



HEALING

Starter Activity Pack

Wednesday 22nd June 2022



**Refugee
Week**

Period 1



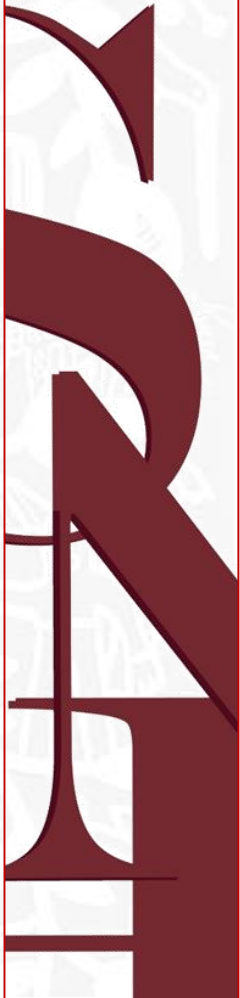
What is a 'refugee'?

- Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.
- Refugees are defined and protected in international law. The [1951 Refugee Convention](#) is a key legal document and defines a refugee as:

“someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”

- People sometimes confuse the terms Refugee, Asylum Seeker and Migrant Worker. The following slide provides definitions to help us to understand the difference.

<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/what-is-a-refugee.html>



Period 1



Term	Definition
Refugee	A person who has left their home country because they are afraid of being persecuted or badly treated because of their race, religion, nationality, because they belong to a particular social group, or because of their political opinion. As a result they cannot seek protection from their home country.
Asylum seeker	A person who has left their country and has applied for recognition as a refugee in another country, and is awaiting a decision on their application.
Migrant worker	A person who is in paid employment in a country where they are not a national.

Period 2

Who is a 'refugee'?

What does a refugee look like?

What have you seen in photos of refugees?



Period 2



Sherko
From Iran
- Fleeing religious
persecution

Bizimana
From Rwanda
- Fleeing genocide



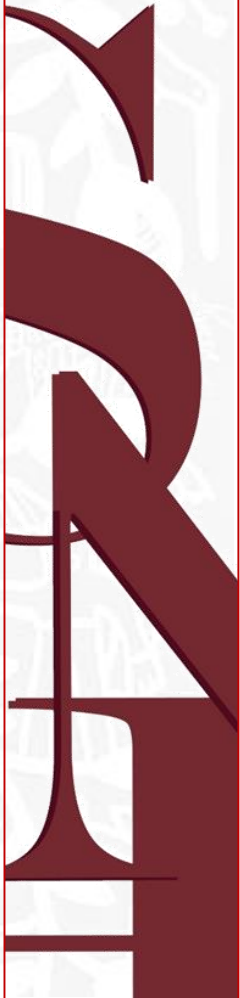
Maher
From Hama, Syria
- Fleeing
persecution due to
sexuality



Noorkin (40) and Yacob (10)
From Myanmar
- Rohingya refugees fleeing military and
extremist group clearance operations



Daria (15)
From Odesa, Ukraine
- Fleeing war



Period 3

The Journey



Period 3

The Journey

A



B

Physical land barriers

Language barrier

Lack of money, water, food, personal belongings

No documentation

Separation from family

Exposure to hazards during journey e.g. weather, exploitation, violence

No access to healthcare, education

No legal and/or safe transport

Lengthy stays in refugee camps



Period 4

After Displacement - What challenges may be faced by refugees when they arrive in a new Country?

- Many Refugees suffer from PTSD – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Young refugees may display challenging behaviour and have difficulty concentrating in school.
- Refugees often face language barriers and difficulties communicating.
- Regular changes to home address can often cause further disruption and frequently results in young people moving to new schools.
- Home life is often chaotic as families try to settle into their new lives.
- Refugees are challenged with building new friendships and relationships and can find it difficult to find employment.
- Refugees often have many appointments and meetings to attend which can result in young people missing school regularly.
- Refugee children are often given great responsibilities e.g. interpreting for parents during important meetings. This should not be condoned - children should be treated as children!



Period 5

Up to date statistics



True or false

1. 85% of the world's refugees are accommodated in **developing countries**
2. In proportion to its population, the UK ranks **5th in Europe** for asylum applications
3. In the last decade **200,000 unaccompanied and separated children** have lodged asylum applications throughout the world
4. Around a third of the world's 26 million refugees are **under the age of 18**
5. In 2019, 68% of the world's refugees came from **just five countries**: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar



Period 5

Up to date statistics

True or false

1. 85% of the world's refugees are accommodated in **developing countries** - true
2. In proportion to its population, the UK ranks **5th in Europe** for asylum applications- false, the UK is 14th in Europe
3. In the last decade **200,000 unaccompanied and separated children** have lodged asylum applications throughout the world – false, it's 400,000
4. Around a third of the world's 26 million refugees are **under the age of 18**- false, it's around half
5. In 2019, 68% of the world's refugees came from **just five countries**: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar - true



Period 5

Rwanda



Why has Rwanda recently been headline news in the UK?

Period 5

Rwanda

Some asylum seekers who arrive in the UK will now be sent to Rwanda for processing. This means that they may stay there until their asylum claim is either granted and they become refugees or dismissed. If dismissed, they will be returned to their own countries.

The government says the scheme - which faces legal challenges - will discourage others from crossing the English Channel, the area of water between France and the UK.

What do you think of this policy?

What might be some of its disadvantages?

What do you think the Catholic Church has said about the proposal?



Period 6



What can you do?

Over the course of today, you have had the chance to discuss the many challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees before they leave their countries, during their journey to safety and when they arrive in UK.

Now consider the following:

What can I do to support refugees and asylum seekers in this country?



Period 6

What can you do?

- Donate money or other necessary items to charities who support refugees
- Be kind and welcoming to refugees in your school/community
- Educate yourself more about the challenges faced by refugees and the discrimination they can face
- Write a letter to a newly arrived refugee to welcome them to the country

Period 6



Simple Acts

Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to support refugees and educate ourselves more about the challenges they face.

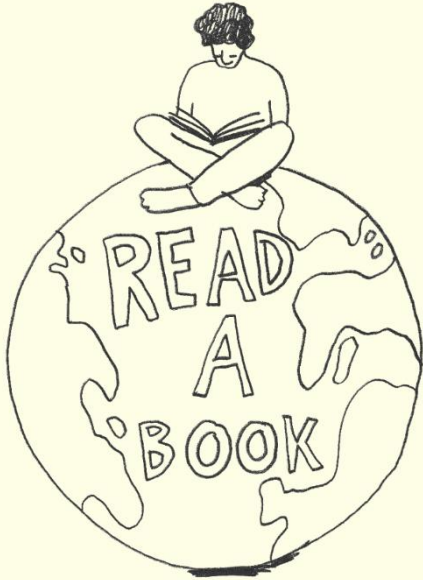
Period 6 - Some examples



What message would you like to send in solidarity with people seeking safety, such as those fleeing violence in Afghanistan or Ukraine?

Share your message online using #SendaMessage and #SimpleActs, and together let's flood social media with kindness and solidarity.

Period 6 - Some examples



Reading a book about refugees is a great way to help you imagine the difficulties they face in their lives.

Mrs Baird in the library can advise you of suitable books on this topic. Many of these are available to borrow from the school library.

Waterstones also have some recommendations from last year:

<https://www.waterstones.com/campaign/refugee-week>