Mapping One Refugee's Journey

Part I: Reading the Story

Instructions: In this activity, you will gain a better understanding of the complexities of one person's experience by mapping his or her journey. Your teacher will assign one refugee's story to you. Read the story, filling out the graphic organizer below as you read. Because each story is different, you may find that you do not have enough information to answer all of the questions in the second table. If this is the case, write "no information provided" in the space below.

Refugee's Name: ____

Refugee's Journey

| Country of Origin | Route Traveled (list countries, cities, refugee camps, etc.) | Host Country |
|-------------------|---|--------------|
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Refugee's Experiences

| Leaving Home | Travel | Challenges | Current Location |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Why and when did he or she leave? | With whom did he or she travel? | What other challenges did he or she face? | Where and with whom is he or she living? |
| Who was left behind? | What kinds of transportation did he or she use? | How did he or she respond? | What is life like in his or her new location? |

Additional Information

Is there any other information or event from this story that you would like to include on your map?

Part II: Mapping the Journey

Instructions: After filling out your organizer, you will begin mapping one refugee's journey. Use the box labeled "key" to explain which parts of the refugee's story different colors and symbols represent.

First, you should:

- label the country names of the refugee's country of origin, host country, and other countries that he or she describes passing through (if any).
- shade the refugee's country of origin in one color. Fill in your key accordingly.
- shade the refugee's host country in a second color. Fill in your key accordingly.
- draw a line to show the approximate route that the refugee traveled.

Then choose at least two other aspects of the story to visually represent on your map, such as the reasons the refugee left his or her country of origin or a challenge that the refugee faced and how he or she responded. How you represent each of these items on your map is up to you. Be creative!

For example, you may decide to:

- mark significant events with symbols.
- use colored or patterned lines to indicate different forms of transportation.
- shade other countries that the refugee passed through (if any) in a third color.
- use symbols and short written descriptions to address reasons why the refugee left home.
- add a "zoom-in box" to focus in on a particular region or event that you wish to highlight.
- include drawings to explain what he or she has done to adapt to life in each new location.



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