5. Teacher Resources

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

- Nelson Mandela

Why Teach About Refugees?

Refugee Week provides the perfect opportunity to creatively address the issues and debates surrounding refugees with your students in a range of classes. It is also a great time to encourage your students to organise their own Refugee Week event or activity.

Have a look at “What is Refugee Week: Planning an Event for Refugee Week” for more information on planning events in schools.

Sometimes it is hard for a student to fully comprehend refugee issues. Therefore, it is always important to humanise the issue and bring it ‘closer to home’ by using specific examples and stories. This can be done by reading or watching personal testimonies or looking at photographs. Activities such as these should not only seek to further develop students’ knowledge of refugees and their understanding of the world, but should also encourage empathy and tolerance of others.

While there are refugees in countries all over the world and refugee and asylum seeker issues are constantly in the media, many people are still unaware of who refugees are and do not understand the reasons why they flee. Sometimes, the media misrepresents refugees and asylum seekers, creating stereotypes and fuelling myths and misunderstandings. Education is incredibly important in combating this. At a time where one in every 100 people in the world has been forced to flee persecution, violence or war, it is crucial for students to understand the contemporary issues affecting refugees.

Relevant to many subjects...

In today's world, increasing numbers of people are not able to avail themselves of the protection of their state and therefore require the protection of the global community. Refugees are a painful living reminder of the failure of societies to exist in peace and our responsibility to help those forced to flee. Flight often follows human rights abuses and violations as well as various forms of social breakdown, including war. These issues are linked to concepts such as justice, equality, tolerance, freedom, minority rights and the formation of community. As such, refugees can be the subject of work units in many classes in schools (for example: history, geography, legal studies, language and literature, and society and culture).

www.unhcr.org.uk/info/resources/teachtools.html
Looking At Definitions and Stereotypes

Before any analysis or discussion about refugees, it is first important to establish with your students some key definitions. The following activities are examples of strategies for helping students to understand who refugees are and the differences between asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

**ACTIVITY 1: MOVING**

This activity works well in pairs. Ask students to write down as many reasons as you can why people move from their homes. Now sort the reasons into two columns:

- Reasons people move voluntarily
- Reasons people move against their will

Discuss your lists with the whole group.

This activity will help students to understand the difference between a migrant and a refugee.

*From the Global Eye website: [http://www.globaleye.org.uk/archive/spring2k/focuson/indexh.html](http://www.globaleye.org.uk/archive/spring2k/focuson/indexh.html)*

**ACTIVITY 2: DEFINITIONS**

This activity works well for small groups. The group, pair or individual will need A4 paper, poster size paper, pens, access to research material and the information sheet giving the UN definitions of a refugee, asylum seeker, internally displaced persons and Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (see [http://www.globaleye.org.uk/archive/spring2k/focuson/article14.html](http://www.globaleye.org.uk/archive/spring2k/focuson/article14.html))

First, without using the resources, ask each group to work on a definition of the word ‘REFUGEE’. Get students to write their ideas on paper. Display them and compare them with the definitions from the rest of the class.

Then, ask each group to research the word ‘REFUGEE’ using as many of the information sources available to them. Get them to display their work on poster size sheets.

This activity aims to give a clear understanding of the definitions used by the UN in their work with refugees. The differences are important because different groups have different rights under international law.

*From the Global Eye website: [http://www.globaleye.org.uk/archive/spring2k/focuson/indexh.html](http://www.globaleye.org.uk/archive/spring2k/focuson/indexh.html)*

**ACTIVITY 3: REFUGEES IN THE MEDIA**

This activity is more applicable to secondary students. After exploring and researching key definitions, students collect news items from television, newspaper or radio sources which mention refugees.

In class, or in smaller groups, they can discuss what attitudes are evident towards refugees and asylum seekers. Is the word ‘refugee’ always applied correctly? Why or why not?

Inspiration taken from the Global Education website; however, this example has been modified. 
[http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/cache/office/pid/1705;jsessionid=552D6CDE9A9B8C861FAC6D7DF02FC4C](http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/go/cache/office/pid/1705;jsessionid=552D6CDE9A9B8C861FAC6D7DF02FC4C)
Lesson Plans and Teaching Resources:

- **Amnesty International Australia**’s website has a great deal of information on refugees, asylum seekers and human rights in general. It also contains lesson ideas relating to border security and fleeing from persecution to freedom using methods such as role-play, card games, group work and board games. Go to: [http://action.amnesty.org.au/hre/comments/refugees_rights_classroom_resources/](http://action.amnesty.org.au/hre/comments/refugees_rights_classroom_resources/)
  
  Their website “Rethink Refugees” includes personal stories of refugees who sought asylum or were resettled in Australia, alongside other information. Go to: [www.rethinkrefugees.com.au](http://www.rethinkrefugees.com.au)


- The **Australian Human Rights Commission** has a range of educational resources on multiculturalism, racism and diversity. There is information on human rights in relation to refugees and asylum seekers along with student activity sheets which can be downloaded from its website. The Commission’s ‘*Face the Facts*’ education resource contains accurate and easy to understand information about Indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, while ‘*Voices of Australia*’ explores issues of cultural diversity: [http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/topics/topic_race.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/education/topics/topic_race.html)

- **BBC News** website has a variety of resources on Refugee stories and photos. It has first-person testimonies and in-depth interviews to trace the journey from home into exile. It asks why refugees are still fleeing, where they go, and examines how we treat them. See: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2001/road_to_refuge/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/world/2001/road_to_refuge/default.stm)

- **Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)** publishes information sheets on issues affecting young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The sheets include a brief guide to meaningful consultation with young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. CMY also provides toolkits and information sheets that highlight good practice principles in building relationships with newly-arrived and refugee communities, as well as strategies to support engagement through sports and recreation. These strategies could be used to help conduct community events for Refugee Week. Check out the ‘Information Sheets’, ‘Training and Resource Kits’ and ‘Multicultural Sport and Recreation Resources’ at: [http://www.cmy.net.au/Publications](http://www.cmy.net.au/Publications)

- **Doctors without Borders** (also known as Médecins Sans Frontières) has a list of lesson plans including topics such as migration, being forced to leave, the differences between ‘shelters’ and ‘established homes’, food rations and malnutrition, water as a basic need and the need to raise awareness for refugees: [http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/events/refugeecamp/resources/](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/events/refugeecamp/resources/)
  
  The building awareness lesson could lead nicely into encouraging students to plan an event for Refugee Week. For more ideas on planning Refugee Week events, see “Chapter 3: Planning an Event for Refugee Week”.

- **Global Education** offers some excellent ideas for teaching activities for grades ranging from upper primary to upper secondary. Topics include defining refugees, experiencing flight, life in a refugee
camp, using statistics and more, with case studies from Sudan, Sri Lanka and the Thai-Burma border. Suggested activities include group discussion, research tasks, reports and debates topics.

♦ **Oxfam** has some great lesson ideas and resources on the conflict in Darfur, war in Iraq and peace and conflict around the world in general. For example, the Darfur resources gives a teachers’ and students’ guide to the conflict (including testimonies from children living in refugee camps in Darfur) and aims to make a complex topic comprehensible to students aged 13 and over. Sections include a history of the conflict, stories from young people living in the camps about their daily lives, the fears they face, and their hopes for the future, information about Oxfam’s work in Darfur; and ideas for actions students might take about the issues. Visit: [http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/category.htm?41](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/category.htm?41)

♦ The **NSW Teachers Federation** library, which is open to all Federation members, has a range of resources available on refugees and asylum seekers: [www.nswtf.org.au/files/refugees_asylum_seekers_sep_2011.pdf](http://www.nswtf.org.au/files/refugees_asylum_seekers_sep_2011.pdf)

♦ The “Racism. No Way” website which supplies anti-racism lessons and resources for Australian schools, has an incredible range of lesson plans and student worksheets ready for download. Lesson topics include racism, prejudice, cultural diversity, identity, language, migration and refugees. The site also looks at dispelling some myths related to boat people, migrants and refugees: [http://www.racismnoway.com.au/classroom/lesson_ideas/index_bytheme.html](http://www.racismnoway.com.au/classroom/lesson_ideas/index_bytheme.html)


♦ A large range of resources are available from the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** office in London, including teacher’s guides and lesson plans, videos, booklets and posters. Visit [http://www.unhcr.org.uk/resources/educational-resources.html](http://www.unhcr.org.uk/resources/educational-resources.html)

♦ **UN Works** offers a lesson plan that includes a variety of activities and discussion questions for teachers to utilise. The activities aim to broaden students’ understanding of refugees and the problems that they face, while encouraging students to develop empathy for their plight. See: [http://www.un.org/works/goingon/refugees/lessonplan_refugees.html](http://www.un.org/works/goingon/refugees/lessonplan_refugees.html)
Posters

The 2012 Refugee Week poster (right) is available from RCOA offices and pick-up points across the country. Visit www.refugeeweek.org.au for details or email vols@refugeecouncil.org.au.

UNHCR’s “Lego” Posters (below) are a great resource to use when thinking about how to challenge some of the negative stereotypes towards refugees. See below for an example. To view all the posters go to www.unhcr.org.au/pdfs/140603LegoA2Posters.pdf
Refugee-Related Books For Children

The following books were sourced from:

- Austral Ed Book Supplies from Australia: [www.australed.iinet.net.au/books_from_middle_east.html](http://www.australed.iinet.net.au/books_from_middle_east.html)
- Willesden Bookshop: [http://www.willesdenbookshop.co.uk/sections/section06/section06.htm](http://www.willesdenbookshop.co.uk/sections/section06/section06.htm)

♦ June Allan – Mohammed's Journey
This is a true story of an Iraqi-Kurdish refugee child and his flight from his home in Kirkuk to the UK. This is the story of Mohammed's escape from Iraq by bus, on horseback, in an inflatable raft on a raging river and, finally, hiding in a lorry on a ship. It covers his journey from Kirkuk to the Iraq-Iran border, through Iran, into Turkey and then on to England and safety.

♦ Anh Do with Suzanne Do – The Little Refugee
One of Australia’s favourite personalities recounts his family's escape from war-torn Vietnam in an over-crowded boat, defying pirates and terrifying storms. The story recounts the family’s new life in suburban Australia and overcoming the challenges of having no English language and funny lunches. Laughter helped deal with the difficulties and turn them into triumph for Anh, his brother Khoa and sister Tram.

♦ Bic Walker – A Safe Place to Live
This book contains fabulous illustrations of a true story about a young girl’s journey as a refugee to Australia. She encounters pirates and is rescued by an oil tanker, before waiting in a refugee camp until sponsored to Australia.

♦ Tamar Bergman – Along the tracks
This story recounts the adventures of a young Jewish boy who is driven from his home by the German invasion, becomes a refugee in the Soviet Union, is separated from his family, and undergoes many hardships before enjoying a normal home again.

♦ Caroline Castle (in conjunction with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) – For Every Child
For Every Child is picture book which details the 15 most important rights of the child. Each right has a specific illustration in a different style by a different artist around the world. This could lead to a discussion about why people may have to flee from their own country.

♦ Kathryn Cave (in conjunction with Oxfam) – W is for World
W is for World: A Round the World ABC
This alphabet book looks at the daily life of adults and children around the world. Suitable for 5 – 9 year olds, it encouraging a message about basic human rights of shelter, food, water, health and education.

♦ Czenya Cavouras – Rainbow Bird
Rainbow Bird is a deeply moving children's picture book written and illustrated by 14 year old Czenya Cavouras, who is now in high school. Everyone who has had anything to do with refugees and asylum seekers will want to read this book. It tells the story of a refugee journey from a destroyed homeland to a desolate detention centre and finally, to future of hope. Rainbow Bird is quietly harrowing, has a unique author voice, and is ultimately inspiring and uplifting. *(From Australians against Racism - RAR)*
Nicki Cornwell – Christophe’s Story
This book tells the story of 8 year old Christophe who flees the fighting in Rwanda to come to England as a refugee with his family. It is about his difficulty settling in to his new home and also about the notion of telling stories and awareness-raising.

Shelley Davidow – The Red Shadow
Miri, a young refugee girl, returns home to her village after the end of the war. The story follows the rebuilding of her village and Miri’s reunification with her brother and, eventually, her father.

Sonja Dechian, Heather Millar and Eva Sallis – Dark Dreams: Australian Refugee Stories by young writers aged 11-20
"These stories will remind you that these unbearable events did not happen far away, to people we pity from a distance – a view the nightly news, especially now, too easily encourages. These events and histories are carried in the heart and mind of the person next to you, these experiences are with us, beside us..." (Dr Eva Sallis, editor)

Deborah Ellis – Children of war: Iraqi refugees speak
Written five years after the United States and it allies invaded Iraq – but with true democracy still out of sight – Deborah Ellis turns her attention to the war's most tragic victims: Iraqi children. She interviews more than 20 young Iraqis, mostly refugees living in Jordan, but also a few trying to build new lives in North America. Some families left Iraq with money; others are penniless, ill, or disabled. Most of the parents are working illegally or not at all, and the fear of deportation is a constant threat. The children speak for themselves, with little editorial comment, and their stories are frank, harrowing, and often reveal a surprising resilience in surviving the consequences of a war in which they played no part.

Alwyn Evans – Walk in My Shoes
Aimed at secondary students, this book tells of an Afghan refugee, Gulnessa, who struggles to establish a life for herself and her family in Australia. They are confined in a detention centre for asylum seekers, and forced to prove their refugee status.

Victoria Francis – Letters to Grandma Grace
An African refugee family’s experiences in their country of asylum are told through letters from the children to their Grandma Grace. The letters illustrate the difficulties and hardships they face in adapting to their new home.

Morris Gleitzman – Boy Overboard
Morris Gleitzman writes of Jamal, who just wants to play football, but with a sister defying Taleban curfews and parents running an illegal school, his problems escalate until the whole family must flee Afghanistan in search of refuge in Australia. Serious themes and dilemmas are presented with a large ration of humour and morals derived from the beautiful game: namely, never give up!

Katherine Goode – Jumping to Heaven
Children from Bosnia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Herzegovina, Iraq, Sudan, and Vietnam who have come to Australia to escape persecution are given a voice in this collection of short stories compiled from interviews with refugees. Written for a more mature youth, the stories evoke the sad, scary, thought-provoking, and sometimes amusing experiences of children and families who have displayed extraordinary courage and hope. This collection offers insight that seeks to bridge the gap between refugees and their new host communities, and gives youth a global perspective on the refugee experience. It is recommended for children over 13 years.

Armin Greder – The Island
This book is a metaphorical account of the way in which prejudice and fear create artificial barriers between people which they use to exclude others in order to ‘protect’ themselves. It offers reasons for why refugees exist and why detention centres and refugee camps have become so prevalent throughout the world. See the Allen & Unwin Teaching Suggestions by Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright booklet at: http://www.allenandunwin.com/_uploads/BookPdf/TeachersNotes/9781741752663.pdf

♦ **Rosanne Hawke – Soraya the Storyteller**
Aimed at upper primary students, this story tells of 11 year old Soraya. Soraya is an asylum seeker from Afghanistan living under the shadow of Australia’s former temporary protection visa system. As she adapts to life in Australia, she is haunted by both her father’s absence and the fear that she may have to return to Afghanistan. To console herself, she begins writing stories.

♦ **John Heffernan – My Dog**
My Dog is a very moving, understated story in picture book format suitable for 8 – 12 year olds. Seen through the eyes of a young boy, it tells of the terrible suffering as a consequence of ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. This book would serve as a moving introduction to discussion on human rights and suffering.

♦ **Mary Hoffman – The Colour of Home**
This is a fabulous book about the difficulties refugees may face adjusting to a new environment. Hassan feels out of place in a new, cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colourful Somali home, covered with the harsh colours of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombasa, then to the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan’s parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima’s pink dress: the new colours of home.

♦ **Clare M. G. Kemp – My Brother is a Soldier**
This story tells of the return of a child soldier to his village in Africa and the problems he faces in trying to reintegrate and lead a normal life.

♦ **Lynn Kramer – Cry Baby**
Cry Baby is a story of a young refugee girl who finds herself in a new home after fleeing from war. Zione has difficulty making new friends because the other children see her as different. However, she overcomes this by demonstrating through a heroic act that she is really no different from the other children.

♦ **Elizabeth Laird – Kiss the Dust**
This book tells the story of Tara and her family as they are forced to flee Iraq because of her father’s involvement in the Kurdish resistance movement. Suitable for 12 – 17 year olds, the story details the plight of a family who become refugees.

♦ **Living in Australia Series – Sudanese Australians**
This non-fiction book uses a variety of interviews to look into the customs and traditions of the Sudanese people living in Australia.

♦ **David Miller – Refugees**
In David Miller’s book, two wild ducks become refugees when their swamp is drained. Their journey in search of a new place to live exposes them to danger, rejection and violence before they are
given a new home. Their story is told with brightly coloured three-dimensional paper sculptures in this attractive picture book for young children.

♦ Sibylla Martin – On the Other Side of the Hill
In this story, Jacques finds himself in a refugee camp and has trouble making friends with the local children. However, a football match between the children from the refugee camp and the local populations brings the children together.

♦ Sibylla Martin – The Lost Children
The Lost Children recounts the story of how young Ibuka becomes separated from her family when fleeing her home and comes to find herself, along with her younger brother, at a centre for lost children.

♦ Beverley Naidoo – The Other Side of Truth
Aimed at teenagers, this topical novel is set during 1995 in the aftermath of Ken Saro-Wiwa's execution in Nigeria for alleged political crimes. The Other Side of Truth tackles multiple themes, most importantly injustice, the right to freedom of speech, the complexities of political asylum, bullying and, ultimately, the strength of the family.

♦ Angela Neustatter and Helen Elliot – Refugee: It happened to me
This book features extended interviews with six children and young adults who are refugees or asylum seekers. They came from various countries including Kosovo, Somalia, Afghanistan and Romania. The interviews are carefully constructed to cover both the emotional as well as the practical consequences of their refugee experiences. The aim is not to be sensational but, rather, empathetic and informative. Talking points and black and white photographs are also included.

♦ Anthony Robinson – Gervelie's Journey
This is a true story of a young refugee. In 1995, Gervelie was born in the Republic of Congo. In 1997 fighting broke out in her home city and they had to flee to safety. Her father's political connections mean that they are still unable to return home. This is Gervelie's story, told using photographs from her own life. At the time of writing, Gervelie and her father were living in the UK, waiting to hear if their case for asylum would be accepted.

♦ Anthony Robinson – Hazmat's Journey
This story tells of Hazmat from Chechnya, who stepped on a landmine on his way to school. His leg had to be amputated and eventually he and his father came to the UK for expert treatment. As it was unsafe for them to return home, the family sought asylum in the UK. Eventually Hazmat's mother and sister joined them in London and now the family are learning to adapt to their new life after the horror of living in a war zone. This poignant, and at times harrowing, story reveals the bravery of Hazmat and his family in facing and overcoming their circumstances to start a new life.

♦ Anthony Robinson – Meltem’s Journey
Meltem’s Journey describes as a family flees the Kurdish region of Turkey after Meltem’s father is badly beaten by soldiers. When their application for asylum is rejected in Germany, they undertake a desperate journey to Britain, unable to return to Turkey because of the circumstances of their departure. It takes 9 years for their application to succeed in Britain, but not before many stressful incidents, periods of detention and threats of deportation. Meltem’s
story is told in her own words, in diary format, and conveys memorably the emotional highs and lows of her experiences.

Leon Rosselson – Home is a Place Called Nowhere
Suitable for teenagers, this topical, fast-paced novel deals with issues of discrimination and prejudice against refugees. Amina runs away to London after a crisis in her adoptive family, hoping to track down her mother and to discover the truth about her apparent abandonment. Paul, an older and more streetwise runaway, helps her to make contact with the refugee community. It is by listening to other people and their stories that she comes, finally, to understand her own.

Jill Rutter and Mano Candappa – Why do they have to fight? Refugee children's stories from Bosnia, Kurdistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka
Most of the testimonies used in this book were collected during a research project about refugee children. The books serves as a valuable resource for teachers, with the issues behind asylum and refugees are brought to life by these children's stories and testimonies.

Allen Say – Grandfather's Journey
This is a beautifully illustrated picture book suitable for students aged 9 and over. Allen Say's grandfather made the journey from Japan to the United States when he was a young man and this story beautifully describes through text and illustrations the love that he and his grandson feel for both countries. Many students will relate to the feelings of longing that are captured.

Cath Senker – Global Issues: Refugees
This information book quotes extensively from mixed-media sources to examine responses to refugee issues in different parts of the world and to debate notions of bias and prejudice. Combining photographs and varied texts in a lively format, it presents real-life case studies showing why people become refugees alongside a range of media viewpoints on their treatment in host societies.

Shaun Tan – The Arrival
This is an extraordinary text-less picture book which tells the story of an immigrant’s journey to a new land where he knows no one and understands very little. Yet on his arrival to the new country, he meets friends who help him and tell stories about how they too came to the new land. Through these stories children can learn about the experiences of a variety of immigrant families.

Sybella Wilkes – One Day We Had To Run!: Refugee children tell their stories in words and paintings
This book tells the stories of three children who were forced to become refugees. The children's stories and paintings are set against background information about Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, which helps to explain why refugees have been forced to flee from these countries. The roles of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children are outlined, and ideas for using this book in the school classroom are also included.

Mary Williams – Brothers in Hope: Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan
Based on true events, this moving picture book tells the story of Garang, an 8 year old Sudanese boy forced to embark on an epic journey across deserts and mountains to Ethiopia and eventually to Kenya after his family and village are overtaken by war whilst he is away tending cattle. He joins a band of over 1000 boys, some as young as 5, who share his predicament. Despite the hardships of a perilous journey and years spent in refugee camps, Garang occupies
himself with the welfare of younger boys, seizes any educational opportunity, and never loses hope of a new life in a permanent place of safety.

♦ **Benjamin Zephaniah – Refugee boy**

This is a powerful novel that tells of Alem from Ethiopia. Alem is on holiday with his father in London. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up to find the unthinkable: his father has left him. The owner of the bed-and-breakfast hands him a letter in which Alem’s father explains that because of the political problems in Ethiopia, both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London, even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, particularly about his mother who has now gone missing.

**Documentaries**

♦ **Hope – Steve Thomas (2008)**

*Hope* is the story of Amal Basry, one of 400 Iraqi refugees on the ill-fated SIEV X, which sank between Indonesia and Australia, killing 353 people. Amal was one of only seven survivors who made it to Australia. Now she fights to reunite her family, and to ensure that this disaster is not forgotten. A Study Guide prepared for secondary students by the Australian Teachers of Media can be found at: [http://www.hopedocumentary.com.au/hope/studyguide.htm](http://www.hopedocumentary.com.au/hope/studyguide.htm)


*Long Journey Young Lives* is a documentary about being a young refugee. It's an online interactive documentary which provides an intimate and unique insight into the experiences of child refugees. From the violence and danger of their homeland, to their dangerous journey and subsequent detention in Australia, young refugees present an exclusive account of their experiences as refugees. The documentary also explores the opinions of young Australians on issues surrounding asylum seekers. Australian school children, all under the age of 12, express their views on mandatory detention, being called 'boat people' and 'queue jumpers', and talk about whether Australia has a responsibility to accept refugees. Even though some of Australia’s policies have changed since this was made, it is still interesting and a valuable resource tool.


This documentary follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Orphaned as young boys in one of Africa’s most vicious civil wars, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, remarkably, they were chosen to come to America. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, a world away from home, they find themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburbia.


Born in a Thai refugee camp on the Cambodian New Year, documentary filmmaker Socheata Poeuv grew up in the United States never knowing that her family had survived the Khmer Rouge genocide. In this documentary, she embarks on a journey to Cambodia in search of the truth and why her family's history had been buried in secrecy for so long. The great thing about this movie is the website and all its resources, including background information and discussion questions. See [http://newyearbaby.net/downloads/IL-Discussion-Guides.pdf](http://newyearbaby.net/downloads/IL-Discussion-Guides.pdf) for more information.


Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars documents a band of six Sierra Leonean musicians who came together while living in a refugee camp in Guinea. Despite the unimaginable horrors of civil war, they were saved and brought hope and happiness to other refugees through their music. Also see the website for background information on Sierra Leone. For more information on the band, go to: [http://www.rosebudus.com/refugeeallstars/biography.html](http://www.rosebudus.com/refugeeallstars/biography.html)

This 10-part television series features UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie. She works with children who have been victimized by long years of civil strife in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and who have had to flee their homes for refugee camps in Tanzania. You can purchase the DVD through the UN Bookshop at https://unp.un.org/bookshop/details.aspx?sku=X3013 or you can access each part on Youtube. For Part 1, go to: http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/jF8Zr_bPyIE; For part 2: http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/bw3-YPfnUR8
Online Documentaries, Stories And Blogs

♦ "Long Journey Young Lives" (2002)
   This excellent resource is an online interactive documentary which provides an intimate and unique insight into the experiences of child refugees. From the conflict and violence in their homeland, to their dangerous journey and subsequent detention in Australia, young refugees present an exclusive account of their experiences. The interactive website also explores the opinions of young Australians on issues surrounding asylum seekers. Australian school children, all under the age of 12, express their views on mandatory detention, being called 'boat people' and 'queue jumpers', and talk about whether Australia has a responsibility to accept refugees. Go to: http://www.abc.net.au/longjourney/index_flash.html

♦ SBS’s “How Far We’ve Come” website
   This great website explores the lives of refugees in Australia over time. It includes stories of refugees first interviewed by SBS up to 25 years ago, to find out what has happened in their lives since. Each story also has an accompanying Facts Page that briefly explains the history and conditions in the person’s country of origin. Check out: www.sbs.com.au/refugees

♦ “Refugees’ Australian Stories: Building Bridges Across Communities” is a multimedia project that uses images and the spoken and written word to tell the compelling stories of refugees from around the world who have made Australia their home. By providing a platform for refugees to tell their “Australian story”, the project hopes to show that refugees have been great co-workers, neighbours and friends to other Australians for many years and contribute positively to our country. Go to: http://www.ras.unimelb.edu.au/Refugees_Australian_Stories/index.html

♦ “The Dusty Diaries” - Written by humanitarian worker Paul Bolger in 2005 and 2007 in Chad, the Dusty Diaries outline his experiences while setting up a refugee camp for those fleeing the violence in nearby Darfur. See: http://webfw.oxfam.org.au/refugee/dustydiaries/intro.html

♦ Read about Lindy Hogan's work with Burmese refugees in Bangladesh, and stories from Australian and Ugandan youth. See: http://lindyhogan.blogspot.com/


♦ For more videos, visit UNHCR youtube website at http://www.youtube.com/unhcr

Online Games

♦ UNHCR’s “Against All Odds” is an online simulation game for High School students. In the game, students follow a young person’s flight from oppression in his/her home country to exile in an asylum country. The game is intended to increase students’ awareness and knowledge about refugees – where they come from, what situations they have faced and how they adapt to their new lives. There is a teacher’s guide with suggested lessons plans to accompany every level of the game. It provides background material, exercises and discussion topics aimed at increasing students’ understanding of refugee issues. To play, go to http://www.playagainstalldodds.com/game_us.html or for more information and the teachers guide see: http://www.playagainstalldodds.com/teachersupervision/us/pdf/Introduction_LH_UK_all.pdf

Want more information?

Don’t forget to also check out “Chapter 3: Planning an event for refugee week” for help with event planning and “Chapter 6: More useful websites and refugee-related resources” for more information and resources including an extensive list of websites, books for adults and movies. Also, visit the Refugee Week UK website for more facts and resources. There is a wealth of knowledge on this website including downloadable films, fact sheets, stories and much, much more! www.refugeeweek.org.uk/InfoCentre/refugee-week-resources