

Co-operation or competition?

Upper Intermediate New Internationalist
Easier English ready lesson



Today's lesson:

Warmer: discussion / error correction

Vocabulary extension: dictation /
explanation / research / word stress

Pre-reading: predict focus questions /
practice of comparatives and superlatives

Reading: groups read different texts

Speaking / listening: share information

Writing: pairs write letter to express views

Co-operation or competition – which is best?

In pairs, discuss which is best in different situations (work, different jobs, education, families/home, food production, international trade, politics etc) – and why.

Vocabulary

Divide your page into 3:

a) Words I know and can explain

b) Words I half-know but couldn't explain

c) Words I don't know

Now listen to your teacher and write the words in a), b) or c)

Then ask others in the class / look up in dictionaries to find out the meanings of words you've put in b) and c)

Now check spelling, meanings and pronunciation:

co-operative

to nationalize

resources

inflation

textiles

weaver

capitalism

socialism

community

to empower

welfare state

democracy

wealth

credit

evolution

revolution

trading partner

solidarity

greed

selfishness

What do you know about co-operatives?

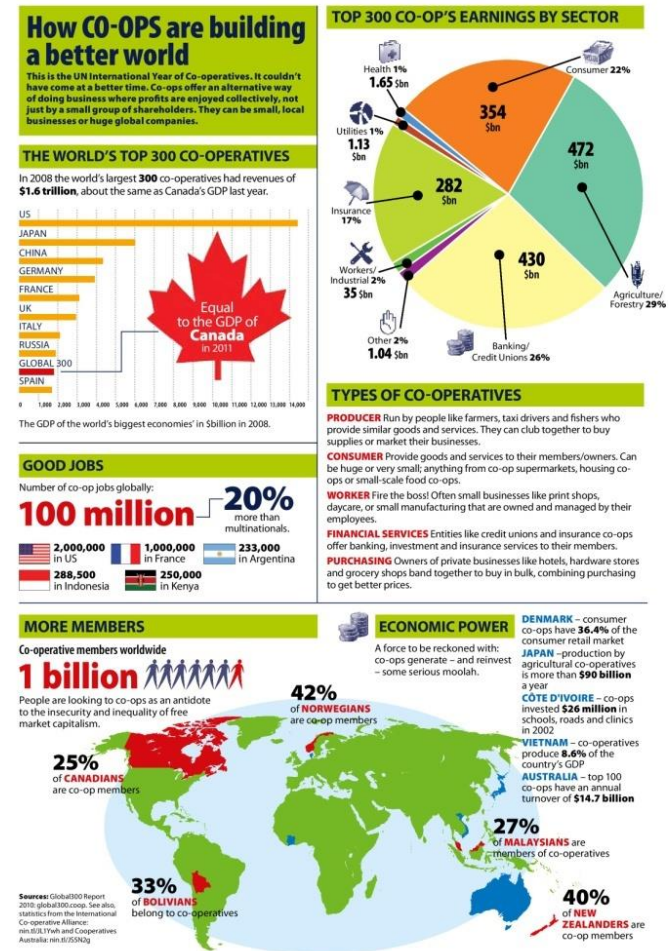
- 1) Their history: how / where / when did they start?
- 2) What are the positives and negatives about co-operatives?
- 3) Which people started co-operatives, and why?
- 4) Are co-operatives a good idea?



Now look at these facts about co-operatives:

- <http://www.newint.org/features/2012/07/16/co-ops-the-facts/>

In pairs, take it in turns to tell each other a fact from the diagrams.

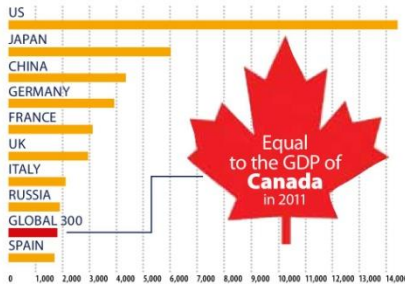


How CO-OPS are building a better world

This is the UN International Year of Co-operatives. It couldn't have come at a better time. Co-ops offer an alternative way of doing business where profits are enjoyed collectively, not just by a small group of shareholders. They can be small, local businesses or huge global companies.

THE WORLD'S TOP 300 CO-OPERATIVES

In 2008 the world's largest 300 co-operatives had revenues of **\$1.6 trillion**, about the same as Canada's GDP last year.



The GDP of the world's biggest economies' in \$billion in 2008.

GOOD JOBS

Number of co-op jobs globally:

100 million more than multinationals. **20%**



MORE MEMBERS

Co-operative members worldwide

1 billion

People are looking to co-ops as an antidote to the insecurity and inequality of free market capitalism.

25% of **CANADIANS** are co-op members

33% of **BOLIVIANS** belong to co-operatives

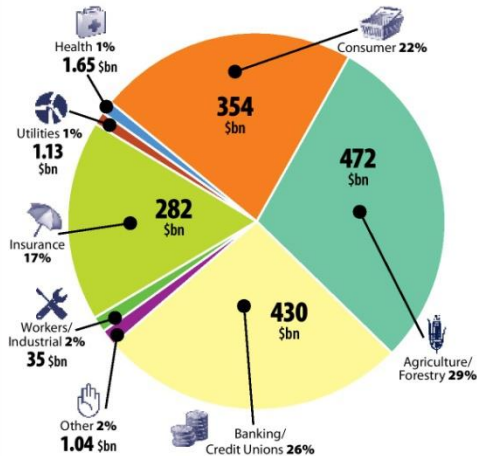
42% of **NORWEGIANS** are co-op members

27% of **MALAYSIANS** are members of co-operatives

40% of **NEW ZEALANDERS** are co-op members

Sources: Global300 Report 2010; global300.coop. See also, statistics from the International Co-operative Alliance: nin.it/ILYWh and Cooperatives Australia: nin.it/ISSN2g

TOP 300 CO-OP'S EARNINGS BY SECTOR



TYPES OF CO-OPERATIVES

PRODUCER Run by people like farmers, taxi drivers and fishers who provide similar goods and services. They can club together to buy supplies or market their businesses.

CONSUMER Provide goods and services to their members/owners. Can be huge or very small; anything from co-op supermarkets, housing co-ops or small-scale food co-ops.

WORKER Fire the boss! Often small businesses like print shops, daycare, or small manufacturing that are owned and managed by their employees.

FINANCIAL SERVICES Entities like credit unions and insurance co-ops offer banking, investment and insurance services to their members.

PURCHASING Owners of private businesses like hotels, hardware stores and grocery shops band together to buy in bulk, combining purchasing to get better prices.

ECONOMIC POWER

A force to be reckoned with: co-ops generate – and reinvest – some serious moolah.

DENMARK – consumer co-ops have **36.4%** of the consumer retail market

JAPAN – production by agricultural co-operatives is more than **\$90 billion** a year

COTE D'IVOIRE – co-ops invested **\$26 million** in schools, roads and clinics in 2002.

VIETNAM – co-operatives produce **8.6%** of the country's GDP

AUSTRALIA – top 100 co-ops have an annual turnover of **\$14.7 billion**

Reading / research:

In groups of 4, each learner will now read one of the following articles:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_454

- 1/ Co-operative revolution part 1
- 2/ Co-operative revolution part 2
- 3/ What about co-ops in Cuba?
- 4/ Big thinkers on Co-operation



All learners make notes on the 4 question on previous slide

Speaking and listening:

In groups of 4, share the information you have read and discuss the 4 questions again:

- 1) The history of co-operatives: how / where / when did they start?
- 2) What are the positives and negatives about co-operatives?
- 3) Which people started co-operatives, and why? (see pictures on next slide)
- 4) Are co-operatives a good idea?

Big Thinkers on Co-operation

Robert Owen



Lynn Margulis



Friedrich Raffeisen



Elinor Ostrom



Peter Kropotkin



David Sloan Wilson



Writing

Imagine you have a friend who is interested in starting a co-operative business, but does not know much about co-operatives.

In pairs, write a letter to the friend, explaining about their history, how they work and why it would be a good idea.

Homework

Go to the New Internationalist site:

www.newint.org



And read a) the original articles:

<http://www.newint.org/themes/politics/economics/>

And b) the simplified ones:

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Issue_454