

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**SS.7.CG.4.2** Describe the United States’ and citizen participation in international organizations.

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### 2023 BENCHMARK UPDATES

- Updated from SS.7.C.4.2
  - Changed from “~~Recognize government and~~ citizen participation in international organizations.” to “Describe the United States’ and citizen participation in international organizations.”
- Depth of Knowledge Changes within Benchmark
  - Changed from “Recognize” to “Describe”
- Benchmark Clarification Changes
  - Changed from “Students will identify major international organizations in which government plays a role.” to “Students will identify major international organizations in which government plays a role (e.g., North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United Nations, International Court of Justice, World Trade Organization).”
  - Deletion of “Students will recognize that international organizations may be located in the United States.”
  - Deletion of “Students will describe ways that individual citizens and governments can seek participation in international organizations.”
  - Deletion of “Students will examine the ways that government and individuals may support international organizations.”
  - Addition of “Students will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. membership in international organizations.”
- Vocabulary Changes
  - Changed from “World Court” to “International Court of Justice”

## Essential Teacher Content Background Information

[Teacher Content Notes Not Appropriate For Student Use]

**This section addresses the following topics:**

1. International Organizations and Citizen Participation
2. International Organizations Timeline
3. Advantages and Disadvantages of U.S. Membership in International Organizations

### 1. International Organizations and Citizen Participation

The end of World War II brought with it an emphasis on the role of citizens in world affairs. The staggering loss of life and high casualties due to the war itself as well as the Holocaust brought attention to several issues to which citizens paid attention and shaped their political and civic behavior. Technology also contributed to increased citizen involvement on the world stage because new ways of learning about global issues became more prominent

Several national and international organizations formed after World War II that encouraged citizen participation in decision making, activism, volunteerism and awareness. Greater attention to international human rights issues, globalization and technology have fostered awareness and participation across a wide range of issues and concerns.

### 2. International Organizations Timeline

Date	Event
1944	The World Bank is established. The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects
1945	The United Nations (UN) is established. Its Charter states that one of its main purposes is the promotion and encouragement of "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion." The Charter underscores the principle of individual human rights.
1945	The World Court is the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in 1945 by the UN's Charter, and it's the only organ of the UN not located in New York City. Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
1947	Cold War begins pitting capitalism against communism
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights Drafted
1949	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) founding treaty was signed in Washington in 1949 by a dozen European and North American countries. It committed the Allies to democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law, as well as to peaceful resolution of disputes.
1949	Convention on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining (ILO) is adopted. Geneva Conventions provide standards for more humane treatment for prisoners of war, the wounded, and civilians.

1951	Convention on the Status of Refugees (UN) is adopted.
1953	European Commission on Human Rights and Court of Human Rights are created; Convention on Political Rights of Women (UN) is adopted.
1963	The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies win Nobel Peace Prize.
1966	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UN) are adopted and opened for signature. Together these documents further developed rights outlined in the Universal Declaration for Human Rights.
1968	The First World Conference on Human Rights is held in Tehran. The United Nations convened member States to evaluate the failures and successes of human rights promotion since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to work toward the elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid.
1975	Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) affirmed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This framework for international communication inspired the creation of many NGOs and citizens groups that would help monitor human rights and demand compliance with standards set by the UN and member States.
1976	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights enter into force after sufficient ratification among UN member States.
1977	A human rights bureau is created within the United States Department of State. Its first reports on human rights were issued that year.
1979	The International Year of the Child is established by UNICEF.
1980	Iran rejects call by the International Court of Justice/ World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages
1988	The United States ratifies the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the "Genocide Convention").
1989	Trinidad and Tobago appealed for the International International Court of Justice/ World Court to help it and other small countries fight international drug trafficking.
1990s	Series of UN World Conferences dramatically expand the voice of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in global political, economic, and environmental debates and equality for women.
1990	Convention on the Rights of the Child becomes international law; first ever world summit for children.
1992	North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between U.S., Canada, and Mexico signed with side agreements on labor and the environment, and in the face of intense resistance from labor, women, environmental, and church groups in all three countries.
1993	Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

1995	The World Trade Organization (WTO) is created, marking the biggest reform of international trade since the end of the Second World War. The WTO and its agreements cover trade in goods, trade in services and intellectual property, and also created new procedures for the settlement of disputes.
1996	A U.N. court sentenced Bosnian Serb army soldier Drazen Erdemovic to 10 years in prison for his role in the massacre of 1,200 Muslims -- the first international war crimes sentence since World War II.
1999	50,000 activists in Seattle protest WTO policies in the first of an ongoing series of activist protests of WTO policies at WTO meetings.
1999	The International Court of Justice/ World Court rejected Yugoslavia's contention that NATO bombing was unlawful and that the Western alliance was committing genocide. The court also refused to call for a cessation of hostilities.
2000	Wealthy countries agree to partial debt relief with terms of more privatization and free trade
2000	World leaders gather for UN Millennium Summit, committing to the eradication of extreme poverty and other global social goals by 2015
2001	The WTO Doha Declaration affirms the right of governments to violate trade rules in order to protect the public health of its citizens.
2001	World Conference Against Racism; some Third World nations and activists link colonialism, poverty, racism, and globalization
2002	UN special session on children
2003	World governments and globalization activists force shutdown of WTO deliberation in Mexico. Mexico appealed to the International Court of Justice/ World Court to stop the execution of 51 of its citizens in the United States. The International Court of Justice/ World Court ruled that the United States must temporarily stay the execution of three Mexican citizens on U.S. death rows.
2003	An International Court sentences former Bosnian-Serb Col. Dragan Obrenovic (40) to 17 years in prison for his role in the slaughter of more than 7,000 men and boys in Srebrenica, Bosnia.
2004	The International Court of Justice ruled that the United States violated the rights of 51 Mexicans on death row and ordered their cases be reviewed.
2005	NGOs and activists around the world join the "Global Call Against Poverty" to urge government to make trade fair, cancel debts, and address the roots of poverty.
2008	Germany filed suit at the International Court of Justice/ World Court asking Italy to stop its legal system from awarding damages to victims of Nazi war crimes.
2011	The Republic of South Sudan is admitted as a new Member State by the United Nations General Assembly.
2012	The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Earth Summit), was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in order to agree on new policies aimed at promoting global economic development and environmental protection.
2012	The General Assembly accorded non-Member Observer State status to the State of Palestine (Resolution A/RES/67/19).

2013	Malala Yousafzai (the Pakistani schoolgirl who was shot by the Taliban for attending classes) rallies the first UN Youth Assembly to stand up for universal education. Malala urged hundreds of young people at the UN to use education as a weapon against extremism.
2015	Two weeks of tireless negotiations at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris led to a moment of triumph: for the first time, 195 countries adopted a universal agreement to curb emissions and take common climate action.
2016	Summit for Refugees and Migrants: The UN General Assembly hosted a high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach. The Summit was a watershed moment to strengthen governance of international migration.
2018	Bolivian President Evo Morales arrived in The Hague to petition the International Court of Justice/ World Court to force Chile to grant his land-locked country direct access to the Pacific Ocean, in a dispute between the Andean neighbors that dates back decades.
2022	Judges at the International Court of Justice/ World Court ruled that Chile and land-locked Bolivia now agreed on previous points of dispute over access to the waters of the Silala river and that they would not need to make a decision on Chile's claims before the court.

Timeline sources:

[Timelines: World Court](#), Timelines of History; [Milestone in UN History](#), United Nations; [WTO History](#), World Trade Organization; [Why Was NATO Founded](#), North Atlantic Treaty Organization

### 3. Advantages and Disadvantages of U.S. Membership in International Organizations

Most international organizations that we have today started after WWII. The purpose was to prevent WWII. That has been successful; since the end of WWII, there have been several wars involving multiple countries; however, those wars have stayed within the boundaries of one country. For example Vietnam, this war involved many countries like France, the United States, China, and Russia. Even though all these countries were involved, the active battles, for the most part, stayed in Vietnam.

People always debate whether these international organizations are beneficial for all parties involved. Like most things, international organizations have advantages and disadvantages depending on the perspective of the individual or country. Listed below are some advantages and disadvantages of the four main organizations within this benchmark.

International Organization	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</b>	<p>Increase stability and security with a collective defense against terrorism, drug trafficking, refugee crisis, and cyber-warfare.</p> <p>Shared intelligence</p> <p>Promoting dialogue and consensus among member nations.</p>	<p>As more members join, it can promote further conflict and destabilize Europe as non-NATO countries see it as a threat.</p> <p>Each country is asked to donate 2% of its GDP, but some do not. <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> of the budget is covered by the U.S.</p>

<b>World Trade Organization</b>	<p>Trade organizations can help benefit trade by creating new markets. Increase gross domestic product (GDP).</p> <p>Lower government spending because industries become more competitive and rely less on government subsidies.</p> <p>Technology transfer occurs as local economies grow, and so do job opportunities. Multinational companies provide job training to local employees.</p>	<p>Lower tariffs can lead to outsourcing services and make it difficult for countries with minimum wage and protection of workers to continue to be manufacturing centers.</p> <p>Sometimes free trade agreements lead to issues with the theft of intellectual property.</p> <p>Degradation of natural resources.</p>
<b>United Nations</b>	<p>Maintain international peace and security.</p> <p>Establish friendly relations among nations.</p> <p>International cooperation to address economic, social, and humanitarian problems</p> <p>Fundamental freedoms and promoting respect for human rights can lead to more democratic governments worldwide.</p> <p>Shape international law</p>	<p>Some citizens do not want their country to join the UN because when a country does this, it is giving up some of its sovereignty.</p> <p>Spending U.S. tax dollars abroad instead of at home.</p> <p>It is difficult to get countries to follow the rules and regulations set when there are no real consequences if they do not.</p> <p>Loss of life when American troops are involved in other countries' wars.</p>
<b>International Court of Justice</b>	<p>A court to hear cross country disagreements.</p> <p>A neutral place to look at answering legal questions for international law</p>	<p>Lack of accessibility is an issue; only UN member states can be parties. Individuals can not be parties.</p> <p>Limited Jurisdiction. Parties/member nations must give consent to come before the court.</p> <p>Some nations reject the findings of the court. Example: 1980 Iran rejected the International Court of Justice ruling to release American hostages</p>

Sources: [Pros and Cons of Free Trade Agreements](#), The Balance; [Why the U.S. Joined the UN](#), US Department of State; [What are the pros and cons of becoming a NATO member?](#), TRT World; [The ICJ: Origin, Functions and Weaknesses](#), Arcadia

## Lesson Summary

ESSENTIAL QUESTION		
What are international organizations? How can government and individual citizens support and play a role in international organizations? What are the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. involvement in international organizations?		
BENCHMARK		
SS.7.CG.4.2 Describe the United States' and citizen participation in international organizations.		
CIVICS EOC REPORTING CATEGORY		
N/A		
OVERVIEW		
In this lesson, students will understand major international organizations, their work, how countries or citizens can participate in them, and advantages or disadvantages of U.S. involvement in them.		
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will identify major international organizations in which government plays a role (e.g., North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United Nations, International Court of Justice, World Trade Organization).</li> <li>Students will describe the advantages and disadvantages of U.S. membership in international organizations.</li> </ul>		
BENCHMARK CONTENT LIMITS		
N/A		
CIVICS CONTENT VOCABULARY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intergovernmental organization, International Court of Justice, international organization, non-governmental organization (NGO), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), treaty, United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO)</li> </ul>		
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES		
Reading of complex text	Research skills	Cooperative learning
MATERIALS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlighters</li> <li>Opening Prompt slide</li> <li>International Organizations reading</li> <li>International Organizations activity sheet</li> </ul>		

- International Court of Justice reading
- The United Nations reading
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization reading
- World Trade Organization reading
- International Organizations Political Cartoon activity sheet
- International Organization Research Paper Guidelines

### **B.E.S.T. STANDARDS**

- ELA.7.R.3.2- Paraphrase content from grade-level texts.
- ELA.7.C.1.4- Write expository texts to explain and analyze information from multiple sources, using relevant supporting details and a logical organizational pattern.
- ELA.7.C.1.5- Improve writing by planning, revising, and editing, considering feedback from adults and peers.
- ELA.7.C.4.1- Conduct research to answer a question, drawing on multiple reliable and valid sources and generating additional questions for further research.
- ELA.7.V.1.1- Integrate academic vocabulary appropriate to grade level in speaking and writing.
- ELA.7.V.1.3- Apply knowledge of context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the connotative and denotative meaning of words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.



## Suggested Student Activity Sequence & Pace

DAY	ACTIVITY SEQUENCE
DAY 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To begin this lesson, project the “Opening Prompt” slide on the board: Make a list of issues or problems happening around the world.</li> <li>2. Provide time for students to brainstorm and share out.</li> <li>3. Pose the following questions for discussion: Do you think countries can work together to solve these types of problems/issues? What might be some disadvantages or struggles with this approach? Can citizens play a role in solving the problems and issues?</li> <li>4. Pass out the “International Organizations” reading from iCivics and the corresponding “International Organizations” activity sheet.  <b>Teacher Note:</b> The activity sheet will be used beyond this first reading.</li> <li>5. Read the first paragraph aloud as a whole class.</li> <li>6. Instruct students to define the term ‘international organization’ on their “International Organizations” activity sheet.</li> <li>7. Have students share out.</li> <li>8. Place students into pairs, instruct them to read the remaining paragraphs and mark the text to help them define intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).</li> <li>9. Provide students with the following additional key points on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and instruct them to take notes on their activity sheet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Some nongovernmental organizations, known as international nongovernmental organizations or INGOs, are concerned with international issues.</li> <li>■ NGO/INGOs perform various services and humanitarian functions, communicate citizen concerns to governments, advocate for human rights or the environment, and encourage political participation.</li> <li>■ NGOs are not the same as treaties, which are formal agreements among the governments of several nations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>10. Organize students into groups of four and assign each student within the group one of the four international organizations.</li> <li>11. Pass out the individual readings: “International Court of Justice,” “The United Nations,” “North Atlantic Treaty Organization,” and “World Trade Organization”.</li> <li>12. Explain to students that each person will read about a different organization, take notes in the activity sheet, and will eventually report about their assigned organization to their group of four.</li> <li>13. Provide students any remaining time to begin individually reading and filling in the activity sheet.</li> </ol>
DAY 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give students the “International Organizations Political Cartoon” activity sheet.</li> <li>2. Have them complete it independently.</li> <li>3. Give them time to share answers with a partner</li> <li>4. Randomly call on a few students to share answers with the class.</li> <li>5. If needed, allow students more time to finish their individual row on the “International Organizations” activity sheet from yesterday and make sure they have found all required information in the text.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once students have completed their row of the chart, they will form new groups with the other students who read the same reading. Have them check answers on their student activity sheet with each other and ask the teacher any questions if they disagree on the answers they filled in.</li> <li>Students then go back to their original groups of four and share their answers so that all students have information on all four topics. While each student shares, the other three students should be filling in the appropriate row of the activity sheet.</li> <li>Clarify any information during the group exchange to ensure that students are accurately taking notes.</li> <li>Checking for Understanding (Formative Assessment): Instruct students to write a well-crafted short response to the following prompt:  <u>Prompt</u>            If you could choose one of the international organizations from the student activity sheet that you could participate in, which would it be? Why would you choose that organization?</li> </ol>
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DAY 3	<p>Checking for Understanding (Research Assessment):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain to students that they will use their research and writing skills to write a well-crafted informational essay on an international organization of their choice. The focus will be on the impact of that organization, specific to current events.  <b>Teacher Note:</b> The suggested organizations on the paper guidelines are the four from the benchmark clarifications. If you would like to expand the project to include more international organizations, our recommendation regarding which ones to add would be: World Bank, UNICEF, Red Cross/Red Crescent, and/or the World Health Organization.</li> <li>Pass out the "International Organization Research Paper Guidelines" and review the expectations and grading criteria as a whole class.</li> <li>Allow students to begin their research and draft their essay.  <b>Teacher Note:</b> The number of days dedicated to this task is up to the teacher. Try making it cross-curricular and team up with an ELA counterpart or involve your school media specialist.</li> </ol>
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## Civics Content Vocabulary

Word/Term	Definition
<b>intergovernmental organization</b>	an organization formed with groups of governments for a specific purpose
<b>International Court of Justice</b>	a permanent panel of fifteen judges appointed by the U.N. to nine-year terms to hear cases; cases argued before the court focus on disputes between nations who agree to accept its decisions. Also known as the World Court.
<b>international organization</b>	groups of governments or people from different countries working together to solve an issue that crosses country borders
<b>non-governmental organization (NGO)</b>	a voluntary citizens' group that is organized on a local, national or international level and works ; they perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate for certain issues such as human rights or the environment, and encourage political participation; also known as international non-governmental organization (INGO)
<b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)</b>	a group of 28 countries that has agreed to protect each other in case of attack; founded in 1949
<b>treaty</b>	an agreement or arrangement between two or more countries
<b>United Nations (UN)</b>	an organization founded in 1943 to keep the peace, develop friendly relationships among countries, and improve the quality of life for the world's poor people; consists of 193 member countries
<b>World Trade Organization (WTO)</b>	an international body founded in 1995 to promote international trade and economic development by reducing taxes and other restrictions

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### [Civics 360 Resources](#)

Florida Department of Education's Civic Literacy Reading List

- N/A

## ANSWER KEYS

Sample Answers: International Organizations activity sheet

Sample Answers: International Organization Political Cartoon activity sheet

Written Response: Sample Scoring Rubric

International Organization Research Paper Guidelines

## SOURCES

iCivics International Organizations Lesson:

<https://www.icivics.org/teachers/lesson-plans/international-organizations>

Advantages/ Disadvantages of WTO:

<https://www.thebalancemoney.com/free-trade-agreement-pros-and-cons-3305845>, Accessed February 2023

Advantages/ Disadvantages of UN: <https://2001-2009.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/2001/2016.htm>, Accessed February 2023

Advantages/ Disadvantages of NATO:

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/what-are-the-pros-and-cons-of-becoming-a-nato-member-56547>,

Accessed February 2023

Advantages/ Disadvantages of the International Court of Justice:

<https://www.byarcadia.org/post/the-icj-origin-functions-and-weaknesses>, Accessed February 2023

World Court Timeline: <http://timelinesdb.com/listevents.php?subjId=537&title=World%20Court>, Accessed February 2023

United Nations Timeline: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un/2011-2020>, Accessed February 2023

World Trade Organization Timeline: [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/history\\_e/history\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/history_e/history_e.htm),

Accessed February 2023

NATO Timeline:

<https://www.nato.int/wearenato/why-was-nato-founded.html#:~:text=The%20Alliance%27s%20founding%20treaty%20was,to%20peaceful%20resolution%20of%20disputes>, Accessed February 2023

International Court of Justice/ The World Court: <https://www.icj-cij.org/en>, Accessed January 2023

Research Project Resources from ReadThinkWrite:

[https://www.readwritethink.org/sites/default/files/resources/lesson\\_images/lesson1155/rubric.pdf](https://www.readwritethink.org/sites/default/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1155/rubric.pdf), Accessed February 2023