Building Shared Peace

Read how the United Nations linked security with cooperation.

USH.C.6.1.B "Describe the goals for the formation of the United Nations, including its focus on international security, as well as cooperation among nations regarding economic, social, and humanitarian issues."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two statements about how nations planned to protect international security. Circle two examples of cooperation on economic, social, or humanitarian problems, then number one sentence that explains how these goals connect.

Why Nations Formed the United Nations

1 In 1945, delegates gathered in San Francisco while World War II was ending. Two world wars had shown how quickly a conflict could spread across borders. Delegates from 50 countries drafted and signed the United Nations Charter, creating an organization where governments could meet instead of facing every crisis alone. Its central aim was to maintain international peace and security. The Charter called on members to settle disputes by peaceful means and to act together when peace was threatened. The founders did not expect meetings to erase disagreements. They wanted shared rules and a place to address them before violence grew.

2 Suppose a border dispute threatens to become a war. The United Nations offers a forum for representatives to speak, negotiate, and seek a peaceful solution. Its Security Council has primary responsibility for international peace and security. Under the Charter, the council can call for peaceful steps, impose sanctions, or authorize force in response to threats to peace. Members may still disagree about what to do, and powerful states can block some council decisions. Even so, the founders believed that an organized response by many governments could help prevent a local crisis from growing into a wider war.

3 Peace, however, required more than stopping armies. War had also left hunger, damaged economies, displaced families, and unmet health needs. The Charter therefore called for cooperation on economic, social, and humanitarian problems and for respect for human rights. Countries could share knowledge to improve working conditions, coordinate responses to disease, and support people forced from their homes. These efforts were not separate from security: severe hardship can deepen instability and make disputes harder to resolve. The United Nations was formed so nations could work together on immediate threats and on conditions that make lasting peace possible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the experience of two world wars shape the founders' goal for international security?

2. In the passage's border dispute, how could the Security Council help pursue the United Nations' security goal?

3. How do efforts to fight disease and support displaced people reflect goals beyond stopping wars?

4. Why does the passage connect economic and social cooperation with lasting peace?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A drought leaves families without safe water while two neighboring countries argue over a shared river. Write four or five sentences proposing how they could work through the United Nations to prevent conflict and cooperate on two economic, social, or humanitarian needs; explain how your actions support peace.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.6.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two statements about how nations planned to protect international security. Circle two examples of cooperation on economic, social, or humanitarian problems, then number one sentence that explains how these goals connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the experience of two world wars shape the founders' goal for international security?	**The wars showed how conflicts could spread across borders, so the founders wanted nations to settle disputes peacefully and act together when peace was threatened.**
2	In the passage's border dispute, how could the Security Council help pursue the United Nations' security goal?	**It could call for peaceful steps, impose sanctions, or authorize force in response to a threat to peace.**
3	How do efforts to fight disease and support displaced people reflect goals beyond stopping wars?	**They show the goal of cooperation on social and humanitarian problems, including health needs and the needs of people forced from their homes.**
4	Why does the passage connect economic and social cooperation with lasting peace?	**Severe hardship can deepen instability and make disputes harder to resolve, so addressing those conditions can support lasting peace.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United Nations should help the two governments negotiate rules for sharing the river before their dispute becomes violent. Representatives could agree on how much water each country may draw during the drought and how to resolve complaints. To address economic needs, the countries could coordinate water deliveries so farms in both places can keep producing food. To address humanitarian needs, they could jointly supply safe drinking water to families. These steps would protect people now while reducing the pressures that could turn the dispute into a larger conflict.

Accept other plausible joint actions if the response identifies a way to prevent conflict, addresses two economic, social, or humanitarian needs, and explains a connection to peace.