

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, September 6 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Obstacles seen to U.S. taking more refugees (Main News, page A13).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Look at the title of this article. What is a refugee? What reasons would a person need to seek refuge in another country? What obstacles do you think the U.S. might face in taking more refugees from other countries?

2. Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.

- A. asylum
- B. baseless
- C. combatant
- D. consensus
- E. consequences
- F. denounced
- G. deport
- H. displaced
- I. formidable
- J. futile
- K. humanitarian
- L. hypocrisy
- M. implored
- N. intervene
- O. moral
- P. refugee

1. the behavior of people who do things that they tell other people not to do : behavior that does not agree with what someone claims to believe or feel
2. a general agreement about something : an idea or opinion that is shared by all the people in a group
3. to force (a person who is not a citizen) to leave a country
4. having no result or effect : pointless or useless
5. to become involved in something (such as a conflict) in order to have an influence on what happens
6. not based on facts : without a good reason
7. a person who works to make other people's lives better
8. someone who has been forced to leave a country because of war or for religious or political reasons

9. something that happens as a result of a particular action or set of conditions
10. to force (people or animals) to leave the area where they live
11. a person, group, or country that fights in a war or battle
12. to ask or beg for (something) in a very serious or emotional way
13. very difficult to deal with
14. concerning or relating to what is right and wrong in human behavior; based on what you think is right and good
15. protection given by a government to someone who has left another country in order to escape being harmed
16. to publicly state that someone or something is bad or wrong : to criticize (someone or something) harshly and publicly

Comprehension

1. Fourteen U.S. Senators wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to what regarding the displaced refugees from Syria?
2. Some critics denounced the 14 U.S. Senators' idea saying it would open U.S. borders to what?
3. Obama administration officials say the criticism of the idea is baseless because of _____ procedures applied to asylum-seekers. **(Fill in the blank)**
4. Name one obstacle mentioned in the article of the United States to intervene more directly in the refugee crisis unfolding in Europe.
5. According to United Nations statistics worldwide some _____ people are said to be forcibly displaced, often by war. **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) 4 million
 - b) 19 million
 - c) 60 million
 - d) None of the above
6. Each year the U.S. grants residency permits to as many as 70,000 refugees from around the world – **true or false?**
7. According to the article, why have only a small fraction of the refugees the U.S. does take in been Syrians?
8. The State Department has said it plans to increase the number of Syrians referred to the U.S. to perhaps 1,800 by next year. Why would this be little more than symbolic value?
9. The small number (1,800) has opened up the U.S. to charges of _____ as it has implored European allies to accept more refugees. **(Fill in the blank)**

Additional Activities

1. Stewart Patrick, a senior fellow and expert on international institutions at the Council of Foreign Relations was quoted in the article as saying: *"That choice*

has certain moral consequences, and those moral consequences include vast suffering of the people in Syria, and now in them striking out, at least in the case of refugees for Europe” Patrick then added that the crisis was **“largely Europe’s responsibility.”** Do you think the U.S. has a moral obligation to help in the current refugee crisis – why or why not? Do you agree with Patrick that the crisis is “largely Europe’s responsibility”? What do you think our obligation is as global citizens? Discuss as a class.

2. What do you think of the 14 U.S. Senators’ letter to President Obama and idea to allow some displaced refugees to resettle in the U.S? Do you think it is enough? What would you urge President Obama to do? Write a letter to President Obama stating how you feel about the refugee crisis and what you think he should do.

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