



United Nations



Building
Our Future
Together

Total time: 60 minutes
Age range: 11-14 years

THE UNITED NATIONS at 80 LET'S CELEBRATE THE UN'S BIRTHDAY TOGETHER !

TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



Learning Outcomes

- Understand what the United Nations (UN) is and why it was established.
- Discuss the main results and achievements of the UN's activities
- Reflect on how the UN has changed the world over the past 80 years
- Share ideas and exchange opinions about what the UN could do in the future

Resources

- Copies of a simplified student handout (timeline of UN milestones, icons for UN agencies)
- Paper, pens, or creative materials (for drawing, writing, or making posters)



Lesson Steps



Step 1: What is the UN? (5–7 mins)

Ask: Have you ever heard of the United Nations?

Explain simply: The United Nations (UN) is like a big team of countries. It started in 1945 to help people live in peace, be healthy, go to school, and care for our planet. Today, 193 countries are members of the UN. This year, it turns 80 years old. The UN has many special agencies, and each one does important work. For example:

- WFP (World Food Programme) delivers food to families who don't have enough
- WHO (World Health Organization) helps people stay healthy
- UNESCO protects culture and history and supports education

There are over 30 UN agencies working around the world to make people's lives better

The UN and Mongolia

Mongolia became a member of the UN in 1961.

- It helps improve education and health for children and families
- It supports protecting the environment and nomadic traditions, and helps Mongolia prepare for climate change
- It creates more opportunities for young people so they can build their future
- The UN also helps Mongolia achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Show the UN logo. Say: Why do you think a world organization is needed ?



Lesson Steps

Step 2: Exploring the UN's Work – Key Achievements (10 mins)

Introduce 5 main areas where the UN has made a difference:

1. Peace & Security – peacekeeping missions in countries affected by conflict
2. Health – WHO's role in eradicating diseases like smallpox and fighting COVID-19
3. Children's Rights – UNICEF's work to ensure every child has health care, education, and protection
4. Education & Culture – UNESCO promoting education and protecting world heritage sites
5. Environment & Climate Action – UN climate conferences and agreements to protect the planet

Ask students: Which of these do you think has helped children the most? Why?

Step 3: Understanding Progress and Challenges (20 mins)

- Share a timeline of UN achievements (e.g., Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, Sustainable Development Goals, climate agreements)

Activity: Match each UN achievement to a challenge that still exists (e.g., "Right to education" vs. "Millions of children still out of school")

Class discussion: What challenges do you think the UN should focus on in the future?

Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948

Adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to protect the planet in 2015

The UN was created in 1945

Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989

The 80th Anniversary of the United Nations! 2025



Lesson Steps

Step 4: Create the Future (15 mins)

- In 2045, when the UN celebrates its 100th anniversary, ask students to share and discuss what they imagine the UN will be like
- Create a "newspaper or magazine cover" (for example: "The UN has brought peace to all countries!")
- Write a short story, poem, song, or draw a picture under the theme "The World I Want to Build Together with the UN"

Step 5: Celebrate (5 mins)

Class Activities for "UN at 80"

- **Sharing Student Work:** Students present and discuss their own drawings, information, and poems
- **Short Dramatic Play (Mini #KidsTakeover):** Students act as the UN Secretary-General or other roles to imagine and perform ideas for a better world
- **Sharing in School or Community:** Encourage students to share their poems, songs, or drawings online (if appropriate), using #UN80 and mentioning UN web pages





STUDENT HANDOUT /11-14 YEARS/



The United Nations at 80 – Building a Better World Together

1. What is the United Nations (UN) ?

- The United Nations (UN) was created in 1945, after World War II.
- Its goal is to bring countries together to keep peace, help people in need, and make the world fairer and safer.
- Today, 193 countries are members.

Fun fact: The UN is turning 80 years old in 2025!



2. UN Milestones Timeline

Here are some important things the UN has done:

1945: UN is created after World War II to keep peace

1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted

1979: UN leads campaigns to end smallpox worldwide

1989: Convention on the Rights of the Child agreed by nearly every country

2000: Millennium Development Goals launched

2015: Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals) adopted to build a better world by 2030

2020: UN helps countries respond to COVID-19 pandemic

2025: The UN turns 80!



STUDENT HANDOUT /11-14 YEARS/



3. UN's Work for Children

The UN has many agencies. Here are 5 areas where the UN helps children:

- **Peace & Security** – peacekeepers protect children in war zones.
- **Health** – WHO provides vaccines and fights diseases.
- **Education & Culture** – UNESCO supports schools and protects heritage sites.
- **Children's Rights** – UNICEF makes sure every child is healthy, safe, and in school.
- **Environment & Climate** – UN works on protecting the planet for future generations.



4. Activity 1 – Match Achievements and Challenges

Draw lines between the UN achievement and the challenge that still exists

UN achievement:

Smallpox wiped out

UN achievement:

Convention on the Rights of the Child

UN achievement: Global Goals launched

Challenge: Children still die from preventable diseases

Challenge: Millions of children still out of school or unsafe

Challenge: Poverty and climate change remain big problems



STUDENT HANDOUT /11-14 YEARS/



5. Activity 2 – “Future News Headline”

Imagine it's the year 2045, when the UN turns 100

Write a headline you'd like to see:

Example: “UN Achieves Global Peace – No More Wars in the World”

Your headline: _____



6. Activity 3 – UN at 100

Draw or write inside the circle:

What is ONE thing you want the UN to do by its 100th birthday?





STUDENT HANDOUT /11-14 YEARS/



7. Share and Celebrate!

- Share your ideas with your class
- Create posters, poems, or drawings about the UN at 100
- Join the celebration of the UN's 80th anniversary by saying how you want to make the world better



Remember: The UN was created to bring people together. You are the future leaders who will keep building a better world



Student Icon Sheet

The United Nations at 80 – Icons for Children's Learning

✂ Teachers can print and cut these into cards. Students can use them in activities (matching, sorting, making posters)

Poster Activity – Make a poster called 'The World I Want After 100 Years'

Use symbols and pictures- Students can use cards to match, sort, and create their posters



1. Peace & Security

UN peacekeepers protect children in conflict zones



2. Health

The World Health Organization works to protect public health through immunization



3. Education and Culture

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization works to ensure that every child has the opportunity to go to school



4. Children's Rights

The United Nations Children's Fund works to guarantee that every child grows up in a healthy and safe environment, with access to education and opportunities to develop



5. Environment and Climate

The United Nations works to protect and care for our planet for the sake of future generations

