

International Organization Summit

Government and citizen participation in international organizations

Benchmark: SS.7.C.4.2 Recognize government and citizen participation in international organizations.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will identify major international organizations in which government plays a role.
- Students will recognize that international organizations may be located in the United States.
- Students will describe ways that individual citizens and government can seek participation in international organizations.
- Students will examine the ways that government and individuals may support international organizations.

Content focus: Non-Governmental Organizations/International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO/INGO), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), International Red Cross/Red Crescent, United Nations (UN), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Court, and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Handout A: International Organizations Definition Chart
- Handout B: International Organization Fact Sheets
- Handout C: Summit Talking Points

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

Lesson Overview

Distribute Handout A: International Organizations Definition Chart. Ask students if they have ever heard of an “international organization”. Write this term on the board. Have students provide an explanation of what they think it is and any examples they might be able to think of.

An international organization is an organization with an international membership, scope, or presence. (Definition from <http://www.intergovernmentalorganizations.org/whatis.asp>)

Explain that international organizations can be divided into two categories using Teacher Handout A:

An intergovernmental organization (IGO) is a public or governmental organization created by treaty or agreement between states. (Defined by [Georgetown Law Library](#))

A non-governmental organization is a not-for-profit group, principally independent from government, which is organized on a local, national or international level to address issues in support of the public good. (Defined by [United Nations Rule of Law](#))

Divide the class into 7 groups for the International Organization Summit Activity. Tell students will be serving as representatives for an international organization. Provide each group one *International Organization Fact Sheet* (each group should have a different international organization). Distribute Handout B – *Summit Talking Points*. Students will need to complete the *Summit Talking Points* handout for their organization.

Students will now participate in a jigsaw activity. Once students have completed the Talking Points handout, jigsaw the students so each newly formed group, or “Summit Meeting”, has a representative from each organization (see Teacher Handouts for how to do a jigsaw). In their new groups, students will need to complete the *Summit Talking Points* handout. Students should present their organization while students complete their handout. Students should emphasize the importance of their organization to the international community.

Debrief the activity. After the summit meetings have concluded, students will return to their original groups. In their original groups they will compare what they learned about other organizations. Debrief the activity using the International Organization Summit PowerPoint and Teacher Handout B. Students should identify the organization they feel is the most important in the international community in their group. Have each group share the organization they identified and the reason they selected this entity.

Ask students how they think individuals and governments can provide support for these organizations. Also ask students if one of the entities discussed was different than the others. Explain to students that NAFTA is not an organization like the others but is an agreement between nations.

Check for Understanding The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask students to explain how they made their decision.

Lesson Extension/Modification

Extension: Have students work in their groups develop a poster/flyer/brochure for their organization using the information from the Summit Talking Points handout. Students can do additional research by visiting their organization’s website (provided on the informational handout).

Alternate activity to conducting a jigsaw: Post the students’ projects around the classroom and have students participate in a walkabout activity where they learn about the other organizations by rotating through the posters/flyers/brochures and completing their Summit Talking Points handout.

International Organizations

Intergovernmental Organization

Examples:

Non-governmental Organization

These can be domestic (in the United States) or international organizations

Examples:



North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

On January 1, 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada, and Mexico entered into force creating the world's largest free trade area. NAFTA is an international trade agreement that established rules to expand trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The goal was to eliminate barriers to trade and to stimulate economic growth. NAFTA is administered by the Free Trade Commission.

Under the NAFTA, all non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico were eliminated. In addition, many tariffs* were eliminated immediately, with others being phased out over periods of 5 to 15 years. This allowed for an orderly adjustment to free trade with Mexico, with full implementation beginning January 1, 2008.

The agricultural provisions of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, in effect since 1989, were incorporated into the NAFTA. Under these provisions, all tariffs affecting agricultural trade between the United States and Canada, with a few exceptions, were removed by January 1, 1998.

Trade between the United States and its NAFTA partners has soared since the agreement entered into force. Below are some of the results of the agreement (from http://www.naftanow.org/results/default_en.asp):

- Since NAFTA came into effect, merchandise trade among the NAFTA partners has more than tripled, reaching \$946.1 billion in 2008. Over that period, Canada-U.S. trade has nearly tripled, while trade between Mexico and the U.S. has more than quadrupled.
- Today, the NAFTA partners exchange about \$2.6 billion in merchandise on a daily basis with each other. That's about \$108 million per hour.
- Since NAFTA came into effect, the North American economy has more than doubled in size.

*Tariff: tax placed on products coming into a country (imports) or going out of a country (exports).

Sources:

<http://www.ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/north-american-free-trade-agreement-nafta>

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/policy/nafta/nafta.asp>

http://www.naftanow.org/results/default_en.asp

All views are those of the authoring organization cited above and are taken directly from the organization's website.



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Established on April 4, 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO is composed of 28 member countries from Europe and North America. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, this intergovernmental organization provides a unique link between these two continents for consultation and cooperation in the field of defense and security, and the conduct of multinational crisis-management operations.

NATO's essential purpose, outlined in the North Atlantic Treaty, is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means. Its core tasks are defined as collective defense, crisis-management and cooperative security. NATO promotes democratic values and encouraged consultation and cooperation on defense and security issues to build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict. NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity needed to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty – NATO's founding treaty – or under a UN mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

NATO is committed to the principle that an attack against one or several members is considered as an attack against all. This is the principle of collective defense, which is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. So far, Article 5 has been invoked once – in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Member Countries (with dates countries joined NATO)

*Founding members of the Alliance

Belgium (1949)*	The United Kingdom (1949)*	Estonia (2004)
Canada (1949)*	The United States (1949)*	Latvia (2004)
Denmark (1949)*	Greece (1952)	Lithuania (2004)
France (1949)*	Turkey (1952)	Romania (2004)
Iceland (1949)*	Germany (1955)	Slovakia (2004)
Italy (1949)*	Spain (1982)	Slovenia (2004)
Luxembourg (1949)*	Czech Republic (1999)	Albania (2009)
Netherlands (1949)*	Hungary (1999)	Croatia (2009)
Norway (1949)*	Poland (1999)	
Portugal (1949)*	Bulgaria (2004)	

Source: <http://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/>

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International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC, established in 1863, works worldwide to provide humanitarian help for people affected by conflict and armed violence and to promote the laws that protect victims of war. An independent and neutral non-governmental organization, its mandate stems essentially from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it employs some 12,000 people in 80 countries; it is financed mainly by voluntary donations from governments and from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. As a private association formed under the Swiss Civil Code, its existence is not in itself mandated by governments. And yet its functions and activities - to provide protection and assistance to victims of conflict – are mandated by the international community of States and are founded on international law, specifically the Geneva Conventions, which are among the most widely ratified treaties in the world.

Since its foundation, the ICRC has played a humanitarian role in most of the conflicts that have taken place around the world. It has continuously worked to persuade States to expand the legal protection of war victims, to limit suffering.

The ICRC, the national societies and their International Federation form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In situations of armed conflict the ICRC coordinates the response by its Movement partners.

The ICRC has a permanent international mandate for its work. This derives from the 1949 Geneva Conventions – agreed to by every State in the world – and from the Statutes of the Movement.

The ICRC's annual budget in recent years has been in the region of one billion Swiss francs (just over one billion US dollars). Its principal donors are governments, regional organizations, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, municipal authorities, the private sector and members of the public. National societies also make an important contribution in terms of specialized personnel. ICRC accounts are explained every year in the annual report.

More than 1,400 specialized staff and generalists are currently on field missions for the ICRC across the globe. They work with some 11,000 local employees, supported and coordinated by around 800 staff at its Geneva headquarters. Expatriate staff members can be from countries anywhere in world; the ICRC is an equal opportunities employer.

The ICRC administers various special funds and awards for national societies, to help their work, or to Red Cross workers, either in recognition of their service or to provide practical assistance in case of hardship.

Source: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/who-we-are/overview-who-we-are.htm>

All views are those of the authoring organization cited above and are taken directly from the organization's website.

United Nations



The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights. Its headquarters is located on the East side of Manhattan in New York City. With 193 member nations, the headquarters is an international zone belonging to all Member States.

The UN has 4 main purposes

- To keep peace throughout the world;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms;
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.

Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 193 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.

The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System (specialized agencies, funds and programs) affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization works on a broad range of fundamental issues, from sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, to promoting democracy, human rights, gender equality and the advancement of women, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/aboutun/index.shtml>

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UNICEF

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund, was founded in 1946 to help children in postwar Europe, China, and the Middle East and is sustained completely by voluntary contributions and is headquartered in New York City. Now operating in more than 190 countries, this intergovernmental organization has saved more children than any other humanitarian organization. UNICEF advocates for the protection of children's rights and provides services to help meet their basic needs. Additionally, UNICEF fights for the survival, protection, and development of children. UNICEF does this by working in areas such as immunization and health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, and disaster relief.

UNICEF was created to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path. UNICEF advocates for measures to give children the best start in life, because proper care at the youngest age forms the strongest foundation for a person's future. UNICEF's core program areas include:

- Immunization and Health
- Education
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Nutrition
- HIV/AIDS
- Child Protection
- Emergencies: complex emergencies and natural disasters

UNICEF upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They work to assure equality for those who are discriminated against, girls and women in particular.

Individuals can support the mission on UNICEF through volunteer work, advocacy (contacting elected officials), making donations, and creating clubs to educate, advocate, and fundraise in communities.

Source: http://www.unicef.org/about/who/index_introduction.html

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World Court (*International Court of Justice*)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN) and acts as a world court. It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.

The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).

The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. The Court may hear two types of cases: legal disputes between States submitted to it by them (contentious cases) and requests for advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings).

The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges must be elected from among persons of high moral character, who possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are well-versed in international law. Its official languages are English and French.

Source: <http://www.icj-cij.org/court/index.php?p1=1>

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World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO), established in 1995, is the only global international, intergovernmental organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. As of 2016, the WTO has 162 members, of which 117 are developing countries or separate customs territories. The WTO headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

The WTO provides a forum for negotiating agreements aimed at reducing obstacles to international trade and ensuring a level playing field for all, thus contributing to economic growth and development. The main functions of the WTO are to:

- Administer WTO trade agreements,
- Serve as a forum for trade negotiations,
- To monitor national trade policy, and
- To handle trade disputes.
 - WTO agreements require governments to make their trade policies transparent by notifying the WTO about laws in force and measures adopted.

Various WTO councils and committees seek to ensure that these requirements are being followed and that WTO agreements are being properly implemented. Additionally, WTO provides technical assistance and training for developing countries.

The WTO maintains regular dialogue with non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, other international organizations, the media and the general public on various aspects of the WTO. Decisions in the WTO are generally taken by consensus of the entire membership. The highest institutional body is the Ministerial Conference, which meets roughly every two years. A General Council conducts the organization's business in the intervals between Ministerial Conferences. Both of these bodies comprise all members.

Source: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/wto_dg_stat_e.htm

All views are those of the authoring organization cited above and are taken directly from the organization's website.

Summit Talking Points

Instructions: Using the handout for your organization, complete the chart for your organization below. You will then be sorted into groups. Complete the rest of your chart based on the information provided by your classmates. Once your chart is complete, go back to Handout A and fill in the examples with the organizations from below.

	Year Founded	Headquarters Location	Purpose of the Organization <i>Why is this organization important in the international community?</i>	How do governments or individual citizens participate in this organization?
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)				
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)				
International Red Cross				

Summit Talking Points

	Year Founded	Headquarters Location	Purpose of the Organization <i>Why is this organization important in the international community?</i>	How do governments and/or individual citizens participate in this organization?
United Nations (UN)				
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)				
World Court				
World Trade Organization				

International Organizations

Intergovernmental Organization

An *intergovernmental Organization (IGO)* is a public or governmental organization created by treaty or agreement between states. (Defined by [Georgetown Law Library](#))

Examples:

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
United Nations (UN)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
World Court
World Trade Organization (WTO)

Non-governmental Organization

These can be domestic (in the United States) or international organizations.

A *non-governmental organization* is a not-for-profit group, principally independent from government, which is organized on a local, national or international level to address issues in support of the public good. (Defined by [United Nations Rule of Law](#))

Example:

International Red Cross/Red Crescent

Summit Talking Points

Teacher Handout B

Instructions: Using the handout for your organization, complete the chart for your organization below. You will then be sorted into groups. Complete the rest of your chart based on the information provided by your classmates. Once your chart is complete, go back to Handout A and fill in the examples with the organizations from below.

All views are those of the organizations listed below and are taken directly from the organization's website.

	Year Founded	Headquarters Location/ Countries involved	Purpose of the Organization <i>Why is this organization important in the international community?</i>	How do governments or individual citizens participate in this organization?
North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)	1994	Agreement between United States, Canada, and Mexico	NAFTA created the world's largest free trade area, which now links 450 million people producing \$17 trillion worth of goods and services; all non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade between the United States and Mexico were eliminated; all tariffs affecting agricultural trade between the United States and Canada, with a few exceptions for items covered by tariff-rate quotas, were removed	Agreement between governments; fueled trade between the countries and created jobs for individual citizens
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	April 4, 1949	Brussels, Belgium	NATO's essential purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means. Its core tasks are defined as collective defense, crisis-management and cooperative security.	Composed of 28 member countries (governments) from Europe and North America, NATO provides a unique link between these two continents for consultation and cooperation in the field of defense and security, and the conduct of multinational crisis-management operations.
International Red Cross	1863	Geneva, Switzerland	Works worldwide to provide humanitarian help for people affected by conflict and armed violence and to promote the laws that protect victims of war.	Employs some 12,000 individual citizens in 80 countries; it is financed mainly by voluntary donations from governments and from national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Summit Talking Points

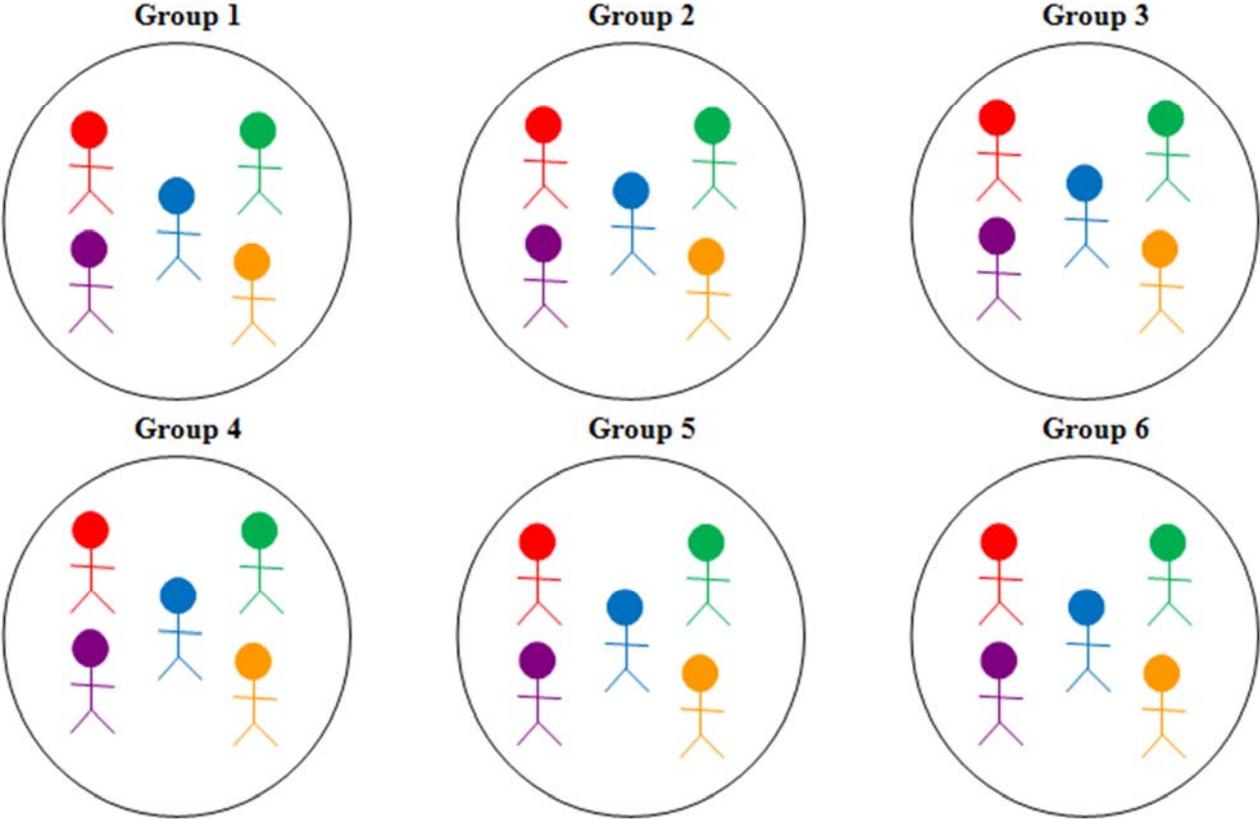
TEACHER GUIDE

	Year Founded	Headquarters Location	Purpose of the Organization <i>Why is this organization important in the international community?</i>	How do governments or individual citizens participate in this organization?
United Nations (UN)	1945	New York City, USA 193 member states	The purpose of the UN is to keep peace throughout the world; to develop friendly relations among nations; to help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and illiteracy, and to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms; to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations to achieve these goals.	Provides a forum for its 193 Member States (countries) to express their views and discuss issues spanning a broad range of topics including sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, human rights, gender equality, governance, economic and social development, clearing landmines, expanding food production
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	1946	New York City, USA 193 member states	UNICEF advocates for the protection of children's rights and provides services to help meet their basic needs. Additionally, UNICEF fights for the survival, protection, and development of children.	Individuals can support the mission on UNICEF through volunteer work, advocacy (contacting elected officials), making donations, and creating clubs to educate, advocate, and fundraise in communities.
World Court	June 1945	The Hague (Netherlands)	The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.	Resolves disputes between countries
World Trade Organization	1995	Geneva, Switzerland	The main functions of the WTO are to administer WTO trade agreements, serve as a forum for trade negotiations, to monitor national trade policy, and to handle trade disputes.	WTO agreements require governments to make their trade policies transparent by notifying the WTO about laws in force and measures adopted.

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JIGSAW METHOD

Original Groups



JIGSAW by putting one person from each of the original groups into a new group.

