"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), theoretical physicist

1. Refugees Discussion

1. What do you think of when you hear the word "refugee"?
2. What is the difference between a refugee and a migrant?
3. What are some of the reasons that people become refugees?
4. How do you think it would feel if you suddenly had to leave your home and all your possessions behind?
5. What are some current refugee crises in the world? What are the causes of these crises?
6. Are there any refugees in your country? If so, were they welcomed, or were people opposed to their arrival?
7. What rights do you think refugees have in their host countries? What rights should they have (and what rights should they not have)?
8. If you had to flee violence in your country, what would you do? Where would you go? Who would help you?

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2. Refugees Vocabulary

- **refugee camp** (noun) – *temporary accommodation to house refugees.*
- **internally displaced person** (noun) – *somebody who has been forced to leave their home but stays in their home country.*
- **(to give/provide) shelter** (noun) – *protection.*
- **to seek/claim asylum** (verb), **asylum-seeker** (noun) – *to request that another government provides you with protection/shelter; somebody who escaped violence or the threat of violence in their own country but does not yet have refugee status.*
- **to resettle** (verb), **resettlement** (noun) – *to transfer refugees from a country providing initial asylum to another country that has agreed to admit them.*
- **to repatriate** (verb), **repatriation** (noun) – *to send refugees back to their home country when it is considered safe to do so.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. After the peace agreement was agreed between the rebels and the government, neighbouring countries that had given shelter to refugees hoped the end of the conflict would result in the **repatriation** of refugees.
2. **Asylum-seekers** are risking their lives crossing the English Channel in overcrowded boats. Tragically, as of October 2020, nearly 300 of them have drowned trying to make the journey.
3. Decades of civil war have resulted in over 7 million **internally displaced persons** in Colombia.
4. In order to alleviate pressure on Greece due to an influx of Syrian refugees, the EU announced a scheme **to resettle** those that had arrived in Greece in other member states.
5. President Duque of Colombia was praised after he decided **to give shelter** to over a million refugees from neighbouring Venezuela who had fled the country because of escalating violence.
6. With a population of more than 800,000 refugees from neighbouring Myanmar, Kutupalong in Bangladesh is the largest **refugee camp** in the world.

Books vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What do you think life in a refugee camp is like? Why do you think some refugee camps become permanent towns?
2. Why might it be more difficult to provide assistance to internally displaced people than other refugees?
3. What are the benefits and problems associated with a country giving shelter to refugees?
4. How easy do you think it would be to claim asylum? Is it too easy, or should it be made easier?
5. How would you feel if your government announced it was going to resettle in a large number of refugees in your neighbourhood?
6. When would you consider it safe to repatriate a refugee? Should refugees always be repatriated when it is safe, or should they be given the option to have permanent residency?

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3. Video: What Is a Refugee?

You are going to watch a video by TED Ed called "What does it mean to be a refugee?"

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-refugees/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. How many people have been forced to leave their homes to escape war, violence and persecution?
   a) 40 million *b) 50 million* ***c) 60 million***
2. Where are the majority of these people?
   a) in their own country *b) in a neighbouring country* *c) in a third country*
3. How old is the concept of refugees?
   a) dozens of years *b) hundreds of years* ***c) thousands of years***
4. After which conflict did the UN draft a convention on the status of refugees?
   a) World War 1 ***b) World War 2*** *c) The Vietnam War*

Sentence completion

5. A refugee is someone who is outside of their country of nationality but is unable to return home because of a fear of being **persecuted**.
6. Approximately half the refugees in the world are **children**.
7. Migrants are people who leave their country to search for better **economic opportunities**.
8. People who are forced to flee from armed conflicts often don't have the required **documents** to enter other countries legally.

Short answer

9. Because refuges can only usually travel by land or sea, they often entrust their lives to people traffickers to help them cross what? **Borders**
10. What is often the first destination for a person fleeing conflict? **A refugee camp**
11. Before a person is granted the legal status of refugee, what are they referred to as? **An asylum-seeker**
12. What do too many refugee children not attend? **School**

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4. Refugees Conversation Questions

1. Should people be able to claim refugee status if they are escaping from a collapsed economy, or only if they are escaping violence?
2. If half of internally displaced refugees are women and girls, why do you think the majority of refugees that leave their country are men?
3. 80% of refugees escape to a neighbouring country. Why do you think the perception is that all refugees are trying to escape to the United States or Europe?
4. Some people think that instead of leaving, refugees should stay in their own country and fight. What do you think?
5. Some people say that owning a smartphone is a sign a person's life can't be that bad. What do you think?
6. Do you think that some refugees could in fact be terrorists?
7. Should all governments in the world be forced to give shelter to their fair share of refugees? Why or why not? Why are some governments opposed to this? Why might a government refuse someone's asylum application?
8. What could you do to help refugees?

5. Refugees Writing Task

Write about your opinion of refugees. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Common causes of refugee crises.
- What the international community should do to help refugees.
- Why many countries are opposed to giving shelter to refugees.

Alternative exam practice question:

When a refugee crisis emerges, all countries in the world must give shelter to a number of refugees proportional to the strength of their economy. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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