

Activity

Episode 21
5th August 2014

Asylum Kids

Key Learning

Students will examine the terms asylum seeker, refugee and migrant and discuss the differences. They will also investigate reasons why people become asylum seekers and refugees.

The Australian Curriculum

Civics and Citizenship/Knowledge and Understanding/Citizenship, diversity and identity

The obligations citizens may consider they have beyond their own national borders as active and informed global citizens ([ACHCK039](#)) Year 6



History/Historical Knowledge and Understanding/The Australian colonies

The reasons people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia, and the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony ([ACHHK096](#)) Year 5



Discussion Questions

1. Summarise the *Asylum Kids* story.
2. What happened to the students from Woodville High School?
3. Where were the students sent?
4. Which country were the students from?
5. In your own words, describe what an asylum seeker is.
6. What have the students at Woodville High School been doing to try to help their classmates?
7. What did they say in the letters they wrote to them?
8. What did some students say in their speech at the Youth Parliament?
9. What are they hoping the campaign will achieve?
10. How did this story make you feel?

Activities

Class discussion

Discuss the issues raised in the *Asylum Kids* story. Ask students to write down what they think the following terms mean.

An asylum seeker is...

A refugee is...

A migrant is...

Students will develop an understanding of what an asylum seeker is. Ask students to brainstorm and record words they associate with asylum seeker.

As a class, share what each group brainstormed. Record all responses on a large sheet of paper. Ask students to consider the following questions:

- Which words have a positive or negative meaning?
- Where they have heard the words used - media, friends, family?
- What has shaped their understanding and opinion of asylum seekers?

Come up with a class definition of what an asylum seeker is.

Why do people become asylum seekers?

People don't plan to become asylum seekers or refugees. Usually circumstances beyond their control force them to flee. Discuss with students reasons why people might leave their homeland. Ask them to think of three reasons and write them on post-it notes. Collate student responses and discuss.

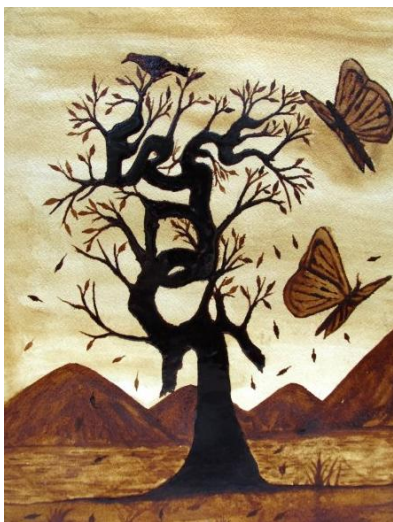
Ask students to imagine they had to flee their home in a hurry, leaving their family and belongings to move to another country. Think about where they would go, how they would travel and what resources they would need. Students can present their ideas as a story or create a picture that describes the experience.

To take the activity further, students can find out which countries asylum seekers and refugees come from that make their way to Australia. On a world map, students:

- label and shade these countries
- label two countries that border each country
- Choose one country and mark the route people would take to get from there to Australia
- Which countries would they pass through on their journey to Australia?

Which countries around the world resettle refugees and people in humanitarian need each year? What proportion does Australia accept? Display the information in a table.

Refugee art



Mohammad, 'Freedom', coffee on paper

Explore how some refugees use art to tell their stories. The Refugee Art Project has artwork created by refugees

<http://therefugeeartproject.com/home/gallery/>

Ask students to choose an artwork and respond to the following questions:

Which gallery was the artwork from?

What story does it tell about the artist's experience?

How did the artwork make you feel?

Further Investigation

How does Australia help refugees? What support do they get to resettle? Work with a partner to find out what is being done and make a list of things that could be done to help refugees. What is done in your school or local community to help refugees resettle? Present your information to the class.

Related Research Links

Behind the News – Asylum Seekers

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s2881114.htm>

Behind the News – Detention Centres

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3044730.htm>

Racism, No Way – Fact Sheets

<http://www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/factsheets/44.html>

UNHCR – Asylum Seekers

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c137.html>

The Refugee Art Project – Galleries

<http://therefugeartproject.com/home/gallery/>