prevent** conflicts.





The United Nations

agree = to say yes

attack = to start using violence to hurt a person or damage something

border = the line that separates two countries

divide = split, break up

enemy = someone who is not your friend. He fights against you.

former = what was once

Mediterranean Sea = the sea between Africa and Europe

observer = a person who only watches something. He doesn't fight

patrol = to check or control

settle = to start living in a place where not many people have lived before

soldier = a person who goes to war for their country

weapons = guns, bombs, knives and other things you need to fight

PEACEKEEPERS

The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces are groups of **soldiers** who help keep peace in places of conflict. Most of the time they are **observers** or soldiers who don't have so many **weapons**. Normally, they try to keep the **enemies** away from each other.

The first UN peacekeepers were sent to the Middle East in 1948 after the first war between Israel and its neighbours. After many weeks of war the UN peacekeepers were able to help make peace. Since then UN soldiers have helped **patrol** borders between Israel and Syria.

UN soldiers have also helped in Cyprus—a small island in the **Mediterranean Sea** that has mostly Greek people, but the northern part is **settled** by Turks. UN peace-

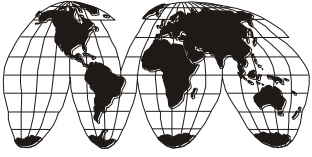


keepers control a **border** that **divides** the north and the south of the island.

In the 1980s and 90s UN peacekeepers have helped keep peace in many countries. In the middle of the 1990s they were sent to **former** Yugoslavia to keep peace between the Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

UN peacekeepers are sent to a region only if the Security Council tells them to. They can only help keep peace if all the other countries **agree** and they may use their weapons only if they are **attacked**. Most of them wear a blue hat or a helmet so that you can tell if they are UN soldiers.

Since 1948 there have been 54 UN peacekeeping operations all over the world. Over 120 countries have sent soldiers.



The United Nations

achievement = the things that the UN has already done

developing countries = the poorest countries in our world

disease = illness

drug abuse = to take illegal drugs

environment = everything that is around us

improve = to make better

poverty = the situation of being very poor

protect = defend, guard

refugee = a person who has to leave his country, because there is war or something very dangerous has happened

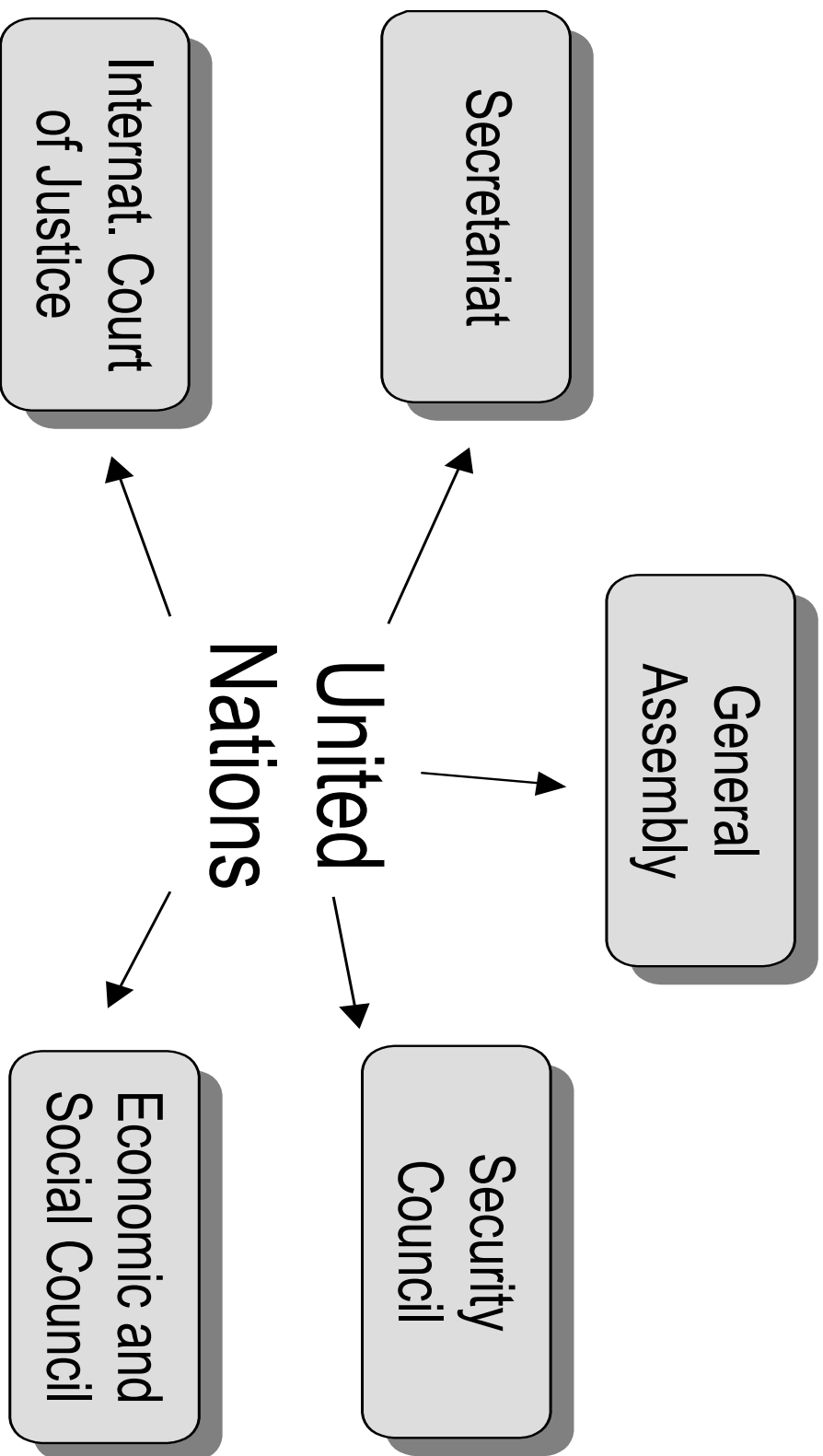
sees to it = to make sure that...

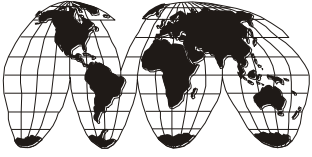
summit = leaders of many countries get together and talk about many things

ACHIEVEMENTS

- + The UN has helped many countries become democratic and peaceful states.
- + The UN plays an important role in **protecting** our **environment**. The "Earth **Summit**" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 was a big conference about climate change and other problems of our environment.
- + The International Atomic Energy Agency is a UN organisation that controls the nuclear weapons of countries and **sees to it** that they don't build an atomic bomb.
- + Since 1950, the UN has given help to over 50 million **refugees**. These people had to leave their countries because of war, hunger or **diseases**.
- + Africa is the poorest continent in our world. The UN has given African countries money and other kinds of help so that they can feed people and give them work to do.
- + It helps give **developing countries** safe and clean water .
- + It fights **drug abuse** and **improves** the lives of children who live in **poverty**.
- + It helps people learn how to read and write.
- + It helps farmers in poor countries where it is too hot or too dry.



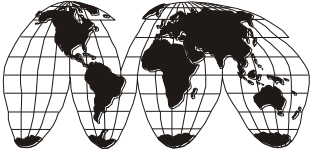




The United Nations

PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS





The United Nations

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS !

When and where was the UN founded ? _____

Where does the UN have its permanent seat today ? _____

Which famous country joined the UN in 2002 ? Why didn't it join before ? _____

Name the five main organs of the UN :

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Describe the two kinds of member states in the Security Council ! What is the difference ?

<u>PERMANENT MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS</u>

Who is the highest official in the UN ? _____

What is his name and where does he come from ? _____

What is the IAEA ? _____

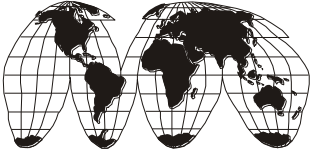
Why does the UN need a lot of money ? _____

What happens in the World Court ? _____

What do UN peacekeepers do ? _____

What was the job of the first UN peacekeepers in the Middle East ? _____

What problem is there in Cyprus ? _____



The United Nations

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM THE WORDS IN THE BOX

Rio de Janeiro	safe	dry
farmers	democratic	developing
Africa	write	poorest
conference	refugees	environment

The UN plays an important role in the world today. Over the past 50 years it has helped countries become _____ nations. It also does a lot to protect our _____. In 1992 there was a big _____ on world problems in _____.

In _____ countries it shows people how to read and _____. It gives them _____ and clean water and helps _____ where it is too hot or _____.

Since 1950 the UN has helped over 50 million _____. Most money goes to _____, the _____ continent or our world.

EXPLAIN IN ENGLISH WHAT THESE UN ORGANS DO !

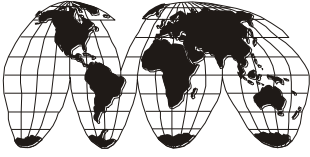
Security Council _____

General Assembly _____

UNICEF _____

International Atomic Energy Commission _____

The World Court _____



The United Nations

MAKE QUESTIONS AND ASK FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS !

In 1945 50 countries founded the UN in San Francisco.

Today there are about 200 members in the United Nations.

The General Assembly normally meets once a year to discuss world problems.

Switzerland joined the UN in 2002.

The Security Council makes very important decisions.

The Secretary General is elected for five years by the General Assembly.

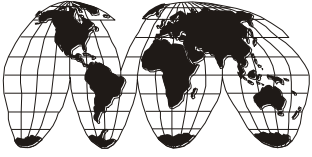
The UN needs a lot of money for its organisations and programmes.

The first peacekeepers were sent to the Middle East because there was trouble between Israel and Syria.

The UN also gives help to refugees.

TRUE OR FALSE ?

	T	F
The UN has its headquarters in San Francisco.		
In the Security Council there are countries that have veto power.		
The Security Council can send peacekeepers to all parts of the world.		
UNICEF is an organisation that helps control diseases.		
Japan gives the United Nations the most money.		
Kurt Waldheim is Secretary General of the UN.		
The first UN peacekeepers were sent to Cyprus in 1964.		
The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro was a big meeting about environmental problems.		



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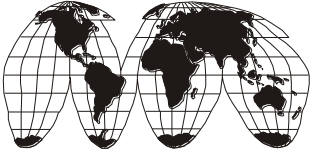
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FIND 12 WORDS ABOUT THE UN IN THE PUZZLE BELOW !

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G B X
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H C M U N Z S
R M N W L P J P W
P Z H A C Z R V E T O
V S W I T Z E R L A N D
K Z T O Z F B L T C N G
V J C O U N C I L E A I
X Q S G V I W F W K V V
A W E A P O N Y Q E Q P
Y E N V I R O N M E N T
M E M B E R S H I P O Y
H I X K Q P E N E M Y
S S O L D I E R T



The United Nations

X
G B X
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H C M U N Z S
R M N W L P J P W
P Z H A C Z R V E T O
V S W I T Z E R L A N D
K Z T O Z F B L T C N G
V J C O U N C I L E A I
X Q S G V I W F W K V V
A W E A P O N Y Q E Q P
Y E N V I R O N M E N T
M E M B E R S H I P O Y
H I X K Q P E N E M Y
S S O L D I E R T