

Refugee Olympic Team

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. What was the main point of the BtN story?
2. Why did Olympic swimmer Yusra leave Syria?
3. Briefly retell what happened when she was forced to leave.
4. Which country did they make it to as refugees?
5. Who is a refugee?
6. About how many people around the world have been forced to leave their homes?
 - a. 20 million
 - b. 40 million
 - c. 60 million
7. This is the first Olympics that refugees have been able to compete in. True or false?
8. How many athletes are in the Refugee Olympic team?
9. Complete the following sentence: The International Olympic Committee want the refugee team to draw attention to...
10. How did this story make you feel?

ACTIVITY

Before watching the BtN *Refugee Olympics* story, ask students to make some predictions about what the story might be about. Students will compare and contrast their predictions with other classmates after viewing the story.

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What does this video make your WONDER?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- How did this story make you FEEL?

Clarify students' understanding of what a refugee is and write a class definition. Respond the following as a class recording responses on a large sheet of paper.

- Who is a refugee? (Explain to students the ways in which a refugee and an asylum seeker differ from a migrant)
- Where do refugees come from and why?

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the Refugee Olympic Team and the athletes that represent the team.

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Civics and Citizenship – Year 6

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

Civics and Citizenship – Year 5 & 6

Identify over-generalised statements in relation to [civics](#) and [citizenship](#) topics and issues (ACHCS029) (ACHCS041)

History – Year 6

Stories of groups of people who migrated to Australia (including from ONE Asian country) and the reasons they migrated, such as World War II and Australian migration programs since the war. (ACHASSK136)

HASS – Year 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges (ACHASSI094) (ACHASSI122)

ACTIVITY

Refugee Olympic Team

Discuss with students the idea of having an Olympic team made up of refugees.

Questions to guide discussion could be:

- Why do you think a refugee team was made?
- Which countries do the athletes come from?
- Which sports are they competing in?
- How does it give refugees hope?
- Do you think the Refugee Olympic Team brings global attention to the refugee crisis? Explain your answer.



On a world map, locate which countries the athletes come from and where they are living now.

The [following videos](#) explain in more detail the athlete's backgrounds and how they came to compete in the Olympic Games.



The athletes from South Sudan [tell their story](#)



A Syrian refugee swimming at Rio [tells his story](#)



Ethiopian refugee Yonas Kinde [tells his story](#)



Syrian swimmer Yusra Mardini [tells her story](#)

Choose an athlete from the Refugee Olympic Team and create a profile or biography about them. Include information about:

- Where and when was the person born?
- Which country do they live in now?
- What events or circumstances led them to leave their country of birth?
- What are some challenges they have faced?
- Which sport do they compete in?



Congolese refugees competing at Rio [tell their stories](#)

ACTIVITY

Watch the BtN [Refugee Day story](#) to find out more about the refugee crisis around the world. Students can then answer the following questions:

1. Discuss the *Refugee Day* story as a class. Record the main points of the discussion.
2. Give some reasons why people flee their country.
3. The word 'refugee' comes from the French word meaning...
4. The UN estimates there are at least _____ refugees who need shelter or a new home.
5. Which countries do most refugees come from?
6. Most refugees flee to countries like Australia and the US. True or false?
7. About how many refugees are settled in Australia each year?
8. Where in Europe are many refugees travelling to by boat?
9. What do you understand more clearly since watching the BtN story?
10. How did this story make you feel?



ACTIVITY

Diversity in your Community

As a class, talk about your feelings of home and belonging to a community. Think about the diversity in backgrounds, experiences, interests and age of people in your school community. Broaden your discussion and talk about your local community and Australia as a whole.

Explain to students that developing positive relationships can help build a sense of belonging and inclusion. Provide a range of opportunities for students to share their personal stories to create an atmosphere of cultural respect and acknowledgement of diversity.

- What do you like about being part of your school community?
- What makes you feel safe in your school community?
- How do you welcome new students to your school community?
- What are some of your school's values?
- Describe some of your school's traditions. Why are they important?
- What are the advantages of belonging to a culturally diverse community?



USEFUL WEBSITES

ABC News – Rio 2016: Olympic Refugee Team overcomes hardship to make Games debut

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-03/olympic-refugee-team-overcomes-hardship-to-make-games-debut/7685922>

Olympic.org - Refugee Olympic Team: Biographies

https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/News/2016/06/03/Refugee-Olympic-Team-List-all-00.pdf#_ga=1.46559076.252015641.1469083255

Olympic.org - Refugee Olympic Team to shine spotlight on worldwide refugee crisis

<https://www.olympic.org/news/refugee-olympic-team-to-shine-spotlight-on-worldwide-refugee-crisis>

UNHCR - Refugee Olympic Team makes history at Rio Games

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/8/57a4accd4/refugee-olympic-team-makes-history-rio-games.html>

ABC News – Syrian refugee who swam from Turkey to Greece sets sights on Rio Olympics

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-19/syrian-refugee-sets-sights-on-rio-olympics-turkey-greece/7260400>