

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 30 MINS

Introduction to Unions and Alliances

Students learn what unions and alliances are, identify the groups they belong to, and discuss cooperation and conflict resolution within groups.

GRADES

3 - 5

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography

OVERVIEW

Students learn what unions and alliances are, identify the groups they belong to, and discuss cooperation and conflict resolution within groups.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-unions-alliances/>

DIRECTIONS

1. Introduce the vocabulary.

Write the vocabulary words *union* and *alliance* on the board. Explain to students that both unions and alliances are groups. Tell students that unions and alliances can be groups of people or countries that join together to work toward a common goal. Ask: *Imagine our class is a union or alliance. What goal do we work toward as a group?* Elicit from students that the class is a group of students and a teacher who meet each day to work together to learn.

2. Have students identify examples of unions or alliances they are a part of.

Ask students to list some of the unions or alliances they are part of. If needed, prompt them with examples such as school teams, their extended families, clubs, or religious groups. List students' unions and alliances on the board.

3. Have students identify non-examples of unions and alliances.

Ask students to list some non-examples of unions and alliances in order to reinforce the idea of unions and alliances as groups working toward a common goal. If needed, prompt them with non-examples such as bus riders or students in different grades.

4. Discuss conflict and conflict resolution within groups.

Ask: Do group members ever disagree or get into arguments? What happens in these situations? Encourage students to describe how group members act or what they say. *Ask: How can they solve their disagreements?* Students may recognize that there is a group leader to resolve disputes, or that all members are equals and must vote to make decisions.

5. Brainstorm the pros and cons of being a member of a union or alliance.

Draw a simple T-Chart on the board and write in the heads Pros and Cons. Ask students to brainstorm some of the pros and cons of being a member of a union or alliance. For example, Pros include having the same goals and Cons include not being able to agree on what to do. List students' ideas on the board.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- Human Geography

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- identify unions or alliances they belong to
- describe conflict resolution within groups
- identify the pros and cons of being a member of a group

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Brainstorming
- Discussions

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Remembering
 - Understanding
- Geographic Skills
 - Acquiring Geographic Information
 - Answering Geographic Questions

National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM STANDARDS

- Theme 5:

Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

- Standard 13:

How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface

Preparation

What You'll Need

MATERIALS YOU PROVIDE

- Paper
- Pencils
- Pens

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Large-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

Unions are groups of people, countries, or organizations that join together because of a common goal. By thinking about the groups you belong to and how these groups help members work together, you can understand why countries join together in the United Nations and other international alliances.

Prior Knowledge

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Recommended Prior Activities

- None

Vocabulary

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
alliance	noun	people or groups united for a specific purpose.

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
union	<i>noun</i>	group of people or countries that work together for a common goal or set of goals.



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