

Teaching resources - Our history & heritage

Simple Act #8. Find five facts about refugees

Notes for teachers:

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session students will:

- have an increased awareness of the breadth of our history & heritage
- have developed a wider understanding of the diversity of Britain, and the importance of our rich cultural fabric
- consider the significant contributions that refugees, migrants and their descendants have made to the UK, and how they have influenced our history, heritage and culture
- have developed a chronological overview that enables them to make connections within and across different periods and societies
- have developed their research, writing and presentation skills

Did you know that the UK has been offering protection to refugees for hundreds of years? That refugees and their descendants have made significant contributions to our arts, science, sports and literature?

That refugees co-designed Henry VIII's home Hampton Court Palace, helped establish the Bank of England and brought us the Paralympics?

Refugee Week has created a new online interactive time-line to help to share often surprising facts about the contributions of refugees throughout our history. We are also inviting you to add your insights and personal experiences about our local or national history and heritage.

Learning Activity 01:

Visit the new Refugee Week time-line and learn about our history & heritage. Choose a story that interests you most and share it with your class or community.

www.refugeeweektimeline.org.uk



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Learning Activity 02:

Now that you have learnt more about the refugees who are a part of our history and heritage why not complete the Simple Acts History & Heritage quiz to test your knowledge!

You can find this to download [HERE](#)

(<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Info-Centre/Resources-on-Refugees>)

Here are some more surprising facts about refugees to share with your class:

- * A refugee is someone who has fled to another country seeking protection from war or persecution. An economic migrant is someone who has moved to another country to work.
- * Under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention people have the right to apply for protection in the UK.
- * In Leicester alone, over 30 000 jobs have been created by Ugandan Asian refugees since the 1970s
- * 11 refugees from the UK have won Nobel Prize for science
- * Almost a third of refugees have contributed to society by doing voluntary work since arriving in the UK.
- * Many refugees have academic or teaching qualifications. There are more than 1,500 refugee teachers in England.
- * The UK hosts 2% of the world's 10 million refugees.
- * More than 1,100 medically qualified refugees are recorded on the British Medical Association's database. It only costs £10,000 to prepare a refugee doctor to practice in the UK. It costs £250,000 to train a doctor from scratch.
- * Estimates of the UK's refugee population suggest that it only amounts to 0.6% of the total UK population.
- * Under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention people have the right to apply for protection in the UK.
- * A refugee is someone who has fled to another country seeking protection from war or persecution. An economic migrant is someone who has moved to another country to work.

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Learning Activity 03:

We want to build a better picture of the contributions of refugees to our history and heritage and need your help!

You can add your own personal stories or knowledge about our local or national history to the Refugee Week time-line.

Do you know what refugee communities have settled in your area? Is the local football team named after contributions of refugees, like the Norwich FC

'canaries' ? Does your local fish & chip shop know that a young refugee came up with the bright idea to put fish and chips together to make one of our favourite meals?! Did your local church or community centre help to support young refugees to settle in when they first arrived? Learn and share tales at:

www.refugeeweektimeline.org.uk



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*These learning resources are developed in partnership with the brilliant **Simple Acts**.*

You have now completed a Simple Act by completing these learning activities! Please get in touch and tell us all about it [HERE](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/done-an-action.htm) (<http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/done-an-action.htm>).

There are more ideas on the Simple Acts website, with links to additional activities. Visit the Simple Acts website [HERE](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk) or go to: www.simpleacts.org.uk.

We hope that you will join us on our quest to learn more about our history & heritage – we promise it will be an exciting and gripping journey!