



Teacher Resource

# Refugee Week 2023

## 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. Why did Fatima and Fariba leave Afghanistan?
2. How many people around the world are refugees?
3. When did the United Nations decide to set up an organisation devoted to taking care of refugees?
4. What is the Refugee Convention?
5. How many countries have signed the Refugee Convention?
6. What do Fatima and Fariba like about living in Australia?

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

## Activity: See, think and wonder?

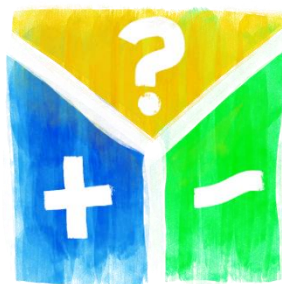
After watching the BTN Refugee Week 2023 story students will respond to the following:

- What did you SEE in this story?
- What did this story make you WONDER?
- How did this story make you FEEL?
- Think of three questions you have about the BTN story.

## Activity: Note Taking

Students will practise their note-taking skills while watching the BTN Refugee Week 2023 story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories. What information in the story was...?

- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



### EPISODE 17

20<sup>th</sup> June 2023

#### KEY LEARNING

Students will develop an understanding of who is a refugee and why people become refugees. They will also explore the theme for Refugee Week 2023.

#### CURRICULUM

##### History – Year 3

Causes and effects of changes to the local community, and how people who may be from diverse backgrounds have contributed to these changes.

##### History – Year 6

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

##### Civics and Citizenship – Year 4

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

##### Civics and Citizenship – Year 7

How values based on freedom, respect, fairness and equality of opportunity can support social cohesion and democracy within Australian society.

## Activity: Who is a refugee?

Working in pairs or small groups, students discuss the BTN Refugee Week 2023 story using the following questions as a guide. Watch the UNHCR [Who is a refugee animation](#)

- Who is a refugee? How do they differ from asylum seekers and migrants?
- Why do people become refugees?
- Where do refugees come from? Look on a world map to find these countries.
- What challenges do refugees face when they leave their home country?
- How can we show empathy and support to refugees in our community?



## Activity: Refugees Research

After watching and discussing the BTN Refugee Week 2023 story, what questions do students have and what are the gaps in their knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- How do refugees find safety and support in a new country?
- Which countries around the world resettle refugees and people in humanitarian need each year? What proportion does Australia accept? Display the information in a table.
- What are some misconceptions or stereotypes about refugees?
- How does the process of resettlement work for refugees?
- Choose a well-known person who came to Australia as a refugee. Create a biography about them that tells their journey.
- How can individuals and communities promote empathy and understanding towards refugees?
- Approximately how many refugees are there in the world? What is the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and how does it relate to Australia?

## 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).



[Syrian Refugee Family](#)



[Refugee Journey](#)



[Refugees in Australia](#)



[Refugee Week 2019](#)



[Letters to Refugees](#)



[Journey from Ukraine](#)

## Activity: Syrian Journey – Choose your own escape

This interactive allows students to immerse themselves in the experience of being a Syrian Refugee. They can choose their own escape route from war-torn Syria to a safer place in Europe and face many challenges and tough choices on the way.

[Syrian journey – Choose your own escape](#)



## Activity: 2023 Refugee Week

The theme for Refugee Week 2023 is *Finding Freedom*. Discuss as a class and record your student's responses. Below are some questions to guide discussion.

- What does it mean to be free?
- Why do you think the Refugee Council of Australia chose this theme?
- How can we encourage Australians to improve our nation's welcome for refugees? Share your ideas as a class.
- Think of reasons why it takes courage to be a refugee. Think of reasons why it takes courage to speak out against injustice.



- Students will design and create a poster to reflect the theme for Refugee Week 2023 and hold an art exhibition to present their artworks. The exhibition will celebrate the courage, resilience, strength and contributions of people of refugee backgrounds. 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.

- Brainstorm ideas as a class.
- What goals do you have for your event/activity? What are you trying to achieve?
- What kind of event will you be holding?
- Plan your budget – will you be fundraising?
- Use your contacts – including your school community and local council.
- Evaluate your event – how much of a success was it?

## Activity: Celebrating Diversity

As a class, discuss the diversity in backgrounds, experiences, interests and age of people in your class and 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?



## Useful Websites

- [Refugee Week 2023](#) – Refugee Council of Australia
- [World Refugee Day](#) – UNHCR
- [Refugees in Australia](#) – BTN
- [Refugee Week 2019](#) – BTN