BACKGROUND
Humans have been on the move for 60-70,000 years. That movement, often human called migration, is when large numbers of people leave one place to live in another place. While some people voluntarily migrate from one place to another, many others are forced to migrate. There are many specific reasons why people migrate, including; moving to find work and economic security, for a better quality of life, to escape political persecution or war, to find a more accepting culture for their beliefs, and as a result of natural disasters, among others.

For those who choose to or are forced to migrate due to climate change, war, cultural, or religious persecution, the migration is often dangerous and difficult. Many become refugees. Refugees are people living outside their country of citizenship with no home to go to. The refugees are not always welcome in the places they end up and some are forced to live in refugee camps for long periods of time. In 2018, there are an estimated 25.4 million refugees around the world. According to the U.N. this is the highest number since records started being kept.

This case study focuses on Syria and explores both the civil war and long-term drought occurring in the country. These factors have created a mass exodus from the country, with more than 6 million people becoming refugees who are either fleeing or being driven from their homes. This case study encourages individuals to look at the causes and costs of migration from both a human and natural/environmental perspective.

RESOURCES

Personal Stories
- Welcome to Canada - Mohammed Alsaleh's story - Global Openess Project
- Syrian refugees face uncertain future in Lebanon - DW
- ‘Now we finally feel safe’: Syrian family talk about life in UK two years on from arriving in Birmingham after fleeing war - Independent
- Syrian refugees to Trump: We are not terrorists - Washington Post
- Dreams on Hold because of War - UNHCR
- Voices of Syrian Refugees - AL NAP
- Mustapha’s Journey - TeachUNICEF
  - Mustafa's Life in Germany One Year After Fleeing Syria | UNICEF USA
- Malak’s Journey - TeachUNICEF
- Fortress Europe - Sverige Radio
- The other side of Syria | Lara Khalaf - TEDx
Art & Images

- The Syrian Refugee Art Initiative - Joel Artista
- Artist reimagines world leaders as refugees - CNN
- A Sea Captain’s Quest to Save Thousands of Lives - Medium
- A Syrian refugee’s defiant dance - CNN
- Songs of the Syrian Refugees - Songlines
- Migrant Life in Calais’ Jungle refugee camp - The Guardian
- When I grow up I want to be... - BBC
- The Refugee Crisis Told Through Syrian Artists - The Huffington Post
- Poetry Book - UNHCR

Articles

- Syria’s Civil War Explained - Newsela
- U.S., allies launch military strikes in Syria after chemical weapons attack - Newsela
- Scientists discuss the role of climate change in the Syrian civil war - Carbon Brief
- Seeds of War: Global warming helped trigger Syria’s bloody civil war - Mashable
- The Number of Refugees and Migrants Coming to Europe is Now Dropping. Here’s Why - UN Dispatch
- Why are migrants surging into Europe now? NPR
- Syrian refugee crisis: why has it become so bad? - The Guardian
- * The 12 startups using tech to tackle Europe’s refugee crisis - Wired
- * Ways to Welcome - Amnesty International
- * "Cat man" starts animal health center in Syria’s war zone - Newsela
- * How Syrian refugee chef’s London kitchen is helping Aleppo hospital - Newsela
- Issue Overview: Chemical weapons - Newsela
- * SpongeBob is helping a Syrian woman preserve her culture for her daughter - Newsela

Data and Maps

- Syria profile - 1919-2018 Timeline - BBC
- * Map of #WithRefugees Refugee Support Initiatives Around the World - UNHCR
- The Scale of the Migrant Crisis - NY Times
- Map of the Middle East - Scholastic News
- Refugee Data Visualization - UNHCR
- Where Displaced Syrians Have Resettled - Pew Research Center
- The Genographic Project - National Geographic
- Figures at a Glance - UNHCR 2018
- Tracking Refugees Puts A Vulnerable Population At Risk - BuzzFeed
- 10 Infographics - UNHCR
- The Refugee Project
- Syria Operational Portal - UNHCR

Videos and Audio

- What does it mean to be a refugee? - TEDtalk
- ‘Europe Does Not See Us As Human’; Stranded Refugees Struggle In Greece - NPR
- The European Refugee Crisis and Syria Explained - Kurzgesagt - in a Nutshell
- Tensions between Lebanon and UNHCR over Syrian refugees - Al Jazeera
- “Syrian refugees are the victims, They’re not the perpetrators.” - Euro News
- Syrian migration to Europe, why is it happening now? - BBC

Websites

- Searching for Syria
- Changing Syria’s Single Story - SPACE
- Planet Gallery
- * Syrian Youth Assembly
- Learning About U.S. Immigration - NY Times