

Refugee Week

What is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events and activities that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK. It aims to help people better understand why others choose to live in another country. Refugee Week usually takes place in June. Anyone can be involved by either organising, attending or taking part in activities.

What does being a refugee mean?

A refugee is someone who has had to leave their own country, sometimes because they are being treated badly or are in fear of being treated badly. This means they are afraid of being hurt, or even killed, because of their religious beliefs, political opinions or because of where they are from. People are often forced to become a refugee due to war, bad leadership in a country or natural disasters.



Did you know?

Refugees often come from very different countries compared to the UK. They speak different languages, have a different culture, foods, traditions, religion, artistic and creative skills, and much more. We can learn a lot from people with different experiences to our own.

When did Refugee Week begin?

Refugee Week began in 1998 because there was a lot of incorrect information about why refugees came to the UK. Many newspapers reported that refugees were here for financial benefits and 'free housing', and there was a lot of negative attitudes towards refugees.

The organisers of Refugee Week say:

"Our ultimate aim is to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution"

Did you know?

Integration means that people from one country can 'fit in' and live comfortably in another country.

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What happens during Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is an exciting time of arts festivals, exhibitions, films, theatre and dance performances, concerts, football tournaments and public talks. It is also important that children are involved, as their opinion matters and they will make decisions about worldwide issues like refugees in the future. Schools are invited to have creative and educational experiences to gain more understanding of refugees in the world.

If you want to know how you can get involved, check out this website:

<http://refugeeweek.org.uk/>



Did you know?

- In 2014, over 300 Refugee Week events took place.
- Over 100,000 people attended an event.
- Over 200 people organised an event, whether it was in a group or as an individual.

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Questions About Refugee Week

1. Explain in your own words what you understand a refugee to be.

2. Why might someone find they need to be a refugee?

3. Explain what '**negative attitudes**' means in the text.

4. What positive things might a refugee bring to the country?

5. What did newspapers tell people about refugees? Why is it that a problem?

6. What surprises you about the facts from the 2014 Refugee Week?

7. What do the organisers of Refugee Week want for refugees?

8. How do you think a refugee might feel when arriving in a new country?

9. Why do children need to learn about refugees?

10. How would you like to get involved in Refugee Week?

Questions About Refugee Week

Answers

1. Explain in your own words what you understand a refugee to be.

Own response - A refugee is a person who has had to leave their own country because they are in fear of their life. They are frightened that they might be killed because of their beliefs, race or religion, or because they are victims of a natural disaster.

2. Why might someone find they need to be a refugee?

Someone might become a refugee because there is a war, leadership of the country is bad or because they are victims of a natural disaster.

3. Explain what 'negative attitudes' means in the text.

Negative attitudes refer to the wrong judgements that people made about refugees. They did not know them or understand them so they may have been unkind.

4. What positive things might a refugee bring to the country?

Refugees might bring new languages, new foods, interesting traditions, skills and talents to the country.

5. What did newspapers tell people about refugees? Why is it that a problem?

The newspapers reported that refugees only came to the UK for the financial benefits and free housing. This made people think badly of refugees and not want to help them.

6. What surprises you about the facts from the 2014 Refugee Week?

Own response

7. What do the organisers of Refugee Week want for refugees?

The organisers of refugee week want refugees to be able to fit in and live in safety.

8. How do you think a refugee might feel when arriving in a new country?

**A refugee might feel frightened, scared, worried, lonely and homesick.
(Multiple answers possible)**

9. Why do children need to learn about refugees?

Children need to learn about refugees because they will grow up to make worldwide decisions about issues like refugees in the future. They also need to learn to respect everybody, whatever their background, and live in harmony with everyone.

10. How would you like to get involved in Refugee Week?

Own response