

## World Refugee Day June 20

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about World Refugee Day and the specific right of the child highlighted by this UN Day; the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (CRC Article 22).

### Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Interdependence
- Social Justice

### Background Information for Teachers

United Nations Refugee Agency (browse by country, top right-hand column)

[unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c2.html](http://unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c2.html)

BC Ministry of Education— *Students from Refugee Backgrounds: A Guide for Teachers and Schools* is available in a PDF downloadable version. Searchable using BC Ministry of Education refugee guide.

### Grades

4 – 8

### Materials

Book entitled *Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary* by Anthony Robinson

Hamzat: Compare and Contrast worksheet (printable copy attached)

Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary worksheet (printable copy attached)

Refugee definition sheet

### Activity

**\*\*Please note: it is important to know the background of the students in your class before you read the story.**

- Introduce June 20<sup>th</sup> as World Refugee Day; a UN Day celebrated around the world. The day has special significance in Canada because we have many newcomers who seek refuge in our nation. In 2008, Citizenship and Immigration Canada recorded that there were over 36,000 refugee claimants; more than 7,500 of the claimants were children younger than 14 years old ([www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)).
- Locate Chechnya on the classroom map. Complete a KWL chart for Chechnya.
- Introduce the story character, Hamzat, a young boy from Chechnya. Ask the students to think about what a refugee is while they listen to the story, and to consider why a refugee might need special protection.
- Read aloud from the book entitled *Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary* by Anthony Robinson. Give the students the Hamzat: Compare and Contrast worksheet and the Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary worksheet to complete.
- As a whole group, complete the KWL chart for Chechnya and share finished work.

### Discussion

Discuss the right of every child to have special protection if he/she is a refugee (CRC Article 22) in relation to the character Hamzat. Ask the students why a refugee might need special protection. (Refugees are vulnerable because their governments can no longer protect their basic human rights.)

The global theme, Images and Perception, is highlighted in this lesson. Now that you have heard the story of Hamzat, has your perception of refugees changed? If so, how?

What can we do to support refugees who are part of our school community? Examples include setting up a welcoming committee, explaining Canadian school procedures, having a buddy system in place.

### Extensions

Watch [youtube.com/watch?v=Sb671EVQOtc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sb671EVQOtc).

Ask the students to develop an action plan to get the word out about the importance of education, especially in refugee camps. Invite a former refugee to the school to share his/her story with the students. Ask the students to write a poem about what it might be like to be a refugee.

### Additional Resources

In UNHRC's "Against All Odds," students follow a young person's flight from oppression in his or 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. *Suitable for older, intermediate students*  
[playagainstallodds.com](http://playagainstallodds.com)

The UN Refugee Agency Teacher Corner

[unrefugees.org/site/c.lflQKSOWFqG/b.4803603/k.9BAB/Teachers\\_Corner\\_\\_Free\\_Lesson\\_Plans\\_and\\_Resources\\_for\\_Teachers.htm](http://unrefugees.org/site/c.lflQKSOWFqG/b.4803603/k.9BAB/Teachers_Corner__Free_Lesson_Plans_and_Resources_for_Teachers.htm)

Citizenship and Immigration Canada Teacher and Youth Page

[cic.gc.ca/english/games/index.asp](http://cic.gc.ca/english/games/index.asp)

Picture book entitled *How I Learned Geography* by Uri Shulevitz

Picture book entitled *Our New Home: Immigrant Children Speak* (Canadian content), edited by Emily Hearn and Marywinn Milne

## Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary Worksheet

Compare and contrast Hamzat's life in Chechnya with his new life in England.

Chechnya	Chechnya/England	England

What I learned about Hamzat:

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## Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary Worksheet

Create a timeline of Hamzat's journey from his diary entries.



Describe three important events in Hamzat's life.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted border, containing ten horizontal lines for writing.