

# LESSON 4

**TOPIC: MIGRATION AND REFUGEES**  
**SUB TOPIC: INVOLUNTARY MIGRATION**  
**LESSON 4: THE CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS**

**SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY**

**CLASS LEVEL: 5TH/6TH CLASS (AGES 10-12)**

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## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

This lesson examines the current refugee crisis, exploring who the refugees are and the conflicts that they are fleeing

### **Skills and Concepts development**

- Maps, globes and graphical skills

**Strand:** Human environments

**Strand unit:** People living and working in the local area

**Strand unit:** People living and working in a contrasting part of Ireland

**Strand unit:** People and other lands

## **LESSON OBJECTIVES:**

- Understand the current movement of refugees around the world.
- Recognise that there are many refugees coming to Europe but also many refugees going to other countries.
- Explore why there are so many people fleeing their homes at the moment.
- Empathise with children who are refugees and had to leave their homes.

# LESSON PLAN



## INTRODUCTION:

- Ask the class if they have heard about the current refugee crisis? What do they know about the crisis?
- Gather ideas and write them on the IWB, to be reviewed later.
- Do they know where the refugees are coming from and where they are going to? Can they name some of the countries?
- Show the class the map of the situation in Europe currently. Is it more complicated than they thought?
- Looking at the map ask the class how they think the refugees are getting to Europe? What modes of transport are they using?
- Explain that many people walk or drive for a long time and that many have to get into overcrowded and unsafe boats. Show the picture of the boat and explain that the Irish Navy has been helping to rescue people from these boats.
- Show the video of 'your phone is now a refugee's phone'. If the class have smartphones allow them to look up the website and watch the video as if it is their own phone. What did they think about the video? Were they surprised at anything in the video? How did they feel while watching it?



## DEVELOPMENT:

- Explain that refugees are fleeing war and conflict from lots of countries but that we will focus on Syria and Iraq. Use the text resource below to explain why people are leaving Syria and Iraq and coming to Europe and other countries.
- Make sure to emphasise that refugees are not just coming to Europe. In fact many more

people are moving from country to country in Africa and the Middle East.

- There are conflicts in many countries around the world pushing people to leave their homes. Usually people can't travel far so they go to countries beside them which are peaceful. For years these countries, such as Tanzania in Africa, have taken in thousands of refugees. Show the slide with some examples of countries that have a lot of refugees.
- This is complicated for children to understand so make it basic for them – there are lots of refugees coming to Europe now but there are lots of refugees in other places around the world too. It is not only happening in Europe.
- Take questions from the class. It might take some time to explain the concepts. CBBC Newsround has some more explanations and child friendly videos which may help: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/16979186>



## CONCLUSION:

- Watch the video about Ali. Ask the class how this made them feel? How would they feel if this was them?

### Activity Time!

- Get the class split into pairs – ask them to make a poster for the entrance of the school welcoming refugees.

### Reflection Time!

- What has the class learned today?
- Look back at what was written on the IWB at the beginning of class.
- Have your opinions changed on the refugee crisis? Do you know more about it now?



## EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION IN EUROPE CURRENTLY

Many people who are coming to Europe are fleeing war in Syria and Iraq. Syria is in the middle of a long and complicated war. Several years ago there were protests which led to an uprising in Syria against the leader President Bashar al-Assad. The President responded with violence against the people of Syria. Many people want the President to step down so there are a lot of rebel groups fighting him and each other.

To make things even worse, a group from Iraq called Islamic State or IS has taken over parts of Syria and Iraq. The group use extreme violence against anyone who does not live the way they want them to. So now the President's forces and the rebels are having to fight a separate conflict against the group IS at the same time. The really difficult bit to understand about this conflict is that it is hard to tell who are the good guys, and who are the bad guys, and countries from all over

the world are backing different groups involved in the war.

The only thing that we know for sure is that millions of innocent people especially children are getting caught up in this complicated war. You should remember that there are lots of people fleeing countries all over the world like Somalia and Yemen for example, and becoming refugees.

Also it is very important to understand that not all refugees are coming to Europe. Actually there are very few refugees coming to Europe compared to the rest of the world!

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa, like Jordan and Egypt are welcoming lots of refugees, only a small number of refugees come to live in Europe.

# LINKAGE AND INTEGRATION FOR THIS LESSON:

## ENGLISH

**Strand:** Receptiveness to language

**Strand:** Competence and confidence in using language

**Strand:** Developing cognitive abilities through language

**Strand:** Emotional and imaginative development through language

## ART

**Strand:** Drawing

**Strand:** Paint and colour

## SPHE

**Strand:** Myself and the wider world

**Strand unit:** National, European and wider communities

**Strand unit:** Media Education

## DIFFERENTIATION:

- Sensitivity: some children in the class may be refugees, may have fled their home country or may be separated from their parents, make sure that you speak to them and their guardians/parents before teaching this class.
- Ensure that the pairs are mixed ability and that the roles assigned in the groups meet the needs and abilities of the individuals.
- The topic of this lesson is complicated so based on the abilities of the class allow time for discussion and questions throughout.

## ASSESSMENT:

- The teacher can assess the children's critical thinking and understanding during discussion in the class.
- The teacher can assess the posters the children make.
- The children and teacher can think about what was learned during reflection time.

## RESOURCES:

- IWB/flip chart/big sheet of paper • Whiteboard markers/pens
- USB presentation • Paint, paintbrushes, art materials.

# MIGRATION AND REFUGEES: WHAT ABOUT THE REFUGEE CRISIS?

## LESSON 4 Refugee Crisis



# THE CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

**WHO**

**WHY**

**?**

**WHERE  
FROM**

**WHERE  
TO**

# THE SITUATION IN EUROPE...





The Irish Navy  
has been  
helping rescue  
refugees  
from these  
unsafe boats.  
It is a very  
dangerous  
journey.









WHY ARE SO  
MANY PEOPLE  
MIGRATING **NOW?**

UNHCR  
The UN  
Refugee Agency

UNHCR  
The UN  
Refugee Agency



UNHCR  
The UN  
Refugee Agency



# But! There are more refugees in other parts of the world

## Where?

- Iran
- Turkey
- Cameroon
  - Niger
  - Jordan
  - Egypt

## Why?

- Conflict
- Famine
- Natural disasters
- Climate change







# ACTIVITY TIME!



**Make a poster for the front of your school welcoming refugees**

- What is your message?
- Will you use pictures?
- What do you want to tell refugees coming to your school?

**REFLECTION  
TIME...**

**REFUGEE CRISIS**