



Social Studies Virtual Learning

Contemporary Issues

Refugee Solutions

April 22, 2020



Contemporary Issues
Lesson #23: April 22, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: I can evaluate international solutions for refugees.

Warm Up

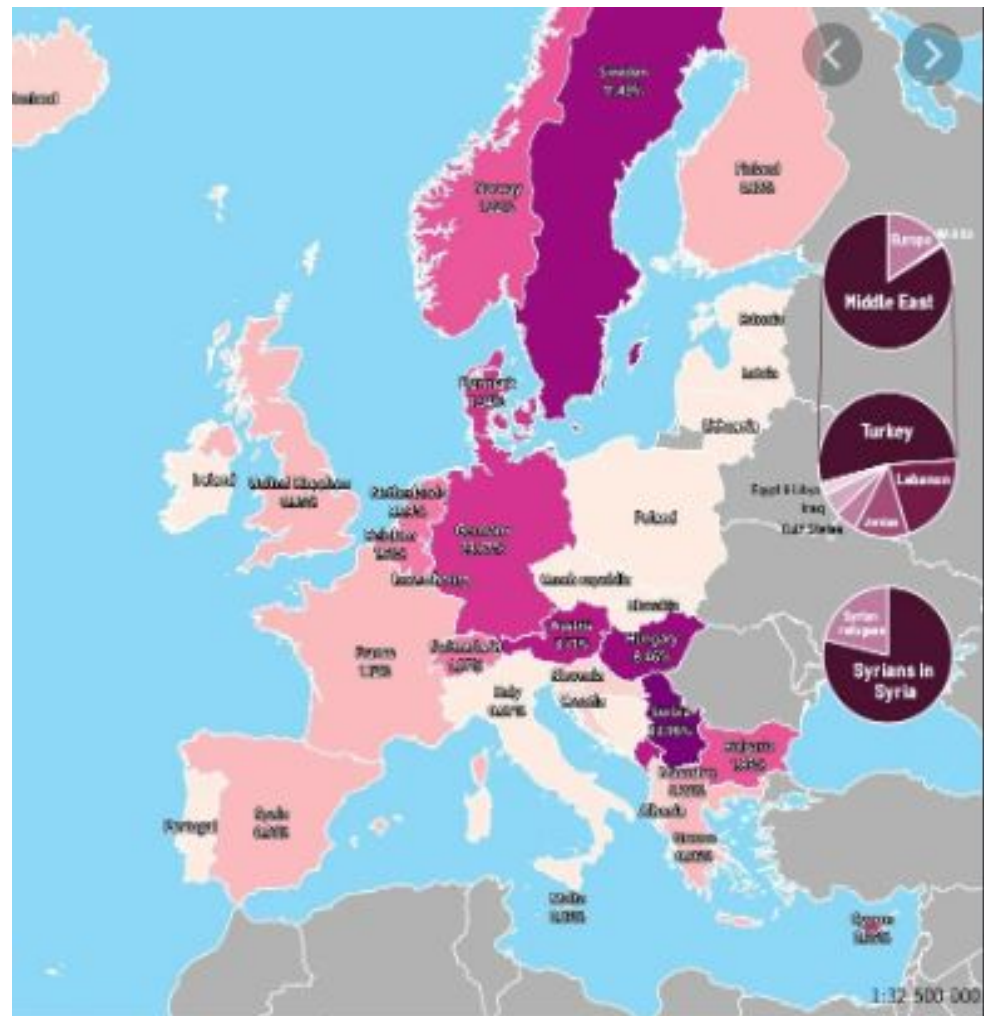
Watch the following video about a Syrian refugee named Mahmoud. On a sheet of paper, answer the following discussion questions.

1. Why did Mahmoud's father place him on a boat for Italy?
2. Why was Mahmoud in Egypt and not Syria? What challenges did he face there?
3. Explain the circumstances for his refugee status in Sweden? How has life changed?



Warm Up Answers

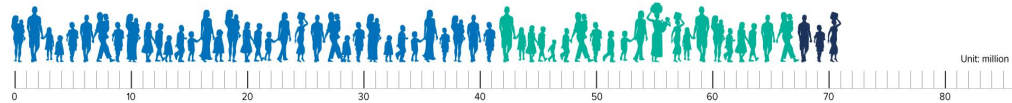
1. Why did Mahmoud's father place him on a boat for Italy?
 - a. Try and give Mahmoud a better life in Europe
2. Why was Mahmoud in Egypt and not Syria? What challenges did he face there?
 - a. Bullying, discrimination
3. Explain the circumstances for his refugee status in Sweden? How has life changed?
 - a. UNHCR got the family refugee status in Sweden. Education for all family members



Lesson Activity

The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees was created in 1950. After WWII, the UNHCR helped place European refugees and has expanded to include 134 countries. The UNHCR is one example of helping refugees find new places to live through sponsorship and legal costs. Working to help the displaced is the UNHCR's mission, but challenges still remain.

70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide



Internally Displaced People
41.3 million

Refugees
25.9 million

20.4 million under UNHCR's mandate
5.5 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate

Asylum-seekers
3.5 million

Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



About 80 per cent of refugees live in countries neighbouring their countries of origin

57% of UNHCR refugees came from three countries

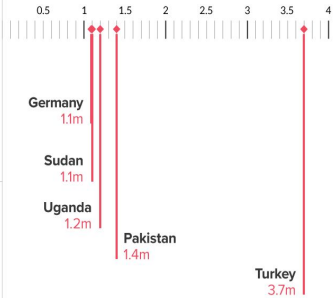


341,800 new asylum seekers

The greatest number of new asylum applications in 2018 was from Venezuelans



Top refugee-hosting countries



UNHCR has data on
3.9 million stateless people
but there are thought to be millions more



92,400 refugees resettled

37,000 people
a day forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution

16,803 personnel
UNHCR employs 16,803 people worldwide
(as of 31 May 2019)

134 countries
We work in 134 countries (as of 31 May 2019)

We are funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, with 86 per cent from governments and the European Union and 10 per cent from private donors

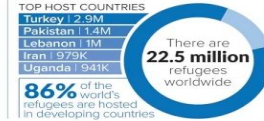
Practice

You will be doing a webquest on the UNHCR Resettlement Website. Answer the following questions on the same sheet of paper from the warm up activity.

1. From resettlement data, how many refugees found placement in 2019?
2. How does the US Family impact refugees entering the United States?
3. Explain the Resettlement Deployment Scheme and how it impacts refugees.
4. Describe the US Resettlement Process in detail. Evaluate the effectiveness of this process.



REFUGEE: A person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war or violence.
RESETTLEMENT: The careful selection by governments – for purposes of lawful and secure admission – of the most vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in their current host country.



WHY IS RESETTLEMENT IMPORTANT?
Resettlement is a life-saving solution for the most vulnerable refugees in the world, and is also an important way to share responsibility and show solidarity with developing countries that host the majority of the world's refugees.

HOW DOES REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WORK?

- UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be referred to resettlement countries. **Refugees do not apply for resettlement themselves.**
- UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases – refugees whose lives are in danger in their current host country – to be considered for resettlement. **Refugees do not pick their country of resettlement.**
- Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others **would not be referred** for resettlement to another country.



RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

THE U.S. RESETTLEMENT PROCESS
In addition to UNHCR's screening measures, the U.S. conducts its own security process to decide whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. **The entire process is done abroad and can take up to two years.**

UNHCR refers a refugee to be considered for resettlement

UNHCR collects detailed biographical and biometric data – which may include iris scans, fingerprints and facial scans – for each refugee referred for resettlement

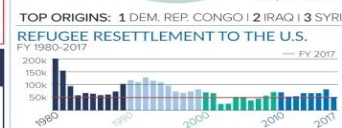
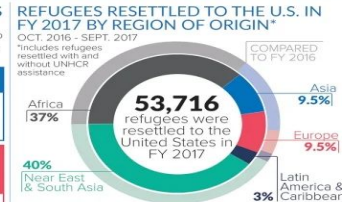
The U.S. Government screens the refugee and solely decides whether to admit them to the U.S. for resettlement. This process includes:

8 U.S. Government Agencies	5 Background checks
6 Separate security databases	3 In-person interviews

Once a refugee has been accepted for resettlement, the State Department assigns their case to one of nine U.S. NGOs

The NGO works closely with partners in the local community to help the refugee find work, integrate, and adjust to their new life in the United States.

The U.S. has a long history of welcoming refugees and continues to be the top resettlement country in the world. Since 1975, the U.S. government has welcomed over 3 million refugees for resettlement from all over the world, and these refugees have built new lives and contributed to the economies of all 50 states.



Practice Answers

1. From resettlement data, how many refugees found placement in 2019?
 - a. 81,671 identified by UNHRC, only 63,726 placed
2. How does the US Family impact refugees entering the United States?
 - a. One a refugee has been accepted into the US, they may petition for other family members who meet the criteria to gain entrance as well.
3. Explain the Resettlement Deployment Scheme and how it impacts refugees.
 - a. Privatization and outsourcing day-to-day operations. Connect with refugees more often.
4. Describe the US Resettlement Process in detail. Evaluate the effectiveness of this process.
 - a. Numerous interviews, background checks, health checks, must have paperwork from war torn country. IF country does not have paper documents, how can refugees be vetted by government?

Reflection

After a year living in Sweden, Syrian refugee Mahmoud and his family are profiled again by the UNHCR. Watch the update video and answer the following reflection wrap up questions.

1. What are some successes that Mahmoud and his family have encountered living in Sweden?
2. How is Mahmoud & his family not forgetting their Syrian roots? Detail how these roots will impact Mahmoud in the present and future.

