

Right Now: Refugee Awareness



Supplemental Enrichment

Created by Iowa Big School Students

Words Matter: Distinguishing Between the Words Refugee and Immigrant

In order to understand the difference between refugees and immigrants, students need to explore what defines an immigrant and what defines a refugee.

PART 1: Introduction to related terminology:

- Ask students to create a [KWL](#) chart on a piece of paper, or if technology permits, create a shared google doc and have students discuss in writing what they believe the following terms mean:
 - UNHCR
 - Migrant
 - Refugee
 - Persecution

PART 2: Share the following video and guide students to take notes as the terms are explained. Pause film as necessary.

[AJ+ Video discussing the difference between Refugees and Immigrants](#)

- After responses are collected, show the video linked above and discuss the discrepancies between the students' answers compared to that of what the video discusses.

Important Terms Defined

UNHCR: UNHCR is a United Nations programme with the mandate to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

Migrant: Someone who chooses to move to improve their lives in some way.

Ex: Moving to find a better job or income elsewhere.

Refugee: Someone who is fleeing arms conflict or persecution and cannot safely return home.

Explain what the word **persecution** means: Poor treatment, and threatening behavior towards individuals or groups because of their race, political, or religious beliefs.

PART 3: Journal/Quick Write

- Have students respond in writing to the following question: What do you think it means and feels like to be a refugee?
- Next, instruct students to share their written responses in pairs and/or small groups.
- Engage in a class discussion to review responses.

PART 4: View the video from the UNHCR: Video Link ["To Be a Refugee"](#) .

Afterwards, have students discuss the ideas/points they will take away from the film and how such ideas aligned or differed from their original responses to the Quick Write.