

NAME:

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee?
2. What is non-refoulement and why is it such an important right for refugees?
3. What was the original purpose of the Refugee Convention?
4. What countries would refugees have been coming from at the time the Refugee Convention was written?
5. What are the three durable solutions for refugees identified by the UNHCR? Briefly explain each one.



Teacher Guide – Asylum Seekers and Refugees

COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. What is the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee?

Asylum seekers and refugees are both fleeing from their country due to a fear of being persecuted for their race, religion, nationality or political or social reasons. The only difference between the two is that a refugee has had their application assessed, while an asylum seeker is still waiting.

2. What is non-refoulement and why is it such an important right for refugees?

The principle of non-refoulement states that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. It is extremely important, as genuine refugees are fleeing from danger in their home country and they are likely to face even worse consequences if they are forced to return.

3. What was the original purpose of the Refugee Convention?

The convention was initially designed to respond to the needs of European refugees in the aftermath of World War II.

4. What countries would refugees have been coming from at the time the Refugee Convention was written?

The Refugee Convention was written in the aftermath of WWII. Therefore, there would have been large numbers of refugees coming from the European countries at the centre of the war. In particular, there would have been large numbers of refugees coming from countries such as Germany, Italy, Britain and France.

5. What are the three durable solutions for refugees identified by the UNHCR? Briefly explain each one.

The three durable solutions for refugees identified by the UNHCR are voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration. Voluntary repatriation is when the refugee chooses to return to their country of origin when it is safe to do so. Resettlement is when a country accepts refugees recommended by the UNHCR and grants them permanent residence. Local integration is when the refugee is granted asylum in the first country they flee to.