

International Alliances



Students, in groups of four, examine the issues and perspectives of an international alliance. The focus is to examine ways countries group together on a smaller scale to address specific issues within their region. Why might countries form alliances with one another? What is known about some of the major international alliances?

Research the structure, mandate, and activities of various alliances and summarize it in the attached organizer. Then, mark the geographical range of these unions on a world map. What are the opposing viewpoints concerning these groups? What criteria could be used to compare these alliances and their effectiveness?

Suggested Alliances

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) - nato.int
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - aseansec.org
- African Union (AU) - africa-union.org
- Organization of American States (OAS) - oas.org
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) - apecsec.org.sg

Other Alliances

- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) - opec.org
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - oecd.org
- The Commonwealth - thecommonwealth.org
- G8 - g8online.org
- Arctic Council - arctic-council.org
- G77 - g77.org
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development - arabfund.org
- Asian Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology - apctt.org
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - comesa.int