

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

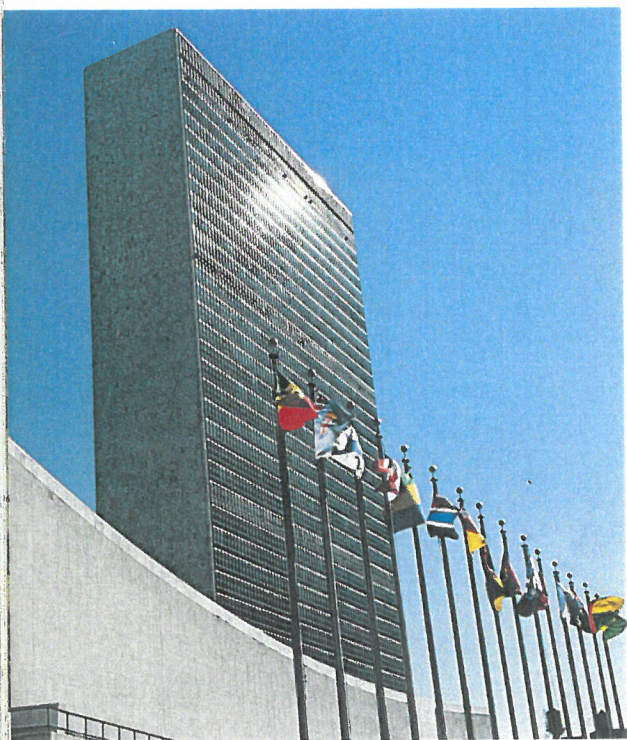
FIVE of the continents of the world are divided into countries.

Look at the borders between countries: they have all been decided by people. Some follow natural features, such as rivers or mountain ranges. But some borders separate people of the same language, and this can cause problems.

This map has been drawn to show each country at the correct size. So you can see which countries are big, which are middle-sized and which are small. But because the sizes are correct, some of the shapes are not quite right. To see **both** correct size **and** correct shape we all need to look at a globe.



▲ **The European Union** – a map on a stamp from a member country. Which one? (See page 97.)



▲ **The United Nations building**, in New York City, USA. The world's problems are discussed here – and sometimes solved. Look at the flag (right): what do you think the symbols mean? (Answer on page 97.)

▼ **The United Nations flag.**



A D-I-Y QUIZ

On this map, some small countries are labelled with only the first few letters of their name. Try to guess the whole name. Then check your answers on the continent maps: *Europe* page 19; *Asia* page 39; *Africa* page 53; *Pacific* pages 62–63; *West Indies* page 81; *South America* page 83.

