

# TEACHING TOLERANCE



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MIDDLE & UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

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## AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS

# Refugees

For centuries, in places all over the world, people have been uprooted from the communities they once called home.

Sometimes this displacement is caused by natural disaster. For example: There is little rain for many years. A once-green homeland becomes a desert where next to nothing can survive. There is a famine, and thousands of people are left with nothing to eat.

Sometimes this displacement is caused by war, or genocide. For example: A religious or ethnic majority kills thousands, even millions, of people whose ethnicity or religion is no longer welcome in the region.

The survivors, the millions of people across the globe who no longer have a home or homeland, are called refugees. Many of them live in camps where shelter is basic and food is scarce. Sometimes years pass while they wait until it's safe to return to their country, or until a new home can be found.

Figuring out where these refugees should go and ensuring their safety is an international concern. The United Nations' member countries, including the United States, often work with other organizations and non-member countries to help relocate and assist refugees. Considerations include legal and physical protection, as well as suitable housing and employment opportunities.

Helping refugees acclimate to life in the United States is a big job, one shared by various governmental, community and religious organizations.