

# Refugee Week

## What is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is a UK programme of arts, cultural and educational events and activities that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK. It aims to help people understand why others have to become refugees. 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 because they are being treated badly or are in fear of being treated badly. Sometimes, people can be afraid of being hurt, or even killed, because of their religious beliefs or because of where they are from. People are often forced to become a refugee because of war, bad leadership in a country or natural disasters.



### Did you know?

A natural disaster is a volcano, flood, drought, terrible storm or widespread illness.

## 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 money and 'free housing', and there were a lot of bad feelings 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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### Did you know?

Refugees often come from very different countries 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.

### 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/>



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# Questions About Refugee Week

1. What is a refugee?

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2. Give one reason why someone might become a refugee.

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3. What does '**forced to become a refugee**' mean?

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4. Name two natural disasters that might cause people to become a refugee.

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5. What could we learn from refugees?

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6. What did newspapers tell people about refugees?

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7. How do the organisers of Refugee Week want refugees to feel in their country?

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

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9. Name two events that might be held during Refugee Week.

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10. Why do you think schools are invited to have educational experiences about refugees?

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# Questions About Refugee Week

## Answers

1. What is a refugee?

**A refugee is someone who has had to leave their own country and live somewhere else.**

2. Give one reason why someone might become 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. What does 'forced to become a refugee' mean?

**Someone who is forced to become a refugee has no choice but to do so.**

4. Name two natural disasters that might cause people to become a refugee.

**Any two of the following: volcano, flood, drought, terrible storm or widespread illness.**

5. What could we learn from refugees?

**We could learn new languages, new food, traditions, new religions or artistic and creative skills.**

6. What did newspapers tell people about refugees?

**They told people that refugees were only here for the money and the free housing.**

7. How do the organisers of Refugee Week want refugees to feel in their country?

**Organisers of Refugee Week want refugees to feel safe and welcome in their new country.**

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. Name two events that might be held during Refugee Week.

**Any two of the following: arts festivals, exhibitions, films, theatre and dance performances, concerts, football tournaments and public talks.**

10. Why do you think schools are invited to have educational experiences about refugees?

**Schools are invited to have educational experiences so that children will understand about refugees and not make judgements about them that are wrong and so that everyone can live happily together and learn new things.**

# 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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9. Why do children need to learn about refugees?

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

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# 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**

# 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 promote a better understanding of why people seek sanctuary. It is usually celebrated around the 20th June each year. Anyone can be involved by 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 because they are being persecuted or are in fear of being persecuted. This means that they are afraid of being killed because of their religious beliefs, political opinions or their race. People are often forced to become a refugee due to war, political oppression 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 and ignorance about refugees. People read in the newspapers that refugees were here for financial benefits and 'free housing', and there was a lot of negative behaviour towards refugees.

Refugee Week organisers state:

**“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”**

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## What happens during Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is an exciting time of arts festivals, exhibitions, film screenings, theatre and dance performances, concerts, football tournaments and public talks. It is 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.

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### Did you know?

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# Questions About Refugee Week

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

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2. Why was Refugee Week started?

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3. Explain what **'sanctuary'** means.

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4. What word tells us that people already living in the UK did not show refugees much understanding?

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

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

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7. How do you think refugees contribute to the UK? Explain your ideas.

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

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9. Why do children need to learn about refugees?

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

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# 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 was Refugee Week started?

**Refugee Week was started because there was a lot of negativity about refugees and people in the UK thought they were just coming here for the financial benefits and housing.**

3. Explain what 'sanctuary' means.

**Sanctuary means a safe place or refuge.**

4. What word tells us that people already living in the UK did not show refugees much understanding?

**The word 'ignorance' tells us that people living in the UK did not show refugees much understanding.**

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

**Own response**

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

**The organisers want to 'create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration'.**

7. How do you think refugees contribute to the UK? Explain your ideas.

**Refugees could introduce people in the UK to different foods, a different language, artistic or design ideas and skills. They can teach us about the traditions in their country and different religious beliefs.**

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

**A refugee might feel frightened, confused, scared, unwelcome or homesick when getting to a different country. Own responses also accepted.**

9. Why do children need to learn about refugees?

**Children need to learn about refugees because they will make decisions about important issues like refugees in the future, when they are grown up. They need to have a good understanding of refugees for everyone to live together in harmony.**

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

**Own response**