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The United Nations [UN]

Lesson Plan

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- ▶ Formation of the United Nations (UN)
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Objectives

- ▶ Understanding the world situation that created a need for the United Nations to be formed.
- ▶ Formation of the United Nations – the League of Nations formed earlier.
- ▶ Structure, working and objectives of UN.
- ▶ Organs of the UN: The General Assembly; the Security Council; The Secretariat; the Economic and Social Council; the International Court of Justice; the Trusteeship Council.
- ▶ Agencies of the UN: UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, ILO.
- ▶ Achievements of the UN
- ▶ India and the UN

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ A map of the world to point out the headquarters of various UN organs and agencies.
- ▶ The internet and books that can be shared to bring the UN closer to the students.
- ▶ Newspapers and cuttings of UN concerns – Indian Ocean, terrorism, India's differences with Pakistan and China, etc.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Show the UN as something that is relevant and of current interest to India. The students may even find themselves working in the UN one day!
- ▶ Talk about the pride of the Indian soldiers who have worked with the peacekeeping forces ever since the early days.

- ▶ Show the students UNICEF cards, etc. – the work done to help eradicate poverty, disease and illiteracy around the world.

/// Gear Up and Background

- ▶ Read aloud the lesson and explain the background and the objectives of the UN. It is important to create and sustain ideals in a world that is increasingly violent and cynical.
- ▶ The lady in the picture is Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the first President of the General Assembly of the UN.
- ▶ Explain how the world was involved in two major World Wars [1914–1918 and 1939–1945] that destroyed thousands of people, homes, cities, etc. The background of the power struggle in Europe, for colonisation and later for the ideologies that came up with Hitler, Mussolini, etc. The use of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- ▶ The setting up of the League of Nations after the First World War, but it was unable to stop the next World War. The UN was set up with a conscious knowledge that the world could only survive and develop if all countries cooperated with each other.

/// Formation of the United Nations

- ▶ War does not solve problems – understood by nations that wanted peace and development. An organisation to solve problems.
- ▶ Failure of the League of Nations – UNO formed on 24th October 1945 – name used first by Franklin D. Roosevelt, then President of the USA – 50 nations signed – this is celebrated as UN Day all over the world.
- ▶ Called the United Nations since 1950. India became a member on 30th October 1945.
- ▶ Any peace-loving country can be a member – HQ at New York, USA. – Six official languages: English, French, Russian, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic – own emblem and flag. [show pictures – postage stamps are available]
- ▶ Objectives: (a) to maintain peace and security among nations (b) to develop friendly relations among nations (c) to solve problems of nations in a peaceful and cooperative manner (d) to protect human rights and freedom based on race, religion, language and sex (e) help members achieve these objectives.

/// Organs of the UN

UN – doesn't make laws or impose taxes. Is a forum for resolving issues and problems through discussions. Six major organs carry out its work.

- ▶ *The General Assembly* – main organ – one representative from each country – one vote per country – one annual meeting in November.
- ▶ *The Security Council* – for security and international peace – 15 members of which 5 are permanent: USA, Russia, UK, France and China. Ten non-permanent members elected for two-year term.
- ▶ *The Secretariat* – day-to-day administration work of the UN – looks after the programmes and policies of all organs of the UN – headed by the Secretary General for 5 years – most powerful person in UN – currently: Ban Ki-moon.

- ▶ *The Economic and Social Council* – agencies to help poor, sick and illiterate – 18 members – works under General Assembly on human rights, equality of women and regulation of trade.
- ▶ *The International Court of Justice* – legal court of UN - HQ at the Hague, Netherlands – 15 permanent judges working throughout the year – to decide disputes between member nations and advise on international law.
- ▶ *The Trusteeship Council* – set up to look after 11 territories in the world, called trusts – former colonies under Germany and Japan – not independent then but now all independent – therefore Council dissolved in 1994.

/// Agencies of the UN

Among the agencies set up under the Economic and Social Council are the following:

- ▶ *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation [UNESCO]* – main aim to eradicate illiteracy – encourages international cooperation in education, science and culture – Protects human rights and preserves cultural heritage.
- ▶ *United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF]* – works for children's welfare, their rights, development, protection – provides food, education, health and homes.
- ▶ *World Health Organisation [WHO]* – works to improve health conditions in world – fight against diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, cancer, AIDS, bird flu, swine flu, etc.
- ▶ *Food and Agricultural Organisation [FAO]* – works to provide food to and increase food production in the world – Motto: 'Freedom From Hunger' – Latin motto – FIAT PANIS means 'Let there be bread'
- ▶ *International Labour Organisation [ILO]* – helps promote employment opportunities – solves problems between governments, employers and workers.

/// Achievements of the UN

The UN has been successfully maintaining peace wherever and whenever possible and prevent disputes developing into war.

- ▶ Contained the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Palestine, Iraq and Iran.
- ▶ Involved in peacekeeping operations.
- ▶ Helping developing countries fight poverty, disease and illiteracy.
- ▶ Making the world a better place to live and work in.

/// India and the UN

India, a founder member – actively supports UN programmes.

1. Indian Armed Forces working as UN peacekeeping forces.
2. Worked against racial discrimination, arms race, use of atomic weapons.
3. Supports use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.
4. Partners UN for relief operations
5. UN experts in India to help solve our problems – similarly Indian experts in other countries.