

We left because we had to

Topic: National, regional, ethnic and religious cultures

Lesson 1: We left because we had to	KS or Year Group: KS 3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource 1 - Teacher's information sheet2. Resource 2 – News stories and images of refugees3. A3 sheet of paper and a glue stick – one sheet per group	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will be able to understand the definition of a 'refugee'.• Students will be able to take responsibility for educating others about refugees and their situation.• Students will be able to plan a course of action designed to bring about an improvement for refugees or influence members of the community.

National Curriculum

Key concept – Identities and diversity: living together in the UK

Key processes – 2.1 a,b,c. 2.3 a,b,c,d

Range and content – 3a

Lesson 1

This lesson introduces students to the reality of refugees' lives.

Starter

- Ask students to imagine individually that they are in danger and have to leave their home in a hurry. They only have five minutes to pack and they do not know when they will return. They have five minutes to choose ten things they can take with them. Each item of clothing or CD counts as one item. They can only choose things that a person can carry easily. Students are to complete individually the list of things they would take.

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- Divide class into groups of four and ask them to discuss the similarities and differences in their lists with their groups. Feedback as a whole class and discuss. Tell students we will be returning to these lists in the next lesson.

Main activity

- Print out **Resource 2 – News stories and images of refugees** and cut up pictures and stories. Keeping the class in groups of four, distribute one image of refugees to each group. Explain that you want them to explore the image by thinking of three questions they would like to ask the people in the photograph. At this point do not reveal that the people in the photograph are refugees.
- Groups should stick their photograph onto an A3 sheet of paper and then discuss and agree what three questions they would like to ask the people in the photograph. They should then write these questions on the sheet.
- Ask students to move around the class looking at one another's posters. They should try to imagine they are one of the people in the photograph and write responses to the questions on the poster paper. They should also discuss whether they would have asked different questions and why.
- Students to return to their original image and read the responses.
- Ask the class if they can think of the common theme that links all of the images. Introduce the term 'refugee' (see **Resource 1 - Teacher Information Sheet**). Explain how the starter activity is relevant because this is something many refugees experience. Usually they take very little with them because they have to leave in a hurry or because they can only take what they can carry. Students may introduce the terms 'asylum seeker', 'illegal immigrant' and 'migrant worker'. Be prepared to clarify what these terms mean from the Teacher Information Sheet.
- Distribute the news story that goes with each image. Students to read story and discuss how similar or different the real story is to what they had imagined. Groups to take it in turns to show their picture to the rest of the class and summarise the story behind the picture. Students to discuss the stories and how they would feel if they were in a similar situation.

Plenary

Ask students what they have learnt from today's lesson. Summarise and check their understanding of the key terms 'refugee' and 'asylum seeker'. Make sure students understand that refugees are the same as everyone else except for the loss of their country, home and possessions.

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Resource 1 - Teacher information sheet

Legal status of refugees

The UK is a signatory to the UN Convention relating to status of refugees (1951) and incorporated the Convention into domestic law in 1993. By this law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in the UK and remain until a final decision on their application has been made. A refugee is someone who has applied for asylum and has, by law, been granted refugee status.

Definitions

A **refugee** is a person who is given refugee status in a new country. In order to get this status a person has to convince the government that they have escaped their own country 'owing to a well-grounded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group.' (United Nations Convention on Refugees, 1951)

An **asylum-seeker** is someone seeking refugee status. When someone arrives in Britain as an asylum seeker they have to go to immigration control and request asylum. Some people are freely let into Britain while their claim is considered, others are detained in detention centres and even prisons. While waiting for a decision, asylum seekers are usually denied the right to work in this country. They receive few benefits. If refugee status is given to that person, he or she has the right to stay in the new country for as long as is needed.

An **immigrant** is someone who was not born in the country which they now live. In the UK, there are very few so-called illegal immigrants.

An **illegal immigrant** is someone who enters a country without the proper papers. In some countries, including the UK, governments will fine airlines and ferry companies that carry illegal immigrants.

An **economic migrant** is someone who leaves their country voluntarily to earn a livelihood. They are people who choose to move in order to improve the future prospects of themselves and their families.

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Resource 2 – News stories and images of refugees

Story 1



Australia In Africa Immigration Row

Wednesday October 03, 2007

The Australian Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews has rejected accusations that the Federal government's decision to reduce the number of African refugees it allows into the country is racist.

"There's been some remarks that the composition of the humanitarian and refugee programme is racist, that's absolute nonsense," Andrews said.

Australia has slashed its refugee intake from Africa from 70 per cent three years ago to 30 per cent in 2007.

Andrews said the African quota was being reduced because of demands from other parts of the world, adding that the African refugees posed a challenge to society because they were having trouble settling into the wider community.

"We do have a responsibility to the Australian community that when people come to Australia they're able to adequately settle in this country we have detected that there have been additional challenges in relation to some of the people who have come from Africa over the past few years," Andrews said.

Meanwhile Prime Minister John Howard said Australia would not take any more refugees from Africa at least until the middle of next year.

He rejected any suggestion of racism, saying Australia's 13-thousand a year refugee intake was being "rebalanced" from Africa to the Middle East and Asia where the need was more acute.

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Story 2



There Was Gunfire All Around Us

Emma Hurd, Africa correspondent

Wednesday October 31, 2007

As the world focuses on Darfur, another humanitarian disaster is unfolding almost unnoticed elsewhere in Africa.

Fighting between rebel forces in eastern Congo has forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

In the province of North Kivu, the scene of most of the violence, the roads are crowded with newly displaced people, fleeing their hillside villages with what they can carry.

Women stagger along with bundles of firewood balanced on their heads, some of the children drag mattresses.

Few know where they are going, but it was too dangerous for them to stay in their homes.

"There was gunfire all around us," one woman said. "We had to leave quickly."

Congolese forces are pursuing a renegade Tutsi General, Laurent Nkunda, in a conflict which has its roots in the genocide in neighbouring Rwanda.

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Nkunda, who has the support of some five thousand soldiers, is fighting the FDLR, an armed Hutu militia, made up of some of those who led the massacres against the Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994.

Both rebel forces have carried out widespread murder and rape.

With the Rwandan government covertly supporting Nkunda and the Congolese administration accused of backing the FDLR, the seeds of another regional war are being sown.

Congo remembers the last one only too well.

Four million people died as a result of the conflict between 1998 and 2003, most of them from disease.

Now it's beginning again.

Cholera victims are crowded into hastily erected hospital tents in the refugee camps.

"The number of cases is doubling every week," Marcellin Kitwanda, a nurse with Medecins Sans Frontiers said.

The conditions in the camps make halting the spread of the epidemic almost impossible: entire families are sheltering in tiny straw huts which offer little protection from the daily downpours of the rainy season.

In North Kivu alone 750,000 people have been displaced by violence since January.

The conflict in Darfur has created a million refugees in the space of four years.

Both crises deserve the world's attention, but the disaster in eastern Congo seems to be unfolding without any urgent calls for intervention or aid.

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Story 3



Refugees Flee As Fragile Truce Holds

Wednesday May 23, 2007

Thousands of people have fled a Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon after a fragile truce between the army and Islamic militants overnight.

About 15,000 refugees used the lull in the fighting to escape the Nahr al Bared camp, where Fatah al Islam militants have been holed up for the past three days.

A further 1,000 escaped this morning, according to relief officials.

Officials said the bodies of at least 20 civilians have been retrieved from inside the camp.

Those fleeing the camp said the streets were littered with bodies and debris.

The camp, home to 40,000 people, has come under heavy shelling from troops targeting the militants.

At least 22 militants, 32 soldiers and 27 civilians have been killed in the battles - Lebanon's worst internal violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

The Lebanese government has ordered the army to "finish off" Fatah al Islam - which members of the governing coalition say is a tool of Syrian intelligence. Syria denies any link with the group.

Fatah al Islam, which took up residence in the camp late last year, has vowed to fight a "life or death battle".

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Story 4



Angelina Visits Iraq Refugee Camp

Wednesday August 29, 2007

Hollywood star Angelina Jolie has visited a refugee camp in Iraq.

The 32-year-old went to the al-Waleed camp earlier this week to see first-hand the plight of some 1,200 refugees.

The centre lies in no-man's land between Iraq and Syria and is home to hundreds of Iraqi Palestinians who are barred from entering Syria.

Jolie, who is married to Brad Pitt, visited as part of her role as a goodwill ambassador for the UN High Commission for Refugees.

She donned a blue flak jacket and helmet for the trip.

However, some of the refugees were seemingly not impressed with her star quality.

Refugee Qusai Mohammed Saleh, 33, said: "I didn't recognise her right away.

"But after she was introduced as Angelina Jolie, I remembered a little, from some of her movies."

He said Jolie "did not like the tragic situation" of the camp's poor hygiene and medical facilities.

Fellow refugee Awad Talha Awad, 48, added that the film star said she would "make an effort" to help.

The UN say 4.2 million Iraqis have fled the violence in Iraq since the invasion in 2003.

All stories courtesy of SKY News