

LESSON 5

TOPIC: MIGRATION AND REFUGEES
SUB TOPIC: WHAT IS AN ASYLUM SEEKER?
LESSON 5: SEEKING ASYLUM

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

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

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This lesson looks at the process of seeking asylum in Ireland.

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 what an asylum seeker is.
- Examine the care given to asylum seekers in Ireland – Direct Provision.
- Recognise the short fallings of the Direct Provision system and empathise with children living in Direct Provision.

LESSON PLAN



INTRODUCTION:

- Start by asking the class have they ever heard of the terms 'asylum' and 'asylum seeker'. Do they know what they mean? Allow the class to look up the terms in their dictionaries if they would like to.
- Ask the class - can someone give me a definition of a refugee from what we learned in the last lesson? Why do they become refugees? What are they fleeing?



DEVELOPMENT:

- Has anybody in the class heard of the term Direct Provision?
- Explain what Direct Provision is as per the points in the USB presentation:
 - Direct provision was set up in 2000 as a 'temporary' solution (which was only supposed to last for 6 months) for the large number of asylum seekers in Ireland.
 - The aim of DP is to look after people (provide for their basic needs) while they wait for a decision on their asylum application.
 - DP provides essential services, medical care, accommodation, three meals a day at set times, and €19.10 is given to each adult per week. A smaller allowance is given to children.
 - The majority of asylum seekers spend over 4 years in Direct Provision.
 - They cannot work or cook for themselves and are forced to eat in a canteen at specific times every day.
 - There is a lack of privacy in DP - adults who don't know each other must share rooms, some families have to live in one room together, and often bathrooms are shared amongst lots of people.
 - The asylum seekers living in DP feel that they can't complain because they are scared they will not be granted asylum and allowed to stay in Ireland. They

are afraid they will be told to go home if they complain.

- As of September 2015, there were 4,814 people in the direct provision system, 1,227 of these were children under the age of eighteen, and 37% were waiting for their application to be processed for more than 5 years.
- Play the 5 videos of teenagers in Direct Provision in Ireland. If you or your class are interested, there are more videos and information here: <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/lives-in-limbo>
- How do the class feel about what they have heard? Would they like to have to live in Direct Provision? Not be able to cook for themselves? Their parents can't work? They have to share a room with their parents and siblings?

Activity Time!

- Ask the class to get into groups of three.
- Give them each a copy of the budget activity sheet.
- Tell them they are asylum seekers in Ireland and live in Direct Provision. They are each a family of three.
- Ask the groups to decide amongst themselves who will play the role of each actor in each group: mother, teenage girl, 10 year old boy.
- Explain to them that they must decide as a family what to spend their allowance of €19.10 on for this week.
- They can only purchase things on the budget activity sheet and it must add up to €19.10 or less. They can use their calculators for this.
- Each person should think about what role they are playing in the family – the mother might be concerned about buying cleaning products, food, new clothes, school books, medicine. The teenage girl might want some beauty products, make-up, to go on her school trip. The 10 year old boy might want some sweets, pencils for school, new shoes.

- Allow the groups time to decide what they want to buy and to work out what they can buy.
- Ask the groups to give feedback to the class on the activity. Was it hard to decide between each other what to buy? Why? Who wanted what? Imagine if your family was only allowed to spend that much money each week. How would you feel? Is it fair?



CONCLUSION:

- For homework, or if you have time in another class to dedicate to this, ask the class to listen to a documentary made by two girls in Direct Provision in Ireland: <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/2014/12/12/666539-the-outsiders-our-teenage-life-behind-barriers/>

Reflection Time!

- Get the class to think about what they have learned today. Had they heard of an asylum seeker before? What do they know about asylum seekers now? What is Direct Provision?
- How do you feel about Direct Provision? Do you think it is fair? Would you like to be in that situation? What do you think should be done about it?

SEEKING ASYLUM IN IRELAND

As you will remember everyone has the right to seek asylum.

When a refugee arrives in a country they can apply to the government to be given asylum which means that they would be allowed to stay in that country. It is a really kind thing for a country to offer a refugee a place to stay while they apply for asylum, but sometimes asylum seekers do not live in very nice conditions.

In Ireland asylum seekers live in Direct Provision Centres. Direct Provision is a system made up by the government which directly gives asylum seekers essential day-to-day services like food, accommodation and medical care.

This is a great idea, but it is very limiting upon asylum seekers. They are not allowed to cook for themselves and make the food that they like, often they have to share space so there is not very much room or privacy. In fact a whole family has to share one room. Also adults are not allowed to get jobs and once children finish school it is very difficult for them to go to university. The government said that Direct Provision was only going to be a temporary measure but people have been living in these centres for a very long time with not very much freedom.

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

SPHE

Strand: Myself and the wider world

Strand unit: National, European and wider communities

Strand unit: Media Education

DRAMA

Strand: Drama to explore feelings, knowledge and ideas, leading to understanding

Strand unit: Exploring and making drama

DIFFERENTIATION:

- During the group activity the teacher will ensure the groups are mixed ability and that the roles assigned in the groups meet the needs and abilities of the individuals.
- Sensitivity: if there are children in the class who are asylum seekers ensure that you discuss this lesson with them and their family/guardian before teaching it.

ASSESSMENT:

- The teacher can assess how much the children remember from the previous weeks' lessons.
- The teacher can assess the children's group work and decision making during the activity.
- The children and teacher can reflect on what has been learned in this lesson and throughout the module during reflection time.

RESOURCES:

- IWB/flipchart/big sheet of paper • Whiteboard markers/pens
- USB presentation • Photocopies of the Budget Activity Sheet • Videos

USEFUL RESOURCES:

- <http://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/campaigns-policy/for-schools>
- <https://vimeo.com/user19703635/videos/page:3/sort:date>
- <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/2014/1212/666539-the-outsiders-our-teenage-life-behind-barriers/>

Toilet Paper	Cinema Ticket	School Trip to the Zoo	Sweets	Maths Set
€1.50	€6.50	€10.00	€1.50	€2.00
Calculator	Runners	Toothpaste	Toilet Cleaner	Soap
€5.00	€15.00	€1.00	€3.00	€1.50
Sponge	Return Bus Fare to Town (for 1)	Haircut	Deodorant	Underwear
€1.00	€6.00	€20.00	€3.00	€2.50
Hairbrush	Stamps	Phone Credit to Call Home	Coffee	Tea Bags
€2.50	€3.00	€5.00	€2.50	€1.50
Newspaper	Pack of Pencils	Plasters	Matches	Pain Relief Medication
€1.50	€2.00	€3.00	€1.00	€3.00
Textbook	Perfume	Make-up	McDonalds Happy Meal	Money to Save for Something Big
€11.00	€15.00	€6.00	€3.80	€?

MODULE **EXTENSION**

ACTIVITIES:

- Link these migration lessons to the trilogy of books: *Under the Hawthorn Tree*, *Wildflower Girl* and *Fields of Home* by Marita Conlon-McKenna.

ACTION TIME!

Suggested actions:

- Ask the class to write a letter to the government Minister for Children and youth outlining the reasons Direct Provision should be stopped and what could replace it. Highlighting that they would not like to live there and other children their age should not be forced to.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper about why you think refugees should be welcomed to Ireland.
- Hold a 'Welcome Refugees' event or campaign in your local community – this could involve a colourful action spelling out words, a stunt, marching through town, holding a town meeting, making a speech at a community event. Be creative!



Encourage the class to think of other actions that they could take to campaign on migration and refugee issues.

REVIEW THE MODULE

1. What did you learn about the subject?
2. Did you learn a new skill, like a new word or a new game?
3. Did you change your mind about anything, for example did you think one thing at the start and another thing at the end of the module?
4. Did you or will you take action on the issue, like make a poster, write a letter or hold an assembly?

Please send your pupils' feedback to info@plan.ie

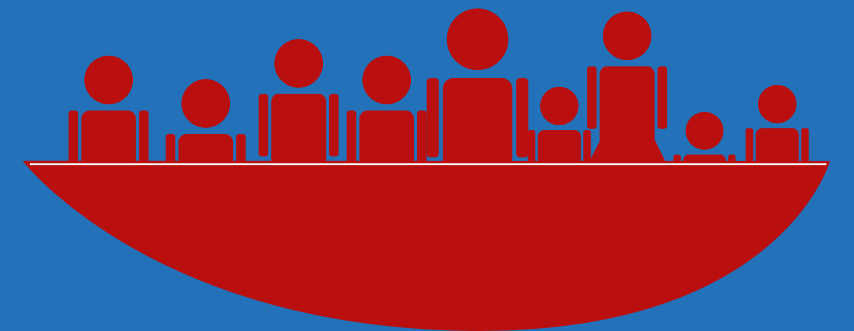
MIGRATION AND REFUGEES: WHAT IS AN ASYLUM SEEKER?

LESSON 5 Seeking Asylum

WHAT IS ASYLUM?

Asylum is the protection a country gives a person who has been forced to leave their own country and become a refugee.

Can you remember what a refugee is?



CLAIMING ASYLUM

SO... WHAT IS AN ASYLUM SEEKER?

An asylum seeker is a person who has left their country of origin and has formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been decided.

Everyone has the protected human right to claim asylum.

Direct Provision

Set up in 2000 as a 'temporary' solution (supposed to last 6 months) for the large number of asylum seekers in Ireland

Aim: to look after people while they wait for a decision on their asylum application

Provides essential services, medical care, accommodation, three meals a day at set times, and €19.10 per adult per week

Majority of asylum seekers spend over 4 years in Direct Provision

They cannot work or cook for themselves and are forced to eat in a canteen at specific times every day

Lack of privacy: adults who don't know each other may have to share rooms, some families live in one room, bathrooms are shared

Some people feel they can't complain for fear of not being granted asylum



GAME TIME!

- Get into groups of 3: decide who is the mother, teenage girl and 10 year old boy
- You have €19.10 to spend for the week
- What will you buy?



**REFLECTION
TIME...**

SEEKING ASYLUM