

A Trip Around the World

Name: _____

Universal Rights



Every constitution lays out the rights of the citizens of that nation. **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** came up with a list of 54 rights that all children should have in EVERY nation. It is a legally binding document that has been agreed to by almost all countries in the world. Here are some of the rights it guarantees:

Article 1 Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

Article 2 The Convention applies to everyone, whatever their race, religion, abilities; whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

Article 4 Governments should make these rights available to all children.

Article 5 Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

Article 6 All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

Article 9 Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good—for example, if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child.

Article 12 Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article 14 Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

Article 15 Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organizations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 19 Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 27 Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 29 Education should develop each child's personality and their talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

Read them all on the web at:

http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30177.html

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Fill in the Blank. Use the words in the word bank to complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below...

Rights	United Nations	children	9	stopping	14
parents	government	mothers	child	4	right
Race	religion	abilities	18	parents	think
	Believe			enjoying	

According to the UN Convention on the _____ of the Child, young people of any _____, _____, or _____ that are under the age of _____ should have access to the rights covered by the Convention. Unfortunately, all governments don't give these rights to their children. But according to the _____ and article _____, they should. The Convention says again and again that _____ are responsible for guiding their children. If _____ are putting their children in danger, the _____ should take over responsibility. If parents don't have enough money to take care of their _____, the government is responsible for helping to take care of the children.

Parents play such a big role that article _____ says that children should not be separated from their _____ and fathers unless it is for the good of the _____. Even though parents are responsible for guiding their children, the children have the _____ to speak their minds. Children also have the right to _____ and _____ what they want according to article _____.

One of the biggest key points made over and over in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is that all these rights depend on one thing: That children are free to do certain things, as long as they are not _____ other people from _____ *their* rights!

