



REFUGEES IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

Ages 11 to 14

Description:	Learners will explore what it means to be a refugee, how refuge are protected by international human rights and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges they face.	
Leading questions:	What is a refugee and how do people become refugees? What is it like to live as a refugee?	
Age group:	11-14	
Subjects:	Social sciences, social emotional learning, literacy	
Total time required:	4 hours over 4 days	
Self-guided / Supervised activity:	Moderate Supervision	
Resources required:	Paper, Pencil, Eraser, Coloring pencils/crayons, scissors	

20) inutes	refugees Learners will consider what the Learners will take a pie On one side, write dow On the other side, write	y already know about refugees ce of paper and divide it in half. on as many facts as you know about refugees. e down as many questions as you have about uld write at least three questions.	
20	inutes	Learners will take a pieOn one side, write dowOn the other side, write	ce of paper and divide it in half. In as many facts as you know about refugees. In down as many questions as you have about	
mi	inutes	Learners will consider the difference between a migrant (someone who will moves from one place to another for a better life) and a refugee (someone unwillingly moves from one place to another for safety) and understand ho someone becomes a refugee. To do so, they will match the pictures below descriptions.		
			Anneta and her family were afraid for their life because the government was persecuting (treating people violently) people whose political opinions disagreed with theirs. They fled Burundi. Anneta and her family are refugees and they live in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.	



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	There was an earthquake in Taufik's home town in Indonesia. His home was destroyed so he sought safety in another town in Indonesia. He is not a refugee.
	Mohammad is from Syria. Every day he heard bombs go off and saw the destruction of his country. The violence killed his family. Because of the conflict, he left his country and now he lives in a town in Turkey. Mohammad is a refugee.
が大	Meize lives in a small village in China. There is not much work in her village. She leaves her husband and children in the village and moves to the big city to find work. Meize is a migrant.
	Diana, Jose, and their daughter Veronica fled Venezuela because of the violence. They crossed over the border from Venezuela to Colombia and <i>now they are refugees</i> .
	Shruti is from India. She moves to America to go to university. She is a migrant.





Masha lives in Russia but she got a job in France. Her and her husband Sasha move to France for a new job. <i>Masha and Sasha are migrants</i> .

In the two blank spaces, learners will draw their own picture and write their own description of a migrant and a refugee.

20 minutes

Learners will understand the options refugees have once they become refugees and consider which option they think is best. Learners will write a short essay, or create an illustration explaining why. Then they will find a family member and try to convince them of which solution is best.

According to the United Nations, there are three primary solutions for refugee situations:

- Voluntary repatriation: Refugees may return to their home country, once it is safe to do so; yet, many conflicts last on average 17 years which means this is not often a viable solution for refugees
- Resettlement: Refugees may be accepted to move permanently to a new country, where they will receive citizenship. Only one percent of refugees ever receive this option
- Integration: Refugees may remain in the country that they fled to and integrate as a member of the community. Some communities are not receptive to refugees and so refugees face social and legal barriers to integrating.

20 minutes

Learners will explore the numbers of refugees in the world today by completing the following math problems:

In 2019, there were 26 million refugees in the world

- If 40% of them are children, how many millions of refugees are children?
- If 85% of the refugees live in developing countries, how many is that?
- If 6.6 million refugees come from Syria, what percentage of refugees are Syrian?
- If 3.6 million refugees live in Turkey, what percentage of the total refugee population live there?
- If 6.6 million refugees come from Syria and 3.6 million of them live in





		Turkey, what percentage of Syrian refugees live in Turkey? • If 3.9 million refugees returned to their home countries, what percentage of refugees were repatriated?			
2		Today, learners will explore the experience of becoming a refugee by creating a picture book.			
	30 minutes	Learners will imagine that they and their families are forced from their homes and can only take one small bag. They have to run for their lives, not knowing where they will find help or safety. Once they finally find a safe place to stay, they will have to start life all over again. Learners will write and illustrate a short story telling about the experience. To write the story, learners should take notes on each of the following prompts. - How did they learn that they had to leave their home? What was their first reaction? How did it feel? - What did they decide to take with them and why? - What was it like leaving your home at night and where did you go? How long was your journey, where did you end up, and what were you thinking along the way? - Once you got to a new country, what was it like? What was the first thing your family did? What was exciting about being in a new country? What was scary? - What do you imagine you will do in your future?			
	30 minutes	Once learners have taken notes about each prompt, they should draft a story that tells the entire story as a whole.			
	10 minutes	Learners will review and revise their story.			
	20 minutes	After revising the story, ask the learners to illustrate their story.			
	5 minutes	Once the learner is finished writing their story, consider: - How did writing this story impact how you think about the refugee experience? - What surprised you about making this story?			
3		Today learners will learn that human rights are guaranteed to all people, including refugees.			
	10 minutes (this could be done in advance)	Learners will make a deck of 22 cards by cutting paper into the same size squares (about 10cm x 10cm). Write the following, one on each card, and leave 4 cards blank: - Safety - Your own bedroom - Protection from discrimination - Education - Fashionable clothes - Money to spend as you like - Candy - Movie theaters - A decent place to live			





		Clean airA sports centerBooks	- A television r - Clean water -Friends	Protection from abuseMedical care when you need itFreedom to express my opinion
15 min	utes L	Once learners have made their cards, they will lay them out in three categories: 1. Wants 2. Needs 3. Unsure Learners will also fill in the four blank cards and place them in one of the three categories		
15 min	utes q	The learner will invite a family member to discuss with them the following questions. If a family member is not available, the learner can write down their answers. - Look at the lists of needs. Are there things that all of them have in common? Do the same for the list of wants. - How did you determine the difference between wants and needs? - Which items did you put under "unsure" and why? - Which of your needs were material, like food or shelter? Which were abstract, like freedom of speech or religion? - Do all people in the world have the same basic needs?		
10 min	utes lo	onger provide citizens cards from the "needs" - What did you g - How will this e	with all these benefits. I 'list. Answer the following give up? How did you decollimination affect your life	cide?
10 min	utes h	nas to cut back on mor he "needs" list. Answe - What did you g - How will this e	e needs. The learner muer the following question give up? How did you ded limination affect your life.	cide?
5 mi	h fu o ri	numan rights. Human r ully human and they a of Human Rights, includ	ights are based on the the re guaranteed to all peo ding refugees. Often peo	eds are sometimes referred to as nings that everyone needs to be ple under the Universal Declaration ple become refugees because their gees do not receive their full rights
4			sider the treatment of re eir rights are upheld or vi	efugees in local communities and iolated.





45 minutes

Remind the learner that all people are guaranteed human rights, including refugees. Sometimes people do not want refugees in their communities and they do not protect their rights. Learners will make a chart with six rows and four columns. Down the first column, they will write out the following domains: My family, my school, my neighborhood, my town, my country. They will label the columns, starting at the second column, 'inclusion', 'exclusion' and human rights.

	Inclusion	Exclusion	Human Rights
My family			
My school			
My neighborhood			
My town			
My country			

The learner will fill out the chart with one example for how refugees can be included and the ways in which they are excluded in each domain (family, school, etc.)

Once students have completed the first two columns, they will consider what human rights are addressed or violated by the inclusion or exclusion in each domain.

Learners will then pick one refugee right that they think is important to uphold in their community. They will make a poster that advocates for that right and explains why it is important to uphold that right for refugees.

Optional extension:

To learn more about refugees and stateless persons, explore the <u>UNHCR website</u>. Lesson extensions:

- 1. Write an <u>open letter</u> to your community about the refugee crisis to help people to better understand how people become refugees and what their lives are like. Ask people to take an action to help.
- 2. Create a poster for the <u>#IBelong campaign</u> and share it at your school. Or other community center.
- 3. Create your own informative <u>leaflet</u> to distribute in your community.

Additional lesson plans for teaching about refugees can be found on the <u>UNHCR</u> <u>Teaching Resources</u>.





Learning outcomes:	 Understanding basic terminology related to refugees and the difference between migrants and refugees Understand that human rights are guaranteed to all people and how they may be upheld or violated for refugees Understand the experiences that refugees face and gain deeper empathy for them Social Awareness Students will learn to take the perspective of others, practice empathy, appreciate diversity, respect for others. Responsible Decision Making Students will learn to identify problems, analyze solutions, solve problems, practice critical thinking skills, evaluate and reflect, take ethical responsibility. 		
Required previous	None		
learning:			
Inspiration:	Human rights lesson is based on an <u>activity</u> from the Human Rights Resource Center at the University of Minnesota.		
Additional enrichment activities:	To learn more about refugees and stateless persons, explore the UNHCR website . Lesson extensions: 1. Write an Open letter to your community about the refugee crisis to help people to better understand how people become refugees and what their lives are like. Ask people to take an action to help. 2. Create a poster for the #IBelong campaign and share it at your school. Or other community center. 3. Create your own informative Leaflet to distribute in your community. Additional lesson plans for teaching about refugees can be found on the UNHCR Teaching Resources .		
Modifications for	None		
Simplification:			