

Strengths and weaknesses of the League of Nations

Tasks

1. Sort the cards into two columns to show the strengths and weaknesses of the League of Nations.
2. Rank the cards in order of importance i.e. which were its best strengths and its worst weaknesses.

The League had no army of its own.	The USA did not join the League. This undermined the League from the start.	Most major powers joined the League.
The USSR did not join the League until 1934.	Most countries began supporting the League when it was set up in 1919-20. People wanted to avoid conflicts.	The League solved some political disputes in the 1920s.
In 1921 the League settled a dispute between Sweden and Finland over the Aaland Islands.	In 1925, a Greek army invaded Bulgaria. The League persuaded the Greeks to leave.	In the 1930s the League could not stop the rise of dictators in Japan, Germany and Italy. It was not strong enough.
Better communications by 1920s (international flights & the telephone) helped the League to work efficiently. It made it easier to act when conflict threatened.	The disarmament Committee's attempts to get members to reduce the size of their armies had no success. France regarded disarmament a threat to national security. The failure of other nations to disarm allowed Germany to claim the right to re-arm to protect themselves.	The League had very little real power to get people to obey it. The League relied on goodwill and persuasion. Goodwill was not enough to keep the peace.