

Activity 4: Where do refugees come from and where do they go?

Learning objectives

- To use existing knowledge to suggest where the world's largest refugee populations come from and where they move to.
- To use the results of these activities to question assumptions and improve understanding of the refugee crisis.

Resources

- Activity Sheet: Where do refugees come from and where do they go? Cut up into cards (one set for each group of three or four young people)
There are 40 cards altogether: 20 country names and 20 numbers. As the cards are small, it is advisable to print this resource on A3 paper.
- Answer sheet (one for each group of three or four young people). The answers are printed twice on the sheet, to help you save paper.

Time required: 35 mins

Sources of data

The following sources provide regular up-to-date statistics, which may be used to update this activity.

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – The UN refugee agency – www.unhcr.org/.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) – www.iom.int/. The IOM produces regular Situation Reports providing up-to-date information from crisis-affected locations. In addition, the “Global migration flows” interactive map illustrates trends in global migration www.iom.int/world-migration.
- Frontex – The European Union border agency – frontex.europa.eu/.

- Divide the class into groups of three or four.
- Ask each group to make two lists based on what they know or think already.
 - List 1: The top 10 countries in the world refugees come from, with approximate numbers.
 - List 2: The top 10 countries in the world refugees go to, with approximate numbers.
- Time permitting, ask the groups to share some of their ideas (their top two or three) but do not pass judgment on their suggestions. Merely draw attention to differences and then tell them to set the lists to one side.
- Give each group of young people a set of cards and ask them to sort the country names and numbers into two lists.
 - List 1: The top 10 countries in the world refugees come from with the numbers.
 - List 2: The top 10 countries in the world refugees go to with the numbers.
- Give each group an answer sheet. Ask the groups to compare their first lists, the lists they made using the cards, and the answers. What do they notice? What are the main differences in their three sets of figures? Are the young people surprised by any of the differences? What are the main conclusions they can draw?

Key information: In 2014, 25,000 people applied for refugee status in the UK, and in 2015 the number was 32,400. This places the global statistics in context.

- Ask each group to suggest one main conclusion each from doing the activity. Write these on the board. Ask the class these questions:
 - What is the key learning point to take away about where refugees come from and where they go to?
 - Are the wealthy countries of Europe the main destination for refugees?
 - What implications does this have for how we support refugees at a global level?

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Activity Sheet

Where do refugees come from and where do they go?

Afghanistan	2,556,522	Pakistan	1,616,495
Syria	2,468,341	Iran	857,352
Somalia	1,121,692	Lebanon	856,259
Sudan	649,285	Jordan	641,894
Congo DR	499,499	Turkey	609,911
Myanmar	479,591	Kenya	534,920
Iraq	401,362	Chad	634,461
Colombia	396,614	Ethiopia	433,933
Vietnam	314,069	China	301,045
Eritrea	307,966	USA	263,618

Statistics from UNHCR, 2014

Answers

Where do refugees come from? (Top 10 countries)

1	Afghanistan	2,556,522
2	Syria	2,468,341
3	Somalia	1,121,692
4	Sudan	649,285
5	Congo DR	499,499
6	Myanmar	479,591
7	Iraq	401,362
8	Colombia	396,614
9	Vietnam	314,069
10	Eritrea	307,966

Where do refugees go? (Top 10 countries)

1	Pakistan	1,616,495
2	Iran	857,352
3	Lebanon	856,259
4	Jordan	641,894
5	Turkey	609,911
6	Kenya	534,920
7	Chad	634,461
8	Ethiopia	433,933
9	China	301,045
10	USA	263,618

Statistics from UNHCR, 2014