

Teacher Resource

Refugee Week 2019

Focus Questions

1. Briefly summarise the BTN *Refugee Week 2019* story.
2. Where was Halia born? Find using Google Maps.
3. Why did Halia and her family migrate to Pakistan?
4. How old was Halia when she came to Australia?
5. Who is a refugee?
6. Why do people become refugees? Give one reason.
7. How many refugees are there according to the United Nations?
 - a. 25 thousand
 - b. 2.5 million
 - c. 25 million
8. Which 5 countries do most of the world's refugees come from?
9. What is the Refugee Convention?
10. When does a person stop being a refugee?

Before analysis or discussion about refugees think about the students with refugee experience at your school and the sensitivities you will need. Establish with your students some key definitions and stereotypes. Some activities may not be suitable for particular refugee students.

Activity

Class Discussion

After watching the BTN *Refugee Week 2019* story, ask students to finish the following sentences:

- It was interesting to learn that...
- This story made me feel...
- This story made me wonder why...

Students will develop an understanding of what a refugee is and write a class definition. Compare students' definitions with the UN definition. Respond to the following as a class recording responses on a large sheet of paper.

- Who is a refugee?
(Explain to students the ways in which a refugee and an asylum seeker differ from a migrant).
- Which countries do refugees come from? Which countries do people arrive as refugees? Look on a world map to find these countries.



Key Learning

Students will develop an understanding of the refugee experience. Students will explore the theme for Refugee Week 2019.

Curriculum

HASS – Year 3

How the community has changed and remained the same over time and the role that people of diverse backgrounds have played in the development and character of the local community.

HASS – Year 3 & 4

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

Examine information to identify different points of view and distinguish facts from opinions.

HASS – Year 5

The reasons people migrated to Australia and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.

HASS – Year 6

Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia since Federation (including from ONE country of the Asia region) and reasons they migrated.

In small groups, students will brainstorm what they know about the refugee experience, recording all responses on a large sheet of paper. Students will respond to the following questions and then create an acrostic poem. Share what each group brainstormed and display their poems in the classroom.

- Why do people become refugees?
- What words do you associate with the word refugee? Which words are positive, and which are negative?
- Where have you heard these words used (media, friends, family)?
- Create an acrostic poem using a word associated with the refugee experience. E.g. 'Welcome'.

Activity

Refugee stories

As a class watch one or more of the following BTN stories to learn more about the experiences of refugees. Find out where they come from and why they had to leave their home. Students will compare elements of their life and the refugee's life. Students will use a Venn diagram to illustrate the differences and similarities.



In the BTN [Raising Funds for Refugees](#) story, meet Soufia and her best friend Arielle who took part in something called a Ration Challenge. After watching the story students will respond to these focus questions:

- Where did Soufia and Arielle meet?
- Why did Soufia and her family leave Syria?
- Where is Syria? Find Syria using Google Maps.
- What is the Ration Challenge? Describe using your own words.

Watch the BTN [Syrian Refugee Family](#) story that tells the journey of Syrian kids Youssef and Sara and answer the following questions:

- When did the war begin in Syria?
- How do Sara and her family feel living in Australia?
- What does Youssef miss about his home country?
- What do you think would be one of the most difficult things about moving to another country?



Watch the BTN [Refugee Journey](#) story that tells the journey of Sudanese refugee Johnson and answer the following questions:

- Why did Johnson leave Sudan?
- Retell the story of Johnson's journey.
- Why did Johnson go to Kenya?
- Describe Johnson's life now that he lives in Australia.



Activity

Share a meal, share a story

The theme for Refugee Week 2019 is “Share a meal, share a story – celebrating refugee stories”.

Discuss as a class what this theme means. Record your student's responses on the class whiteboard.

- What does this theme mean to you?
- Why do you think the Refugee Council of Australia chose this theme?
- Think of the people you share meals with, at home or school. How does it make you feel to share a meal with family and friends?



Refugee Week event

Organise your own Refugee Week event at your school. It can be a breakfast, morning tea or dinner, where you can invite a refugee and hear their stories, while sharing some of their favourite meals. Visit the Refugee Week website and download their resource kit for a guide on planning your own event. [Learn more](#)



Further activity

What should next year's theme be? Brainstorm and discuss as a class and then hold a poll to decide on a theme for 2020.

Activity

Juggling game

People don't plan to become refugees. Usually circumstances beyond their control force them to flee. As a class discuss reasons why people might leave their homeland. Ask students to think of three reasons and write them on post-it notes. Collate student responses and discuss.

Ask students to imagine they have to flee their home in a hurry, leaving their family and belongings to move to another country. In small groups students will discuss and respond to the following:

- Make a list of the problems you may need to juggle as a refugee on a daily basis.
- Discuss the issues of food, accommodation, education, freedom and language.
- What does it feel like to be a refugee?
- What does a refugee leave behind?
- What do refugees go through when they arrive in a new country?

- What support might refugees need when they arrive in a new country?
- Play this simple and fun [balloon game](#) which raises awareness of some of the issues faced by refugees. The balloons represent some of the issues refugees might face each day.
- Present your groups ideas as a story or create a picture that describes the experience.

Useful Websites

UNCR – What is a refugee?

<https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee/>

BTN – Refugees and Migrants

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/refugees-and-migrants/10524176>

Refugee Council – Refugees in the world

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/world/>

Roads to Refuge – Teacher Resources

<http://www.roads-to-refuge.com.au/>

Refugee Week 2019 – Share a meal share a story

<https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/>