



"The co-operative ideal is as old as human society. It is the idea of conflict and competition as a principle of economic progress that is new."

- AM Carr-Saunders, P Sargant Florence & Robert Peers,
Consumers Co-operation in Great Britain (1938)

Early co-operation case studies from around the world

As we discovered earlier in this section, the Rochdale Pioneers were by no means the first people to try out co-operative ways of organising themselves, and this next activity seeks to take us further back into the mists of time to much earlier evidence of co-operation. Click on the various locations on the map below to find out about different types of co-operation around the world that pre-date the 'modern' co-operative movement - sometimes by millennia!

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For much more information and details of other examples of early co-operation, this book is a great place to start and can be found [HERE](#).

Quick game!

Why not test your knowledge with a quick matching game about all of these early experiments with co-operation? It's a great way to see how much you've remembered!

Match the cards on the left with the answers on the right...



This co-op
type
organisation
dates from
15th century
Scotland

Oldham Co-
operative Supply
Company



Benjamin
Franklin
founded
America's
first mutual
based on
seeing this
organisation

Shore Porters
Society



Said to be
the first
established

The Decembrists

established
retail co-op



The Great
Artel was set
up by these
prisoners to
survive their
harsh
conditions

The Amicable
Contributorship of
London

SUBMIT