

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS RELATED AGENCIES: An Introduction

Introduction:

In this lesson, you will learn about the history of the United Nations, its basic functions, and the many organizations that help the UN carry out its mission. Information to answer most of the questions can be found at www.un.org.

Part I: History

Answer the following questions:

1. Who first came up with the name "United Nations"?
2. In what year did the UN officially come into existence?
3. How many member states did the UN initially have? How many does it have today?
4. In what city was the UN Charter drawn up and adopted?
5. How many times has the Nobel Peace prize been awarded to the UN or its affiliated organizations?
6. In what city is UN headquarters located?
7. Which nation is the most recent member state of the UN?

Part II: Functions

A. List the six principal organs of the UN and briefly describe the composition and responsibilities of each one:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

B. What are the 8 goals of the UN?

C. What is the title of the leader of the UN? What responsibilities does this person have? Who currently holds this position?

D. Who is the current U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN?

E. One of the UN's primary goals is peacekeeping, yet there exists no full-time UN army to enforce peace. Where does the UN get soldiers and equipment to form peacekeeping missions? What is the main purpose of these special units? What is the difference between peacekeeping and enforcement action?

F. Why is the UN currently in a state of "financial crisis"?

G. List three ways in which the UN has taken steps to protect the environment.

Part III

The United Nations has a number of other organizations affiliated with it; many of these are called "specialized agencies." In this section, you will need to match excerpts from 20 mission statements/statements of goals with the organization that issued it.

ORGANIZATIONS

FAO

IAEA

ICAO

IFAD

ILO

IMF

ITU

UNCTAD

UNDP

UNEP

UNESCO

UNFPA

UNHCR

UNICEF

UPU

WFP

WHO

WMO

World Bank

WTO

EXCERPTS FROM MISSION STATEMENTS:

1. "...to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations."

2. "...to protect refugees and to seek durable solutions to their problems..."

3. "...mission is to provide:

- Food for LIFE to sustain victims of man-made and natural disasters;
- Food for GROWTH to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives; and
- Food for WORK to help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive works programmes."

4. "...the development of safe, regular, efficient and economical air transport..."

5. "...to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to all couples and individuals on or before the year 2015; to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programming; to promote awareness of population and development issues and to advocate for the mobilization of the resources and political will necessary to accomplish its areas of work..."

6. "...the coordination, development, regulation and standardization of telecommunications and organization of regional and world TELECOM events...."

7. "...to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations..."
8. "...to reduce poverty and improve living standards by promoting sustainable growth and investments in people...[and] provide loans, technical assistance and policy guidance to help its developing-country members achieve this objective..."
9. "...showing the way and galvanizing energies to eradicate rural poverty and hunger, and to unleash, through their own participation, the capacities of our clients: poor rural people..."
10. "(a) full employment and the raising of standards of living; (b) the employment of workers in the occupations in which they can have the satisfaction of giving the fullest measure of their skill and attainments and make their greatest contribution to the common well-being; (c) the provision, as a means to the attainment of this end and under adequate guarantees for all concerned, of facilities for training and the transfer of labour, including migration for employment and settlement; (d) policies in regard to wages and earnings, hours and other conditions of work calculated to ensure a just share of the fruits of progress to all, and a minimum living wage to all employed and in need of such protection; (e) the effective recognition of the right of collective bargaining, the cooperation of management and labour in the continuous improvement of productive efficiency, and the collaboration of workers and employers in the preparation and application of social and economic measures; (f) the extension of social security measures to provide a basic income to all in need of such protection and comprehensive medical care; (g) adequate protection for the life and health of workers in all occupations; (h) provision for child welfare and maternity protection; (i) the provision of adequate nutrition, housing and facilities for recreation and culture; (j) the assurance of equality of educational and vocational opportunity."
11. "...serves as the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field, and as the international inspectorate for the application of nuclear safeguards and verification measures covering civilian nuclear programmes..."
12. "...coordinates global scientific activity to allow increasingly prompt and accurate weather information and other services for public, private and commercial use, including international airline and shipping industries..."
13. "...the protection of children's rights, to help the young meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential..."
14. "...the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health...defined [as]...a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity..."
15. "...raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, and expanding the production of and trade in goods and services, while allowing for the optimal use of the world's resources in accordance with the objective of sustainable development, seeking both to protect and preserve the environment and to enhance the means for doing so in a

manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different levels of development..."

16. "...to promote international monetary cooperation; to facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade; to promote exchange stability; to assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments; to make its general resources temporarily available to its members experiencing balance of payments difficulties under adequate safeguards; and to shorten the duration and lessen the degree of disequilibrium in the international balances of payments of members..."

17. "...to play an important leadership role in promoting the continued revitalization of postal services..."

18. "...to achieve steady sustained growth in all countries and to accelerate the development of developing countries, so that all people can enjoy economic and social well-being..."

19. "...to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations."

20. "...to help countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable human development by assisting them to build their capacity to design and carry out development programmes in poverty eradication, employment creation and sustainable livelihoods, the empowerment of women and the protection and regeneration of the environment, giving first priority to poverty eradication..."