



Teacher Resource

World Refugee Day

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What is a refugee?
2. What can cause a person to become a refugee?
3. How many people around the world are refugees?
4. What is the UN Refugee Convention?
5. How many countries have signed the UN Refugee Convention?

Note for teachers

Before exploring this topic with your class, think about the students with refugee experience at your school and the sensitivities you will need.

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN World Refugee Day story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to start the discussion:

- What were some of the main reasons the kids in the BTN story had to leave their homes?
- How do you think it might feel to leave your home, friends and community behind?
- What challenges might refugees face when arriving in a new country?
- Why do you think Refugee Day is important?
- What questions do you have about the BTN story?



As a class, look at the history of Refugee Week and the significance of the 40th anniversary. Explore the theme for Refugee Week 2026 “A Million Stories”. Ask your students:

- Why do you think they chose this theme?
- Why are stories important? (understanding, inclusion, belonging)

EPISODE 17

16 June 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about who refugees are and why people become refugees. Students will explore the theme for Refugee Week 2026.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 4

Diversity of cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they and others in the community belong, and their importance to identity.

Develop questions to guide investigations about people, events, places and issues.

HASS – Years 5 & 6

Develop questions to investigate people, events, developments, places and systems.

HASS – Year 6

The motivation of people migrating to Australia since Federation and throughout the 20th century, their stories and effects on Australian society, including migrants from the Asia region.

Activity: A Million Stories

The theme for Refugee Week 2026 is *A Million Stories*. Discuss the theme as a class and record students' responses. Below are some questions to guide the discussion.

- What do you think the theme *A Million Stories* means?
- Why is it important to hear and share people's stories?
- What might be some of the stories that refugees have to tell?

Further learning


- Students will design and create a poster to reflect the theme for Refugee Week 2026 and hold an art exhibition to present their artworks. Invite other classes to participate in the exhibition.
- Organise your own Refugee Week event or activity at your school. Visit the Refugee Week website and download their [resource kit](#) for a guide on planning your own event.

Activity: Welcoming Refugees

Discuss as a class the importance of belonging to a community. Think about the diversity in backgrounds, experiences, interests and age of people in your school community. Broaden your discussion and talk about your local community and Australia as a whole.

Explain to students that developing positive relationships can help build a sense of belonging and inclusion. Provide a range of opportunities for students to share their personal stories to create an atmosphere of cultural respect and acknowledgement of diversity.

- What do you like about being part of your school community?
- What makes you feel safe in your school community?
- How do you welcome new students to your school community?
- What are some of your school's values?
- Describe some of your school's traditions. Why are they important?
- What are the advantages of belonging to a culturally diverse community?
- How does your school value and celebrate cultural diversity?



Welcoming Refugees
Brainstorm ways that you could welcome refugees at your school. UNHCR has some great suggestions. [Check them out](#)

In pairs or small groups students will discuss ways they can learn more about different cultures. For example:

- sharing stories
- learning about different languages
- celebrating important cultural events
- learning about someone's customs or beliefs
- do your own research about different cultures.

Activity: BTN Refugee stories

As a class watch one or more of the following BTN stories to learn more about the experiences of refugees. After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions (to find the teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package).



[Vietnamese Refugee Anniversary](#)



[World Refugee Day](#)



[Journey from Ukraine](#)



[Syrian Refugee Family](#)



[Refugee Journey](#)



[Refugees in Australia](#)

Useful Websites

- [World Refugee Day](#) – The UN Refugee Agency
- [Who is a 'refugee'?](#) – The UN Refugee Agency
- [Refugees in Australia](#) – BTN