



Treaties: Lesson Plan

Topic	
To promote international cooperation, states or International Organizations make treaties. Treaties are binding under international law, and are put into force through signing and often a ratification process. They can be used for trade, establishing international norms, or settling disputes.	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
World History International Relations Politics Economics	45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/video/treaties-cooperation-is-key/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define treaty and its purpose. • Articulate the importance of international cooperation. • Write and evaluate a treaty. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Actors, States, International Norms, United Nations	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Access to the Internet or Textbooks (for research activities)	
Before you watch	
<p>Turn & Talk: Have students discuss with a neighbor a time when cooperation solved a dispute. How did each party articulate what the problem was and how they needed to address it?</p>	



While you watch

1. What is a treaty?
2. What collective action problems could treaties be important in?
3. List two types of treaties.
4. Describe how a treaty could be enacted into force.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. What situations might cause actors to make treaties?
2. How might countries hold each other accountable to keep agreements?
3. What issues exist in the world that you think need to be addressed with a treaty?

Activity Ideas

1. Have students research a treaty about an issue that is important to them. Using the Worksheet, identify the actors, situation, agreement, and its ratification process.
2. Have students write a paragraph on why countries may want treaties in the first place. Ask them to identify a treaty and consider why it was needed or why a country chose not to sign/ratify it. Give them time to research.
3. Consider how a student could write their own treaty. It could be a class agreement, such as turning in homework on time, paying attention in class, ect, or on a global aspiration of their choice. Use the Worksheet as a template.

Sources/places to learn more

Donaldson, Megan, *The Survival of the Secret Treaty: Publicity, Secrecy and Legality in the International Order* (January 1, 2017). University of Cambridge Faculty of Law Research Paper No. 56/2017. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3076515> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3076515>

"Public International Law: Treaties." *Library Guides at University of Melbourne*, University of Melbourne, 18 May 2020, unimelb.libguides.com/internationallaw/treaties.

Shaw, Malcolm. "Treaty." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 27 Aug. 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/treaty.



The United Nations. "Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties." *Treaty Series*, vol. 1155, May, 1969
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201155/volume-1155-I-18232-English.pdf>