

getconnected

A Global Education resource from World Vision

Issue 8 – Migration People on the move

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About this resource

- Why do people migrate to another country?
- How do people migrate to Australia?
- What is it like to be a refugee?

This issue of **Get Connected** encourages you to explore these questions and do something constructive with what you learn.

For additional resources visit worldvision.com.au/schoolresources

Your comments on this resource are welcome at globaleducation@worldvision.com.au

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Migration - forced and voluntary

Cartoons by Julie Smith

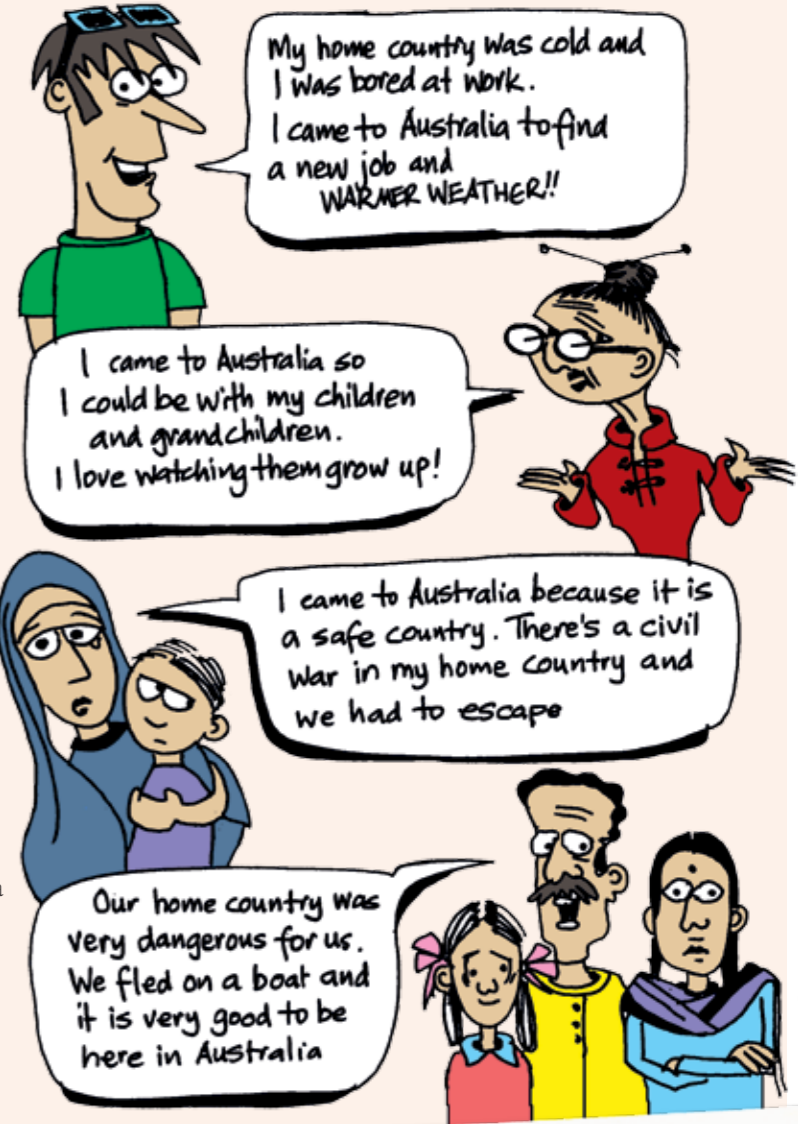
We live in a world where people have always been on the move – migrating to _____ in different places and even different countries. People have migrated to Australia for numerous reasons and come from many places. Australia is a multicultural country with people from over 200 _____. In 2010, one quarter or 25 percent of the Australian _____ was born overseas.

Migrants

Sometimes people choose to move because they want to _____ their economic and/or social wellbeing. They may move to work in a better paying job, to join their _____ or to find warmer weather. This is often an exciting move that has been planned, belongings carefully packed and farewells made to family and friends. Later, if the move does not work out as they had hoped or they get _____, they can always return to their _____ country. This is called voluntary migration.

Refugees

However, others are _____ to move because their home country is too dangerous. These are people who have fled their homes in order to _____ conflict or persecution. This is often a scary and _____ move, and the people may have to flee suddenly and take only the clothes on their backs. Most refugees are not able to return to their home country. This is called forced migration.



For You To Do!

1. Write the following words in the best spaces above:

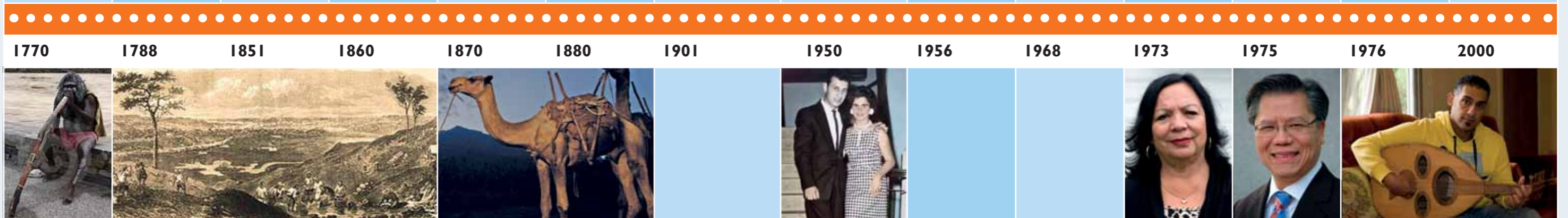
| | | | | |
|----------|------------|------|-----------|-----------|
| homesick | population | live | improve | dangerous |
| family | escape | home | countries | forced |

2. Which of the cartoon characters are examples of voluntary and forced migration?

Australia's immigration story

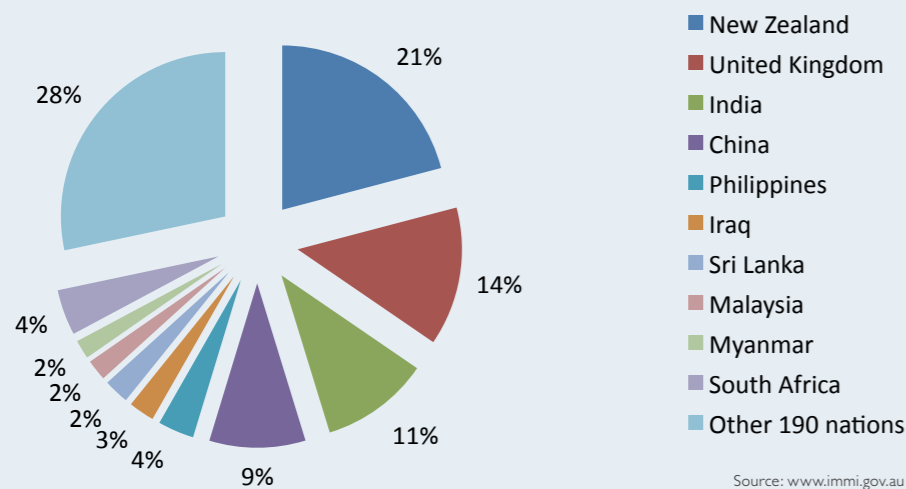
World events have resulted in significant numbers of people migrating to Australia for more than 200 years. In 2010, nearly one half of all Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1770 – Indigenous population estimated at 300,000-750,000.</p> | <p>From 1788-1868, 160,000 convicts were shipped to the Australian colonies from the United Kingdom. From the early 1790s, free immigrants also began coming to Australia.</p> | <p>During the Gold Rush era of 1851 to 1860, around 500,000 people migrated to Australia. The main migrant communities were from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, China and the USA.</p> | <p>From 1860-1900, labourers from Melanesia (Pacific Islands) were recruited to work on Queensland sugar plantations.</p> | <p>From 1850-1900, Afghani, Pakistani and Turkish camel handlers played an important part in opening up central Australia, helping in the building of telegraph and railway lines.</p> | <p>In the late 1800s, Japanese fishers were important in the pearling industry.</p> | <p>1901 – With Federation, the Immigration Restriction Act was passed which made it very difficult for non-English speaking immigrants to come to Australia. This was the beginning of the White Australia Policy that existed until 1973.</p> | <p>After World War II, during the 1950 and 1960s, large numbers of migrants came to Australia from the Netherlands, Greece, Italy, Malta, Germany and Turkey. This was part of the 'Populate or Perish' migration policy.</p> | <p>In 1956, Hungarian refugees fled fighting in their country.</p> | <p>In 1968, Czech refugees fled fighting.</p> | <p>In 1973, refugees came to Australia from Chile following the overthrow of the elected government.</p> | <p>From 1975-1985, over 90,000 refugees came to Australia from Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) after the end of the Vietnam War.</p> | <p>From 1976-1981, approximately 16,000 Lebanese refugees fled civil war.</p> | <p>From 2000, Australia has taken in people from a broad range of countries including Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sudan, India and Sri Lanka. However, the majority of settlers are from New Zealand and the United Kingdom.</p> |
| | | | | | | | See Tonina's story page 8 | | | See Violeta's story page 9 | See Hieu Van Le's story page 25 | | See Yasser's story page 10 |



Source: image courtesy of the National Library of Australia

2008-09 Settler Arrivals to Australia



For You To Do!

1. Research one of these migrant groups to arrive in Australia (1788 -2010) and prepare a short PowerPoint presentation explaining their migration story.
2. Download the map of the world at worldvision.com.au/schoolresources and identify the 10 major countries for settler arrivals in Australia 2008-09.
3. Complete the crossword at worldvision.com.au/schoolresources

Push and pull factors

The push-pull migration theory suggests there are two main factors causing migration: (1) negative push and (2) positive pull factors. Push factors are things that are bad about the country that you live in. These are factors that might push you to migrate to another country. Pull factors are things that are good about another country and would attract you to that country.

However, an individual's ability to migrate is also influenced by other factors including their age, gender and wealth. Not all people have the same opportunities to migrate.

| Possible push factors | Possible pull factors |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor housing and living conditions • Not enough work/jobs • Lack of religious or political freedom • Racial discrimination • Persecution or death threats • Overpopulation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good housing and living conditions • Job/work opportunities • Political and religious freedom • Education opportunities • Attractive climate • Family ties |

Roni Oracion

I came to Australia from the Philippines at the end of 1990 to join my sisters who had already migrated. On the one hand, I didn't want to leave the Philippines because of "all things near and dear". On the other hand, my sisters were already in Melbourne, and I didn't want to be the one "left behind".

Looking for a job was a challenge as there was a problem to get my overseas qualifications recognised in Australia. I applied for nearly every job in the Saturday papers and eventually I got a rewarding job working alongside Indigenous Australians in Alice Springs.

Living and working in Alice Springs for the first three years was a good start to life in Australia. The town was small enough to be welcoming and make it easy to form new friends. At the same time, it was big enough to give some room to slowly "take in" the new environment, language and culture. Working alongside Indigenous Australians was a great experience too – they were so eager to help me understand life from their own perspective.

Now I am back in Melbourne and closer to my sisters. My job takes me to developing countries and gives me a chance to look at the Philippines in a new light and appreciate the good life Australia offers. It also allows me to do something to help make a difference in the lives of people living in poverty. I still don't have much but I feel rich from all that I have learnt from 20 years of living and working in Australia – a place I also call home.



Joseph Kihika Kamara

When I first came to Australia in 2005, my friends and I decided to test the way Australians treated Africans and were surprised to find people friendly and knowledgeable. Some offered to buy drinks and others offered to show us around. This was quite different from our experiences in North America and Europe where our skin colour appeared to trigger negative responses.

I went back to Mozambique where my family had been living and told my wife I had eventually "found the country we would call home". My wife was curious and started learning about Australia. Then, I was offered a job here and we arrived in 2007.

We were worried moving our two young children to a land far away from our own, but Australians embraced and helped us. We found many things different. For example, we found that our Australian neighbours preferred an appointment before we came to visit. We were not used to that in Africa! Also, coming from a society where all communication is based on relationships, we found it strange to rely on other forms of communication – like using a satellite navigator instead of asking for directions.

Within three years, Australia has offered us many opportunities. Our children love being here and we now have a place that we call home.



For You To Do!

1. In a small group, discuss the following questions. How might your ability to migrate be affected by: (a) your age (b) your gender and (c) your wealth?
2. Read a migration or refugee story in this issue and identify the push and pull factors that influenced that person.
3. Conduct a survey in your classroom and school to explore the origins of your classmates and their families. Your survey could include the following questions. Download the worksheet at worldvision.com.au/schoolresources

| | Country | Date of migration | Reasons |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| 1. Where were you born? | | | |
| 2. Where were your parents or guardians born? | | | |
| 3. Where were your grandparents born? | | | |

Types of migration

There are three main types of migration to Australia: skilled, family and humanitarian.

1. Skilled stream

These are highly skilled migrants who have been accepted by the Australian Government because they have good English language ability, qualifications and work experience. In 2008-09, 114,777 people migrated to Australia in the skilled stream (67 percent of all new settlers).

Lay Htoo



I grew up in a remote area of Myanmar. Since I was a teenager I hoped to study overseas but for different reasons I was not able. However, I did get a job with an aid and development organisation and it was a life changing experience for me. I met many people in need and I was able to help relieve some of their pain.

My wife is a nurse (qualified in Singapore) and together we migrated to Australia in 2007 on skilled migrant visas. We were attracted to Australia for a few reasons. Firstly, we hoped to get a better education for our children in Australia. Secondly, I wanted a different experience of aid and development work than I was used to in my country. Thirdly, my wife believes she has a better work and life balance as a nurse in Australia. Finally, we believe we have better chances to support our families back in Myanmar.

During these years in Australia, we are struggling to adapt to the new culture while we are building our own family at the same time. We now enjoy our work and our two-year-old daughter is enjoying her day care. Now, we are expecting another baby!

2. Family stream

These are migrants who have been accepted because they have a close family member living as an Australian resident or citizen. There is no skills test or English language ability required. This group made up 56,366 people or 32 percent of all new settlers in 2008-09.

Tonina Farugia



I came from Malta in 1956 because I had my boyfriend here. He was from Malta too and came to Australia with his family and I wanted to come with him – but I couldn't come because I was not married. My father would not allow me. So a couple of years later, my boyfriend asked if we can get married and my father agreed. We got married in 1956 and from day one I enjoyed Australia. It made me very welcome.

It was hard to leave my family in Malta, because I was only 17 years old and I was coming to a country I didn't know anything about. But, when I came here my husband's family were very good to me.

I've been back to Malta in 1968 and I went back again three years ago. I find it very strange because here in Australia everything is so big and you go there ... Malta, is so small. But it was nice to go back for a holiday, because I still have some of my brothers and sisters there – but not to live. I really enjoy staying here in Australia. It's my home now anyway, after all this time.

3. Humanitarian program

As a member of the international community, Australia shares responsibility for protecting refugees – people who have been forced to leave their home country and cannot return because of war, famine or persecution. This program has two functions:

- It offers protection to people already in Australia who are found to be refugees (onshore protection)
- It offers resettlement to refugees overseas (offshore resettlement).

In 2008-09, Australia accepted 13,507 people in this program – 11,010 were processed outside of Australia (offshore) and 2,497 were processed here in Australia (onshore). This is less than one percent of all new settlers in 2008-09.

Violeta Veliz

I came to Australia in 1976 after three years of military rule in Chile. Under General Pinochet, the elected government was overthrown and many people who disagreed with him were killed or taken to prison. We lost the right to freedom and the right to vote. We lost the right to speak freely and the right to meet with other people. We could not go out at night time.

I married my husband in 1974 and we agreed to leave Chile because it was too dangerous. I cried rivers of tears. I wanted to fight the government but it was impossible to



fight against the army with their tanks and guns. We had to leave all our family in Chile and everything had to be done in secret because the secret police were looking at what people were doing. It was very hard to leave my family.

When we arrived in Australia, it was great because we were safe. We have freedom to meet with other people and we can do and believe what we want. We received a lot of help and we were able to learn English and find work. We were able to meet with others who had come from Chile and help the newer refugees. We were also able to speak up for human rights and help people be more aware of what was happening in Chile.

We have raised two girls here and while we never forget Chile, we are happy here.

2008-09 Offshore Visa Grants – top 10 countries of birth

| Countries | Iraq | Myanmar | Afghanistan | Sudan | Bhutan | Ethiopia | Congo (DRC) | Somalia | Liberia | Sierra Leone |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------|--------|----------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Number of visas granted | 2,874 | 2,412 | 847 | 631 | 616 | 478 | 463 | 456 | 387 | 363 |

Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship 2008-09

For You To Do!

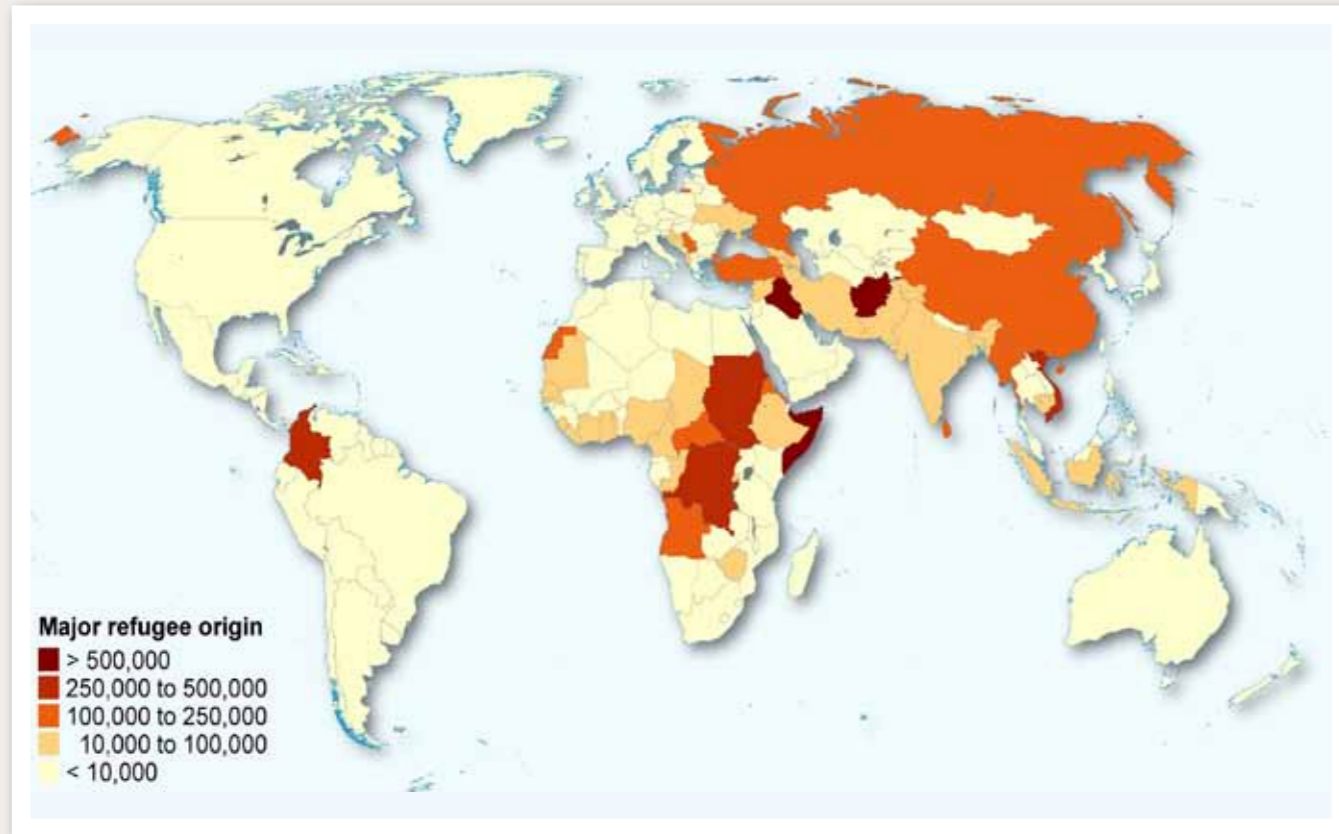
1. Research one of the 10 countries in the table (above) and present a current affairs TV show with 10 reporters giving a two-minute presentation on each country. Explain why people are fleeing these countries as refugees. Also, prepare interviews with Lay, Tonina and Violeta and tell their stories in the program.

Tonina and Violeta's stories can be seen and heard at the Immigration Museum Victoria.

Refugees

A refugee is a person who has fled their country due to of a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion. It is estimated that in recent years there have been 10-15 million refugees around the world.

Main source countries of refugees around the world



Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a375c426.html>

Where do refugees come from?

Afghanistan has been the primary source of refugees for the past three decades with up to 6.4 million of its citizens seeking international protection. At the end of 2008, there were still more than 2.8 million Afghan refugees. That means one out of every four refugees in the world is from Afghanistan and most live in Pakistan and Iran.

Iraqis are the second largest group, with 1.9 million refugees – mainly located in neighbouring countries. Afghan and Iraqi refugees make up almost half (45 percent) of all refugees in the world. Somalia is the third largest source, with more than 500,000 Somali refugees looking for safety and protection.

Where do refugees go?

In 2007 and 2008, the five major refugee hosting countries were:

1. Pakistan (1.8 million and nearly all from Afghanistan)
2. Syria (1.1 million Iraqi refugees)
3. Iran (980,000 refugees, almost all Afghans)
4. Germany (583,000 refugees)
5. Jordan (500,000 refugees)

Together, these countries host almost half (47 percent) of all refugees. Chad was the sixth largest hosting country with more than 330,000 refugees. In comparison, Australia is host to 20,919 refugees.

Yasser Al-Alyawi

They were going to kill me. They were preparing their rifles and I remembered once reading that you die before hearing the gunshot. My life flashed in front of my eyes like a film.

I was born in Bagdad, Iraq, in 1975 to a large, supportive, modern family. At 22 I married Shaharazat, a divorced woman with two children and together we had three more children.

I studied music, played the oud (lute) and worked as a performer in clubs around Baghdad. But after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1994, and the resulting war, western-style clubs and bars closed. To support my family, I became a driver for international journalists.

When Iraq was invaded by a United States-led coalition in 2003, I was driving for Time Magazine journalists. On one occasion I went to the rescue of an Australian journalist, Michael Ware. Michael and I became friends.

In 2005, I was kidnapped and beaten by an Iraqi terrorist group who accused me of being a friend of America. Twelve months later a friend was severely tortured by the same group, and word went out that they were after me again.

With the support of friends, and a reference from Michael, my family fled to Jordan and we applied to migrate to Australia.



However, we were forced to leave the two eldest children behind because their birth father would not give permission for them to leave Iraq. The father put Raied to work and Lalian was kept at home to take care of her father's other children and to be prepared for marriage.

We arrived in Melbourne in November 2007. Then, after two years of negotiations with the children's father, he allowed Lalian and Raied to leave. With tears and kisses we greeted them when they arrived in Australia. We are a family once more – and safe.

For You To Do!

Use the six **De Bono's Thinking Hats** to respond to the information on refugees (p. 10-11).



White hat: List three facts about refugees.



Red hat: How does this information on refugees make you feel? Does it make you angry, confused, concerned, sad, disappointed, hopeful, frustrated or something else?



Black hat: What are the risks and dangers faced by refugees?



Yellow hat: What are the benefits of Australia providing support and protection for refugees?



Green hat: Suggest some ways that refugees could be welcomed when they arrive in Australia?



Blue hat: Overall, which region of the world is most affected by refugees?

Yasser's story can be seen at the Immigration Museum Victoria.

The journey

Leaving home

War, disasters, persecution and poverty can make it necessary for people to leave their homes. They may decide to leave slowly, after a long period of their situation getting worse. They could also make the decision suddenly. When events change quickly there's no time to plan, pack or sometimes even keep families together.

On the road

Families are at great risk. They may be attacked, or lack food, water and shelter. They may get lost or not know where they're going and they can travel for days, weeks or even months. People may get turned back from the border or reach terrain that is too difficult to cross.

Seeking refuge in your own country

Most people seeking refuge go to another part of their own country, especially if they can't get to the border to escape. They are called Internally Displaced People (IDPs). Unlike refugees, IDPs lack protection under international law.

Some refugees stay for a few months before they can return home or resettle. Others may live in a refugee camp for many years. The camp can be the only home that the children know.

Seeking refuge in another country

Some people cross the border into another country, and a refugee camp may grow where aid can be delivered. Other refugees also try to get there to receive help. In the new country, refugees may be treated like prisoners and prevented from leaving the camp or moving about freely.

Returning home

When it is safe, or if conditions have improved, many displaced people and refugees go back to their old homes. They may need to rebuild destroyed houses, farms, schools and businesses. Displaced people may not receive as much help as refugees returning from another country.

Local integration

If their home is not safe or if someone else has taken their land, displaced people and refugees may make a home in the new area they escaped to. This can mean living on land nobody wants or staying in the refugee camp with poor conditions and little land. The people who already live in this area must make room for these new residents.

Resettlement

Some refugees get a chance to move to a third country. From the refugee camp, they can apply to live in a new country. However, countries control the number of refugees they allow to enter. Living conditions there can be much better but it is often difficult to adjust to a new country.

Phong Nguyen

I came to Australia in 1979 as a refugee from Vietnam. I came with my family - my mum, two sisters and a brother.

Four years after the war ended in 1975, life was very hard for many families. My father was a soldier with the South Vietnamese army and he was placed in gaol for 13 years. My mother had to work very hard to support us. Together with thousands of other families, we were forced into the countryside where we were given shovels and axes to fend for ourselves. There was no running water and we had to build huts. Also, my sister was kicked out of university. Four times my mother tried to escape from Vietnam.

Eventually, we got out by wooden boat with about 1,100 people. It was very crowded and it looked like sinking. Somehow we survived on the ocean for 10 days before reaching a little town in Indonesia. Two people on board died and one lady gave birth to twins while we were at sea.

We then spent seven months in a refugee camp in Indonesia before coming to Australia. I couldn't understand a word of English (Phong could speak French, Vietnamese and Chinese) but I knew it would be very important to learn.

Today, one thing I love is the beaches in Australia. I love the sea but I still feel uncomfortable to get into the water. I take my kids to the water, but each time they get into the water I



cringe. Somehow I have not got over the terrible memories of being in the sea on that boat. Even on big Australian ferries I still feel uncomfortable.

We consider that we are the very lucky few because many Vietnamese families perished and never made it to Australia.

For You To Do!

- Use the Journey (p. 12) to write a story of an imaginary family. Take the family through the four stages on p. 12. Read other refugee stories in this issue to help with your ideas.
- Read Phong's story above (p. 13) and make notes under the four headings or stages below:

| Leaving home | On the road | Seeking refuge | Resettlement |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | |

Phong's story can be seen and heard at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne.

Asylum seekers

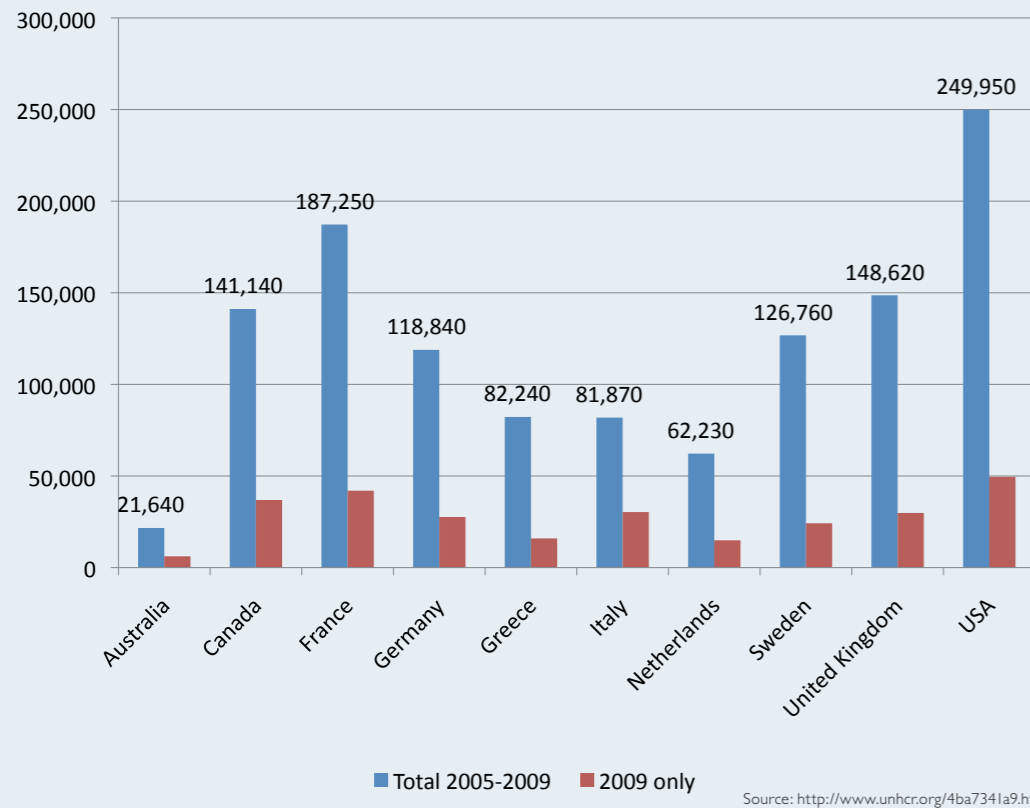
An asylum seeker is someone who has fled their home and is seeking protection from another country. They are waiting for their claim to be a refugee to be evaluated.

In 2009, Afghanistan was the main country of origin of asylum applicants (26,800 claims). Iraqis (24,000) and Somalis (22,600 claims) are the second and third largest groups as conflict continues in those countries. The other main countries of origin are China, Serbia, Russia, Nigeria, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, said: "These statistics show that ongoing violence and instability in some parts of the world force increasing numbers of people to flee and seek protection in safe countries. There is a serious need for countries to keep their asylum doors wide open to those who are in genuine need of international protection."

Here is a graph showing the number of asylum seeker applications for 10 developed countries.

Asylum Seeker Applications 2005-09



This is the Otash IDP camp in Darfur, Sudan. It is home for more than 56,000 people who fled their original homes due to the conflict in this region.

Social justice and human rights

Over the past 10 years, one of the major social justice and human rights issues in Australia has been the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. The United Nations, the Human Rights Commission and a number of non-government organisations have criticised the Australian Government for the way it has treated asylum seekers.

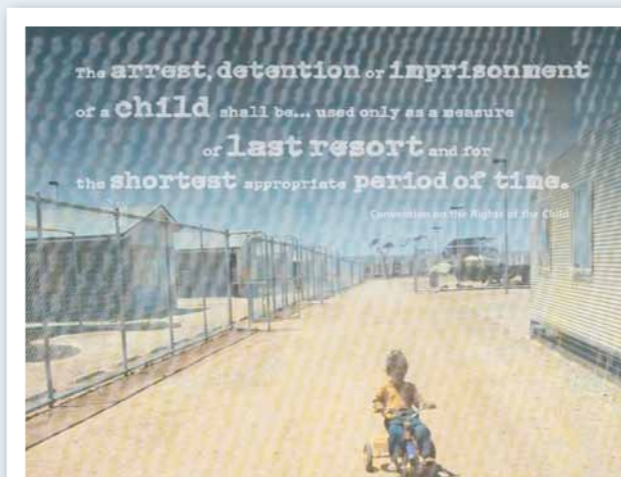
In 2004, the Australian Human Rights Commission found that child asylum seekers held in Australian immigration detention centres between 1999 and 2002 did not have their rights protected. Over those years, 5,298 children were held in detention centres while the Australian Government decided whether they could stay in the country as refugees. The average length of stay was one year, eight months and 11 days. It reported:

"All Australians should look at these findings, read the examples and think of their children, their grandchildren or

the children of their friends and ask themselves – how would I feel if my children were raised behind barbed wire and their human rights were abused? The treatment of some of these children has left them severely traumatised and with long-term mental health problems."

Then in 2009, the Human Rights Commission found that while children are no longer held in detention centres, they are held in other closed detention facilities on the mainland and Christmas Island (2,600 kilometres from the nearest Australian city). It found that "detention of children in any type of immigration detention should only be used as an absolute last resort".

After health and security checks, most NGOs argue that asylum seekers should be able to live in the Australian community while their claim for refugee status is evaluated. This would allow them access to good quality education, health and legal services.



Cover of HREOC National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention Report - A Last Resort.

www.humanrights.gov.au



www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au/cartoon_6921.html

For You To Do!

1. The top three source countries for asylum seekers are _____ and _____. Since 2005, the three most popular countries for asylum seeker applications are _____, _____, and _____.
2. Suggest reasons for and against the detention of asylum seekers and conduct a classroom debate on the topic.

Refugee Convention and other treaties

Australia has signed a number of international treaties and conventions governing the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

In 1954, Australia signed the Refugee Convention. This makes Australia responsible for ensuring we do not return people to countries where their life or freedom would be threatened by their race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group, or political opinion. The Refugee Convention defines what it means to be a refugee, explains what rights and obligations they should receive in their country of asylum, and sets up a system that makes sure they have access to long term solutions – returning home, local integration or resettlement.

The Refugee Convention is administered by the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR). This organisation was set up in 1951 to help the estimated 1.5 million refugees after World War Two. Since then, the UNHCR has helped to find long-term solutions for more than 50 million refugees. In 2009, the UNHCR was addressing the needs of 10.5 million

refugees around the world and advocates for governments to adopt fair and efficient ways to determine if an individual asylum seeker is a refugee.

Australia has also committed itself to other international agreements which deal with people who are being persecuted. For example, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone can expect asylum from persecution and enjoy safety in other countries. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises that "in all decisions affecting children, their best interests should be the main concern (Article 3)". It also groups the rights of children under four headings:

1. **Survival** – rights important for staying alive
2. **Development** – rights important for learning and development
3. **Protection** – rights important for being safe and secure
4. **Participation** – rights important for children to have their views heard and respected



Survival – rights important for staying alive. These children have survived the 2010 Haiti earthquake and now receive their right to food, drinking water and shelter.



Development – rights important for learning and development. These children in Bangladesh are going to school and receiving their right to education.



Protection – rights important for being safe and secure. In Ethiopia, aid means that Atnafu does not have to leave home and work as a shepherd. He can now stay at home with his mother.



Participation – rights important for children to have their views heard and respected. These children participate in Bolivia's Children's Parliament and discuss issues important to their lives.

Sam Jalloh

I am 15 years old and I came to Australia in 2006. I was born in Sierra Leone in 1995. I was separated from my father when rebels attacked our town and everybody had to run away. Earlier, my mother had died in the civil war. My three older brothers and I were picked up by a UNHCR truck and taken to a UNHCR refugee camp in Guinea and it was another two years before we found our father again.

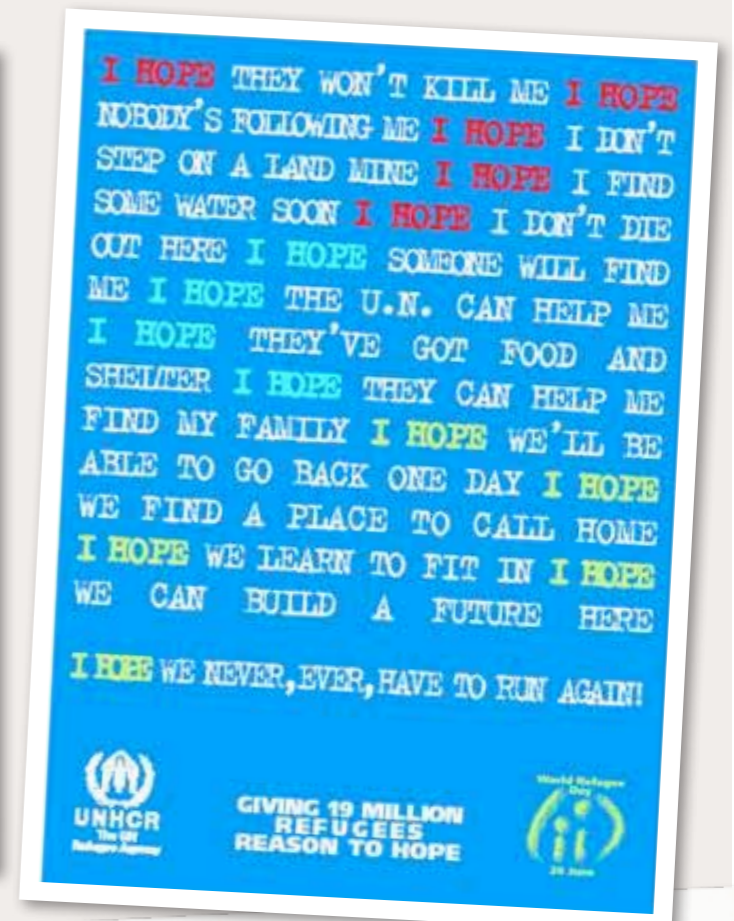
Even in our refugee camp we were attacked by rebel fighters from Sierra Leone and had to be taken to another camp. I went to a school in the refugee camp but it was very

crowded and life in the refugee camp was hard. There was no electricity and there was not much food or water but NGOs like World Vision and Oxfam worked to help us.

After six years in the camp, my uncle who was living in Australia was able to bring us to Australia too. Life in Australia is much better for me and my family. The world here is different and it means that people from other countries like Sierra Leone face a lot of change. I love playing football (soccer) and I think I would like to join the police force when I leave school.



Sam enjoys playing football for his local club team.



www.humanrights.gov.au

For You To Do!

1. Make a list of the hopes expressed on the poster above. Next to each hope, write down the corresponding fear. For example:
I hope they won't kill me – I fear I will be killed.

2. Why do the rights of refugee or asylum seeker children require special attention or concern?

Role of government

Federal Government

The Federal Government, through the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, plays three key roles:

1. **Develops migration policy** – The Federal Government decides the standards or rules for who can and cannot come to Australia. This is written down in The Migration Act (1958). This includes deciding how many people will be allowed to migrate to Australia under the three streams: skilled, family and humanitarian program.
2. **Enforces migration policy** – The Federal Government develops laws to discourage and prevent people smuggling and deports people who arrive in Australia illegally. This includes the mandatory detention of asylum seekers and deciding if they are genuine refugees.
3. **Provides services for new arrivals** – The Federal Government provides information in a range of languages, English lessons for adults, and translation and interpreting services to help new migrants settle in Australia.



Once the UNHCR office in the country of asylum decides that a person is in need of resettlement in Australia, the case is referred to the Australian Government via the local Australian Embassy in the country of asylum. The Australian government makes the final decision on whether the refugee will be resettled.

The UNHCR has been critical of the Australian Government policy of mandatory detention of asylum seekers.

Djibril Ly

I came to Australia as a refugee from Mauritania in 2007. I was 24 years old and arrived with my mother, three brothers and one sister. There was fighting in my home country and it was too dangerous, so my family fled to Senegal in 1988 – when I was just four years old.

Then for the next 20 years, we lived in a UNHCR refugee camp in Senegal. Most of my life has been lived in a refugee camp. We lived there with no electricity or water. We didn't know where we were going or when we would be able to leave the refugee camp.

The only things I had heard about Australia were the Opera House, the 2000 Olympics, kangaroos, Aboriginal people – and Harry Kewell. I love football and he was the most famous Australian football player. I didn't believe I would ever come to live here – we had no money or passports and I couldn't believe it would ever happen.

Then in 2006, we were interviewed by people from the Australian Government and given medical examinations. Nearly one year later, we were given vaccinations and had a week of training about life in Australia. We were taught about the Aussie culture, foods, popular sports, religions and even how to cross roads!

Eventually, seven Mauritanian families were put on a bus to Senegal's airport and we were heading for Australia. We felt sad because we were leaving friends and family – and we didn't really know what life would be like in this new country. At the same time, we also felt excited about the opportunity to start a new life.

We arrived in Australia and we didn't know anyone. We had no food, no money and we didn't speak English (Djibril could speak Pular, French and Wolof!). It was embarrassing and we felt like babies who didn't know anything. We all started to learn English but it has been hard to find work. Two of my brothers are now studying at university and I am studying welding and engineering.

Now I know that if I marry and have kids, life will be different for them. If I study and work hard I will be able to give my family all the things that I couldn't have growing up.

Lots of things are different here. In Australia, all people are equal. People with disabilities are respected and can have a good education. In Africa, people with disabilities would have to beg to survive. Also, there is gender equality in Australia. The man can stay at home and care for the kids but that is very unusual in Africa.

Now I enjoy the best of both cultures. I play football for a local club with Aussie guys from different cultures and have monthly meetings with other Mauritanian families where we help each other, share experiences and make plans for housing, work and future here in Australia.



For You To Do!

Download and complete the worksheet about the role of government and Djibril Ly's story at worldvision.com.au/schoolresources

Role of non-government organisations

Non-government organisations (NGOs) play an important role in the movement of people around the world.

Organisations like World Vision work to help asylum seekers and refugees as they face the challenges of forced migration. In refugee camps around the world, staff members provide needed emergency supplies such as blankets, tents and nutritious food. World Vision also provides safe places to care for, educate and support children living in camps. The organisation also undertakes community development work in developing countries and advocacy to prevent such crises from occurring in the first place.

Organisations like Amnesty International work to defend the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees coming to Australia. These groups encourage governments to provide protection for asylum seekers and follow the agreement signed in the Refugee Convention.

Other organisations like the Refugee Council of Australia provide protection and legal advice to refugees and asylum seekers. These groups speak up on behalf of refugee communities to make sure their rights are protected and their voices are heard in the Australian community.

The Refugee Council also coordinates the celebration of Refugee Week in Australia every year.



Australians gather to create giant human life rings to show support for refugees in May 2010. This is an example of people practising active citizenship.

(c) James Morgan



Students in a classroom session with other displaced girls who attend World Vision's community centre in Al Salaam camp, South Darfur.



World Vision sets up safe places in refugee camps for children to meet, play, draw and learn to cooperate. In this camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the children enjoy a game of football.



Food distribution at Kala Refugee Camp in Zambia.

Kala Refugee Camp

In Zambia's largest refugee camp, Congolese mothers face the challenge of protecting their children from malnutrition and malaria – both potentially fatal. Kala Refugee Camp has over 16,000 refugees. There isn't always enough food, clean water or medical supplies.

The violence and political unrest in the Congo has seen thousands of people fleeing their homes and having little choice about where they end up. Daria has been raising her family – four-year-old Mutuka and one-year-old Nghandwe – in Kala Refugee Camp since 2001. Daria says, "We don't live in good conditions because there is not enough food. Mutuka loses weight and his stomach is bloated. My main worry is the sickness of my children. They are constantly sick."

The camp relies on food trucked in from South Africa or Kenya. Many children are given extra rations to fight malnutrition. Families would die without the food. Daria and her family are also threatened by malaria infection and the likelihood of getting diarrhoea from the camp's poor sanitation.

Throughout the camp, preventable disease is common. The main causes of infant mortality in the camp are respiratory tract infection, malaria, malnutrition and diarrhoea.

The health clinic does what it can to monitor the health of children under five. Additional rations and high-energy protein supplements are given to children who are malnourished.

Daria visits the clinic as often as possible. "It takes about one hour to walk to the health clinic. Sometimes the medication we need is not available in the clinic." The clinic and food program are supported by World Vision but there is never enough. According to Daria, "Sometimes we just stay hungry and don't eat. In a month there are about six days where we don't eat at all."



Daria and her children, Mutuka and Nghandwe in the Kala Refugee Camp (Zambia).

For You To Do!

1. What are the needs of children in a refugee camp? What are the needs of refugees when they come to their new country? How do different NGOs seek to meet those needs? Look up the websites of different NGOs.
2. In small groups, prepare a TV program about Refugees. Include interviews with Daria (p. 21), Djibril (p. 19), Sam (p. 17) and the heads of World Vision, Amnesty International and the Refugee Council of Australia.

Internally Displaced People

In 2009, more than 27 million people were forced to migrate within their own countries. The main cause of this migration is violence and civil conflict. These people are like refugees, but because they stay within the borders of their home country, they are called Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and are not covered by the Refugee Convention. However, under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they are entitled to the same human rights as all other people.

A United Nations study found that the number of IDPs had increased from 17 million in 1997 to more than 27 million in 2009.

The six countries with the largest IDP populations are Sudan, with nearly 5 million; Colombia, with between 3.3 and 4.9 million; Iraq, with almost 2.8 million; the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with nearly 2 million; Somalia, with 1.5 million; and Pakistan, with 1.2 million.

Sudan

Mona Yahya is a 12-year-old girl at the World Vision community centre in South Darfur in Sudan. She's good at arithmetic and can read and write a few English words. She is also a promising volleyball player and a very agile rope skipper. Mona can also tell you some of her rights as a child.

When she came to the Al Salaam camp three years ago, she couldn't do any of these things. She did not have much hope for the future.

Her father had died at a hospital in the capital city, Khartoum, from injuries suffered during a violent attack on their village. She has no memories of her mother – she died while Mona was still a baby.

When their village was attacked in the civil war, they lost most of their belongings. Mona, her grandmother and dozens of other villagers fled their village in a cramped truck with little more than the clothes on their backs.

"We lost most of our things. Livestock, clothes, blankets, cooking utensils, bed, farm," says Mona.

Mona once led a life that revolved around collecting water for her family from streams in the village and working on

Haja Saleh Osman and her two daughters at the entrance to their shelter in an IDP camp in Darfur, Sudan. The family dwelling is a 2 x 4 metre plastic sheeting covered hut, similar to a camping tent. In front is a thatch covered cooking tent.



the family farm, where they grew millet, lentils, groundnuts, sorghum, okra and cucumber. She didn't attend school.

Now, the community centre is helping Mona recover from the trauma caused by the death of her father, and the loss of her family home and village. The centre provides care, support and informal education to 200 other displaced children like Mona.

The children turn up at the centre at 9.00am every weekday to play, sing, act, draw, read, write and learn. "These activities help them to regain their childhood and look to the future with hope," said Joyce Kago, World Vision's child care specialist.

Like Mona, a number of children attending the centre have lost their parents in the Darfur conflict. Some have been separated from their families. Some have witnessed unspeakable acts of cruelty, leaving them lost, confused and traumatised. The centre prepares children for transition into regular schools to start or continue their formal education. Mona hopes to join a regular school soon. "Now I can read and write," she said.

The community centre also gives the children's parents peace of mind. "Parents can go about their daily activities in the knowledge that their children are safe and busy at the centre," Kago said.



Mona Yahya.

Unfortunately, the centre only caters for a fraction of the displaced children and parents who need its services. Its facilities are overstretched, its playground is teeming with war-affected children, its classrooms are full, and its resources are diminishing – yet the demand for its services increases by the day as more displaced children pour into the camp.

For You To Do!

1. In a group of four, imagine your village is about to be attacked and you can no longer live in your home. You have 15 minutes before you must leave. Work out the list of things that you would like to take with you. Think carefully about the items you include on your list:

- what will you need to survive the journey?
- what will you need when you arrive?
- what personal items will you take with you?

Each person is allowed to take one bag and you must be able to walk and carry the bag. You cannot take anything that doesn't fit. Everyone in your group must agree about what's on the list.

After you have finalised your list, identify ONE item you would keep if you had to leave all else behind. Explain why this item is important.

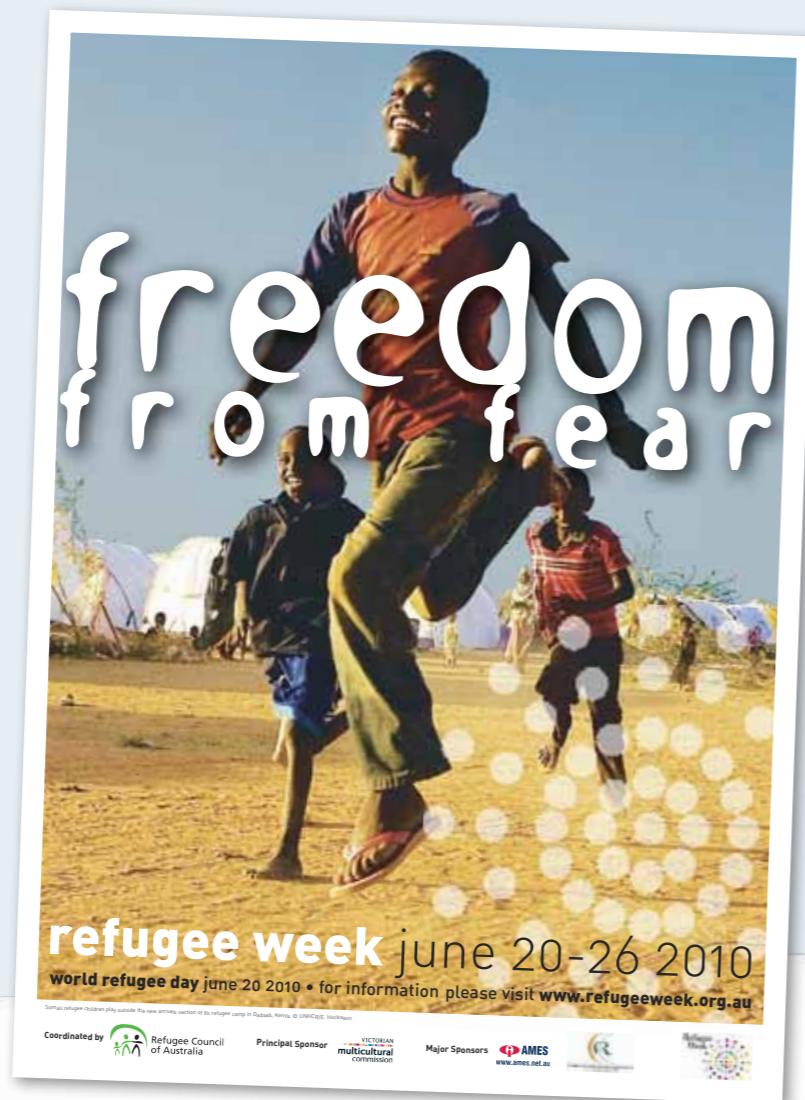
2. Write three diary entries for Mona:

- a. before her village was attacked;
- b. as she was fleeing her home with her grandmother;
- c. in the community centre at the Al Salaam camp.

Refugee Week

Every year, Refugee Week is celebrated across the world. The aim is to create better understanding between different communities and provide an important opportunity for asylum seekers and refugees to be seen, listened to and valued. Australia has a long history of accepting refugees for resettlement and over 700 000 refugees and displaced persons have settled in Australia since 1945.

Source: www.refugeecouncil.org.au/



For You To Do!

1. Look at the Refugee Week poster above – Freedom from Fear.
 - a. Description: Describe what you can see in the poster?
 - b. Analysis: What image is in the background of the poster? What image is in the foreground? What colours have been used? What is the written text?
 - c. Interpretation: Why have they chosen the heading, Freedom from Fear? What does that mean? How does the poster make you feel about refugees? What is the purpose of the poster?
 - d. Evaluation: How effective is the poster in achieving its purpose? Compare the Refugee Week posters on p. 17, 18 and 24 and decide which is the most effective and give a reason.

2. As a class, plan an event to celebrate Refugee Week at your school. Contact the Refugee Council of Australia or visit their website for ideas. www.refugeecouncil.org.au

Hieu Van Le (Lieutenant Governor of South Australia)

Born without a father, who had been killed, not a day goes by when Hieu Van Le does not remember hearing gunshots, rockets and the attacks which killed so many people – too many of them his own relatives and friends. This was the life that forced many to flee Vietnam after the fall of Saigon.

Hieu Van Le's journey began as navigator on a fishing boat that made it to the coast of Malaysia, where he spent months in a refugee camp before taking to the sea again and arriving in Darwin in 1977.

I remember, with some emotion, that on the deck of a small boat anchored off the southern tip of Timor, I was listening to ABC radio for the weather forecast, and waiting. We had been warned about the Timor Sea. The crossing would take us four or five days, we thought! We waited for good weather.

Finally we took to the sea again, the lonely sea and the sky... 40 Vietnamese refugees and a fragile boat and little more than a compass and star to steer her by. After over a month in the open sea, this was the last leg of our journey in search of freedom. I had the job of navigator, which often felt a fearful responsibility. On the third day of the crossing, there was some sudden excitement on the deck. Someone had seen birds; someone had said they were seagulls. These seagulls were like angels, for they meant... land!

I grabbed the binoculars and stared to the horizon – and there they focused on a most brilliant line of silver – I can't describe the moment, the feeling. I turned to my wife Lan and said quietly, "We are alive. Look at that silver line over there – that is where our life and our future is."

This silver sliver of hope took form as we crept closer through the dawn light. It became an early morning mist across Darwin Harbour. We chugged clumsily into the harbour, a couple of blokes in a tinny waved and one of them called out "G'day mate... welcome to Australia."

Boat people is a term that usually refers to refugees or asylum seekers who emigrate in boats that are sometimes old and unsafe. The term came into common use during the late 1970s with the mass departure of Vietnamese refugees like Hieu and Phong (p. 13)

My personal navigation to Australia had been a combination of accident, fear, despair, but most of all, of hope. I arrived on this silver shore with nothing but my invisible suitcase of heritage and dreams.

At another time, another place, a traveller such as me might have been greeted with fear or hostility, but at that time, in this place, I was given the unfettered wish and opportunity to show gratitude. What greeted me was a generosity of spirit.

When I came here I learnt something about this new culture, about the language. That, deep down, "G'day mate" meant something about a society that fundamentally believed in helping, in shared responsibility, that if we were not actually all in the same boat, we are all in the same harbour.

Some of us zoom along, some of us chug in, but we are our brother's keeper.



Different perspectives

1 Australia is being SWAMPED by asylum seekers!

2 It isn't illegal for asylum seekers to come by boat – it's allowed by the Refugee Convention, which recognised that it is often really hard to get a visa or passport.

3 Asylum seekers need to be locked up in detention centres – they could be DANGEROUS!! They're a security threat to Australia!

4 In 2009, the largest number of asylum claims made to an industrialised country was to the U.S.A – 49,000 claims. France was next with 42,000, then Canada with 33,000 claims.

5 In comparison Australia got only 6170 applications

6 A refugee is someone who faces persecution or is in danger because of their race, religion or political opinion. Just because you have money doesn't mean your life is not at risk.

7 In Australia most asylum seekers come by plane. There's more than 50,000 illegal migrants in Australia but most are from U.S.A, N.Z and the U.K.

8 In many cases, it is the educated people who speak out against governments... and so become targets for persecution.

9 Boat people are ILLEGAL immigrants. They have no right to come to Australia. They don't even have a visa!

10 85-90% of asylum seekers coming to Australia by boat have been found to be genuine refugees. Asylum seekers have often escaped difficult and dangerous places and need care and support.

11 I think Australia takes more than its fair share of refugees. We're going to be flooded with refugees if we don't stop them coming!

12 If these boat people can pay money to people smugglers in order to get here... then they're not refugees.

13 There are only 21,000 refugees living in Australia – That's a small number compared to Pakistan (1.8 million), Germany (583,000), Canada (113,000) & UK (292,000). Most refugees live in the poorest and most dangerous countries in the world. Countries like Pakistan – not Australia.


People hold different opinions about the arrival and treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia. Here are five opinions and five factual responses. See if you can match the opinion and the factual response.

For You To Do!

Find the person who gives the appropriate factual response to the following:

- Person 1 - _____
- Person 5 - _____
- Person 9 - _____
- Person 3 - _____
- Person 7 - _____

Source for various cartoon stats: www.unhcr.org Cartoons by Julie Smith



“The notion that there is a flood of asylum seekers into richer countries is a myth ... our data shows that the numbers have remained stable.”

(UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres, March 2010)

“Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.” (Article 14 Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Jargon Busters

Asylum: A place of safety and protection.

Asylum seeker: A person who has fled their home and is seeking protection from another country. They are waiting for their claim to be a refugee to be evaluated.

Deport: To banish or remove a person from a country.

Immigration Restriction Act: Passed by the first Australian Parliament in 1901, this Act created a series of barriers to entry by non-European immigrants.

Internally Displaced People: People who have been forced to migrate within the borders of their own countries.

Migration: The medium to long-term movement of people – either within a country or from one country to another.

Persecute: To pursue someone and consistently treat them badly because of their race, nationality, religion or political beliefs.

Populate or Perish: After World War II, a phrase used to describe an Australian immigration policy designed to increase the population of Australia.

Refugee: A person who has fled his or her country of origin in fear of being persecuted because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group.

White Australia Policy: A phrase used to describe the Australian immigration policy that aimed to maintain a predominantly white population in Australia. The phrase first appeared in the 1880s and the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act soon became popularly known as the White Australia Policy. The policy was finally disbanded with the passing of the Racial Discrimination Act in 1975.