

Refugee Crisis In Europe (should take four or five class periods)

Learning Goals: Students will learn about the history of migration in Europe and how the European Union deals with refugee crises such as Syria and more recently Ukraine? Students will compare the Syrian and Ukraine refugee crisis.

Essential Question: Who is a refugee? How does the EU handle the refugee crisis?

Standards: WH.G.2 Analyze the intentional and unintentional consequences of human-environment interaction. WH.G.2.1 Deconstruct the relationship between geopolitics and demographic shifts in terms of intentional and unintentional consequences, now and in the past. WH.G.2.2 Differentiate technological innovation and human-environment interaction in terms of intentional and unintentional consequences , now and in the past
WH.H.1.1 Distinguish key turning points in world history in terms of multiple causes and outcomes.
WH.H.1.2 Explain the impact the experiences and achievements of individuals and groups from various indigenous, racial , ethnic, tribal, political, and religious backgrounds have had on historical events and current global issues.

Students will know: push and pull factors that lead to the Syrian and Ukrainian refugee crisis

Key Vocabulary: refugee, migration, immigration, asylum seeker

Lesson 1

Bell Ringer: On Nearpod students will answer what they know about refugees? Discuss in class misconceptions and stereotypes students have about refugees. Ask students about immigration and migration. Make it clear that people have migrated throughout history and have done so in every part of the world. Ask students what they know about Europe and discuss misconceptions. Ask about what students know about the European Union and discuss with class.

Interactive notes on the history of migration in the European Union. Migration in Europe after World War I | End on slide about Syrian refugees. [Link](#) to the notes

Ask students what they know about Syria. Discuss misconceptions or stereotypes about Syria. Discuss the events leading up the war in Syria and the impact it has on Europe's refugee crisis. Discuss the differences between living in Syria and living in Europe and the issues refugees face.

Learning Activity: students write a letter from the perspective of a teenage Syrian refugee about what life is like in Europe. This letter should be one to two paragraphs depending on level of the class.

Assessment: Exit Ticket: Students will write down one thing they learned about the Syrian Refugee Crisis and one thing they wanted to know more about.

Lesson 2

Students will know: the push and pull factors of the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

Bell Ringer: Ask students what they know about the war in Ukraine. Who is being affected by the war in Ukraine. Discuss with students what they know about Ukraine and the people, geography and culture of Ukraine.

Station Activity: Students will go to three stations and look at different news articles about Ukraine refugees and the impact it has had on several European countries within the EU. Students will answer the same discussion questions for each of the four articles.

Articles:

<https://www.vox.com/22983230/europe-ukraine-refugees-charts-map>

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/25/ukraine-refugee-crisis-russia-war-eu/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainian-refugees-should-be-distributed-across-eu-berlin-says-2022-03-28/>

1. What is one piece of information in the news story you explored that you already knew?
2. What is one piece of information in the news story that surprised or interested you?
3. Did you have any questions while exploring the story? What more do you want to know?
4. What did you learn about how the EU is handling the Ukraine refugee crisis?

Closing activity: Have students research how Ukrainian refugees are adjusting to living in countries like Poland, Romania, and Hungary. Students can use this link <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60555472> as a starting point. Have students write a short story about a Ukrainian teenager adjusting to life outside of their home country.

Lesson 3

Students will know: why Syrian and Ukrainian refugees have been treated differently by different countries.

Opening activity: students will watch a video clip from Retro Report about how the United States has treated war time refugees.

Video link: <https://www.retroreport.org/education/resources/immigration/>

Learning Activity: Students will read an article about how Syrian refugees have been treated in Europe. Students will compare and contrast how Syrian refugees and Ukrainian refugees have been treated in European countries. Have students work in pairs or in groups of three to read all the articles. Discuss the articles as a class about why some European countries are more welcoming to Ukrainian refugees than Syrian refugees.

Link to Denmark article:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/16/denmarks-mismatched-treatment-syrian-and-ukrainian-refugees>

Link to NPR article:

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/28/1083580981/why-ukrainians-are-being-treated-differently-than-refugees-from-other-countries>

Link to CSMonitor article:

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2022/0324/Eastern-Europe-welcomes-some-refugees-not-others.-Is-it-only-racism>

Exit Ticket: How have Syrian and Ukrainian refugees been treated differently by EU countries? Why are both groups treated differently?

Extend the lesson: students will write a letter to their local newspaper about how Syrian refugees have been treated differently compared to Ukrainian refugees. List ways citizens can help both Ukrainian and Syrian refugees.

Lesson Four: Refugee Journey from Afghanistan to Europe

Students will know: What the journey is like for Afghan migrants traveling to Europe.

Bell Ringer: What do you think the journey like from North Africa or Asia to Europe for a migrant? What dangers would occur on the way?

Article Have students read executive summary of migrant journeys from Africa to Europe. Have students evaluate the statistics below the executive summary.

<https://www.unhcr.org/desperatejourneys/>

Have students read the article on the dangers that Afghanistan refugees take to Europe and compare the two.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/26/hostile-journey-awaits-afghans-fleeing-taliban-treachery-route-people-smugglers>

Activity: Have students view the documentary *Midnight Traveler* (30 mins) and have students compare the journey of the Afghan refugees to those in other historical periods.

Exit Ticket: Compare how Afghan refugees are treated in Europe in 2015 to Afghan refugees in the United States in 2021?

For more resources on *Midnight Traveler* please use this [link](#)

Lesson Five: What is life like for a refugee in Europe

Student will know what life is like for refugees living in Europe.

Opening: Ask students what they think life is like in Europe for a refugee? Why do we know so little about life for refugees when they make it to Europe.

Activity: Have students research a European Union country and what life is like for a refugee there. Countries to choose from: Germany, Denmark, France, and Italy. Questions to ask:

1. What requirements do refugees have to meet to stay in the country?
2. Is there a pathway to citizenship in the country they reside in?
3. What happens if they miss a required meeting?
4. What happens if they commit a crime?
5. Are Europeans welcoming to refugees?
6. What racial issues do refugees live with?

Links to use for research

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/07/world/europe/denmark-syrian-refugees.html>

<https://borgenproject.org/syrian-refugees-living-conditions-in-germany/>

<https://www.euronews.com/2019/03/22/what-s-it-like-living-in-italy-as-a-migrant>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/02/life-death-and-limbo-in-the-calais-jungle-five-years-after-its-demolition>

<https://borgenproject.org/facts-about-refugees-in-the-netherlands/>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/08/where-afghan-refugees-going-fleeing-afghanistan/>

Exit Ticket: How are refugees treated once they arrive in EU countries? What difficulties do refugees face in EU countries?

Extend the lesson: Have students compare and contrast life for refugees in the United States to those in Europe. This can be demonstrated with a venn diagram or a five sentence paragraph.