

CHAPTER
23 CHARTING A COURSE

**CHALLENGE AND
ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**

Identifying the Ideals of the United Nations

In June 1945 the founding members of the United Nations signed the UN charter. The charter stated the ideals that the member nations hoped to accomplish in the years ahead. Part of the preamble to the UN charter follows. Read it and then complete the items below.

We the people of the United Nations, determined
to save succeeding generations [the people of the future] from the scourge
[evils] of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold [great] sorrows
to mankind, and
to reaffirm faith [state our belief] in fundamental human rights, in the dignity
and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of
nations large and small, and . . .
to promote social progress and better standards of life . . .
have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

- 1. To what events do you think the charter is referring by the phrase, “the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow”?

- 2. What, in your own words, does the charter mean when it speaks of “fundamental human rights”?

- 3. What does the phrase “better standards of life” mean? _____

- 4. Write a brief paragraph stating what you believe the founders hoped the United Nations would accomplish.

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