



UNITED NATIONS  
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# Teacher's Guide

## The United Nations school material

### TO THE TEACHER

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter.

Due to the powers vested in its [Charter](#) and its unique international character, the United Nations can take action on the issues confronting



humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, terrorism, humanitarian and health emergencies, gender equality, governance, food production, and more. The UN also provides a forum for its members to express their views in the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies and committees. By enabling dialogue between its members, and by hosting negotiations, the

Organization has become a mechanism for governments to find areas of agreement and solve problems together.

## How to use the guide

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This guide is designed to help your students' understand the history of the United Nations (UN) and how it operates. The guide is structured around five Prezi presentations, each developed to teach your students about different parts of the UN System and about the goals and purposes of the organization. The guide is divided into sections:

**Section 1** should be used before introducing the Prezi presentation to the students and provides a means to see what prior knowledge the students have about the UN.

**Section 2** includes the Prezi presentations 1. "The United Nations System" and provides information about the General Assembly, The Security Council, The trusteeship Council and the Economic and Social Council. It also informs the student on the history of the creation of the United Nations and the Secretariat.

**Section 3** includes Prezi presentation 2. "The United Nations – How does it work" & 3. "Where can you find the United Nations?". It provides an overview of the organizations goals and achievements, as well as some history (for repetition). It also informs the student about the locations of UN Information centres, Main offices, Headquarters and Peacekeeping operations.

**Section 4** includes Prezi presentation 4. "United Nations Charter & the Declaration of Human Rights" and includes interactive exercises and teaching material.

**Section 5** includes Prezi presentation 5. "The United Nations Study Room" and helps your student develop further knowledge about the United Nations.

The sections have the following subtitles:

- **Learning objective** tells you what information you can expect to get from the slide
- **Questions** can be used for group discussion either during or after the Prezi presentation.
- **Exercises** should be used to further develop the students' interests by engaging with the material. Do the exercises after completing the Prezi, make use of the Prezi by presenting the relevant slide once more and then connect the information to the relevant exercise. Relevant exercises for each slide are presented below and you can either choose to do them all or just a few.

Use the guide as a means to structure the learning process for your students. Feel free to develop your own strategy of how to best address the material, so it suits the students' needs and interests.

Go through the Prezi's' on your own and make notes for how to best present it to your class. There are numerous ways to use the Prezi presentations; either you go through it slide-per-slide and engage with the students afterwards; or you pause on selected slides and engage with the students before moving forward.

To make it easier, we have provided this guide to show how the material can be used and presented. If you follow this format your students will get an overview of the material, as well as gain a more in-depth knowledge through exercises and discussions.

Have fun with the material and your students will to!

## Goals

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The material and attached guide should help students to:

1. Understand the history of the United Nations
2. Acquire knowledge of the structure of the Main organs of the organization
3. Develop informed opinions on the role of the United Nations and discuss its accomplishments and continuing goals

## Exercises

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The sections include a range of exercises aimed at providing a variety of learning experiences for your students. The aim with each section is to encourage the students to not only learn more, but also to reflect and critically discuss matters important to the United Nations. The exercises in each section vary and involve discussions, research, class presentation and small-group work.

### Before you start a discussion

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- In class discussions try and engage the entire class; avoid dialogue between a few students and the teacher. Also encourage the students to talk amongst themselves instead of with the teacher
- From the list of recommended questions try and combine simple factual questions with more complex/analytical ones. Questions about what the United Nations does are of a more factual nature and can encourage students to participate and find enjoyment in knowing that they learn something new. The more complex question can be used to engage students on a more critical level of what the United Nations does and how opinions might differ.
- The teacher decides the scope and structure to carry out the activities. The structure provided for section 1-5 covers each part of the material and should provide the students with an overall understanding and tools to carry on more complex discussions with help from the teacher

### About the Prezi presentations

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The material consists of five Prezi presentations attached with pdf's. Each Prezi presentation can be used on its own or used following a structured order. The Prezi's are useful both for teacher led presentation and for individual use by the students. There are multiple ways to use the material, feel free to adapt it to suit the needs of the students, your teaching style and the time allocated to go through the material.

## Presentations and links

1. The United Nations System (UN System)  
[http://prezi.com/ippxcexs2xib/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy&rc=exoshare](http://prezi.com/ippxcexs2xib/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=exoshare)
2. The United Nations – How does it work?  
[http://prezi.com/ewobhwrk7mrw/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy&rc=exoshare](http://prezi.com/ewobhwrk7mrw/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=exoshare)
3. Where can you find the United Nations?  
[http://prezi.com/dcfflysgccax/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](http://prezi.com/dcfflysgccax/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)
4. The UN Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights  
[http://prezi.com/fusbzstfn-of/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](http://prezi.com/fusbzstfn-of/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)
5. United Nations Study Room – continuing learning  
[http://prezi.com/te0osgk7qgiu/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](http://prezi.com/te0osgk7qgiu/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)

There are two ways to present a Prezi:

1. Present the Prezi without pausing and follow-up with questions afterwards
2. Present one slide at a time in combination with relevant questions, making pauses as you go

Choose a method that feels comfortable for the students. Before you start, make sure that the Prezi has finished loading and that you can move between slides by using the arrows on your keyboard.

## Symbols and activities

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You will find symbols at various places in the Prezi presentations, signalling that there is an activity attached to the information provided. This is just recommendations, so feel free to do the activities as you see fit with the students' needs and interests.

The symbols for are:

Discussion –

Small-group exercise –

Questions to the group –

## PREPARATIONS – USING PREZI

To open a Prezi, do as follows:

1. Open the Prezi by following this link:  
[https://prezi.com/user/stno\\_cqkutol/](https://prezi.com/user/stno_cqkutol/)
2. Choose the Prezi that you want to show
3. Open it
4. Select “present remotely” or “download”

Follow these steps if you choose “present remotely”- this alternative demands good internet access

1. Select “start presentation”
2. Let the Prezi load
3. Present using the arrows on your keyboard

When the Prezi is finished, use “esc” to come back to prezi.com

If you choose “download” – this alternative lets you store the Prezi on your computer

1. Select “presenting” and then press “download”
2. The Prezi will appear as a zip-file, either in the folder “downloads” or in the bottom left corner of your browser
3. Open the zip-file
4. Press “x” on the question if you wish to purchase Win RAR license
5. Open the second folder named “the-united-nati(numbers)”
6. Press “Prezi.exe”
7. Let it load
8. Press “run” in the window that comes up
9. Now a window should appear with the Prezi



# Section 1: Introducing the material

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**Learning objective:** This activity provides a means for the teacher to see how much prior knowledge the students have about the United Nations. It also provides means to later do a comparison on the process of learning and how much information the students have acquired after using the material.

**Time:** 45 min – 1,5 hour depending on activities

## Preparations

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Introduce the lesson by writing “The United Nations” on the board.

Have the students brainstorm what the United Nations means and write their responses on the board.

To start the discussion you can use some of the following questions:

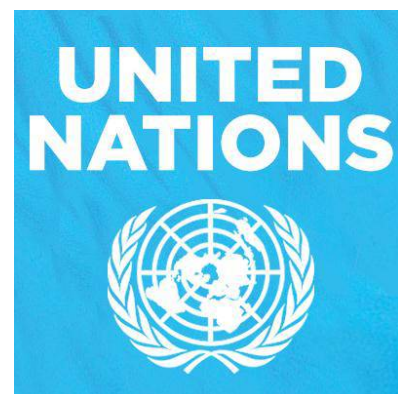
- What does the United Nations do?
- What is the United Nations main goal
- Where is the United Nations present?
- Do they know any organizations that might work for/with the United Nations
- Does anyone know of any Peacekeeping operation?
- Does the United Nations affect the student’s daily life? How so?

Let the students’ responses remain on the board.

### Exercise:

“Four corners”

“Global bingo” – this exercise is used again in Section 5 to give the teacher an opportunity to see the students’ progress and acquired knowledge.



# Section 2: The United Nations System

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**Learning objective:** The Prezi contains general information about the United Nations and the United Nations System. The educational value of the Prezi is to provide a general overview and an overall introduction to the different departments, sections and parts of the United Nations

## **Presentation:**

1. The United Nations System

**Time:** 45 min to a couple of hours depending on activities

**Recommendations:** This presentation contains a lot of information and can thus be very information heavy. Feel free to go through it and section it into different parts, making pauses for questions or saving the rest of the presentation for another day.

## Presentation

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The script provided in the pdf “The United Nations System” will be a useful tool to have when going through the Prezi. There is a slight difference in how the material is presented in the Prezi so make sure you go through the material before presenting it to the students. The information provided in the Prezi also opens for the possibility of letting the student go through it themselves.

## Slide overview

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### **First part**

- 1: Presentation of the different parts of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA
- 2: What is the United Nations?
- 3: The Principal organs of the United Nations
- 4: The story behind the locations of the United Nations Headquarters
- 5: The Secretariat



## **Second part**

6: The UN System

7-13: The General Assembly

14 - 24: The Security Council

25 - 27: The Secretary General

28: International Criminal Tribunals for Peace & Security

29 – 42: The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

43 – 46: Trusteeship Council

47: The International Court of Justice

49: Back to the front page

### **Exercise:** United Nations Quiz

The quiz tests the students on information provided in the presentation. Divide the class into smaller groups and have them answer the quiz as a team. You can either say the questions out loud or provide them with handouts.



## Section 3: The United Nations – How does it work?

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**Learning objectives:** There are two Prezi presentations tied to this activity.

1. “The United Nations – How does it work?” which contains general information about the creation of the United Nations and the UN System. The educational value of the Prezi is to provide a general overview and an overall introduction to how the United Nations operates. This Prezi repeats some of the information provided in Section 2, to provide repetition and group discussion.
2. “Where can you find the United Nations?” provides information about where the United Nations is active around the world, through Information Centres, Member States, Peacekeeping operations etc. This presentation can be used on its own, but is primarily useful in relation to some of the exercise presented below.

**Time:** 30 min to a couple of hours depending on activities

**Recommendations:** Try and include as many exercises and questions as possible. If there is a time constraint; we recommend that the teacher prioritizes the exercises most appropriate for the students’ level of knowledge and interests.

Also note that all slides of the Prezi are not included in this guide. Please feel free to create new questions and/or activities to relate to the one’s marked as “open”.

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## Slide overview

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### **Slide 1**

Learning objective: Basic facts about the United Nations

Link:

[http://prezi.com/dcfflysgccax/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy&rc=exoshare](http://prezi.com/dcfflysgccax/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=exoshare)

Questions:

- Why do you think that the United Nations was created in 1945?
- Why do you think it is voluntary to join the United Nations?
- Can you think of any ways that United Nations contributes to stop conflict?

Exercise: Use the world map presented in the Prezi “Where can you find the United Nations?” and have the students point/draw out where the Main Offices of the United Nations are located. This exercise can also be done using a printed map.

### **Slide 2**

Open

### **Slide 3: Role of the Member States**

Learning Objective: Basic Facts about the role of the Member States

Questions:

- Is your country a member state?
- Does anyone know a country that is not a member state?  
Depending on definition these are not member states: Taiwan, Palestine and Tibet

Critical questions

Questions:

- What do you think the statement means that “The UN is only as strong as its member states”?

- Can you think of any benefits that might come with being 193 member states that need to agree?
- Can you think of any difficulties that might come with being 193 member states that need to agree?

For the teacher: The two last questions can be used to engage the student and have them realize that the United Nations is not a world government. Try to guide the discussion towards addressing the benefits and difficulties of 193 member states cooperating and why it sometimes takes a long time for decision to be implemented.

Exercise:

“Map it out”

“Can you handle the power of veto?”

#### **Slide 4**

Open

#### **Slide 5: Official Languages**

Learning Objective: Basic Facts about the official languages, the exercise demands print-outs

Questions:

- Why could it be good to have official languages?
- Can anyone speak any of the official languages?

Exercise:

“A quick guide to diplomacy”

“The Line”

#### **Slide 6: Equality & Empowerment**

Learning objectives: Discuss injustice and equality, and also why empowerment is important for development

Questions:

- How can empowering vulnerable groups or people contribute to development?
- Can you come up with any examples of when empowering women has helped a country or community?
- What factors can lead to discrimination?
- What can you/your classmates do to work against discrimination?

Exercise: “Unfair Soccer”

Exercise: “I tolerate you”

## **Slide 7**

Open

## **Slide 8: The United Nations work for everyone**

Learning Objectives: To research and study what the United Nations does practically as well as politically. To engage the student to learn more about the United Nations work around the world

Questions:

- Why do you think that there are so many goals?
- What goal do you believe is most important?

Exercise: “The United Nations – Let’s create a better world!”

## **Slide 9: The Three Pillars**

Learning objectives: To provide the students with more in-depth knowledge of the goals of the United Nations and how the organization carries out its work in relations to the Three Pillars

Questions:

- Can you see any linkage between Human Rights and Development?

Exercise:

“The Three Pillars of the United Nations”

“A Peace and Conflict Map”



# Section 4: United Nations Charter & the Declaration of Human Rights

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**Learning Objectives:** This presentation gives a general overview of the United Nations Charter & a complete presentation of the articles in the Declaration of Human Rights. Used together with exercises this section will provide in-depth knowledge of the Declaration of Human Rights and an overall understanding on the United Nations Charter.

**Questions:**

**Exercise:** “What is your view on Human Rights?”





# Section 5: Conclusion & continuing learning

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## Conclusion

**Learning objectives:** This section is provided to give your student the chance to wrap up and develop further knowledge about the United Nations.

### **Exercise:**

Global bingo

## Continuing learning

**Learning objectives:** With the overall knowledge that your student has attained from this material, they can now move forward and discuss what comes next. This section provides an opportunity to use this new knowledge to discuss what comes next: on the United Nation's agenda this mostly entails transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Exercise:** The future we want – Sustainable Development Goals

