

Title: Stories from North Korean Refugees

Lesson plan written by: Elizabeth Blank, social studies teacher, Hastings Middle School, Upper Arlington, Ohio

Introduction: Over the past year the media has focused on the refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East, but little attention has been given to the North Korean refugee crisis. This lesson provides students with an opportunity to understand some of the historical causes for the migration of North Koreans and provides students with a personal account of the challenges refugees face during their escape and what life is like for the refugees.

Subject(s)/Grade Level: social studies, grade 7

Duration of Lesson: one 42 minute lesson

Connection to Standards:

1. The ability to understand individual and group perspectives is essential to analyzing historic and contemporary issues.
2. Historians and archaeologists describe historical events and issues from the perspectives of people living at the time to avoid evaluating the past in terms of today's norms and values.

Guiding Questions/essential questions:

1. What are some of the historical and contemporary causes for the current North Korean refugee crisis?
2. How are the challenges similar and different than some of the other refugee crises around the world?

Learning Objective: Using a personal account from a North Korean refugee, students will be able to understand one individual's perspective of the current refugee crisis.

Materials Needed: computer, Smartboard or alternative viewing screen, North Korean timelines (see link in resource section), Padlet page ready for exit ticket responses

Activity:

1. Small groups will work together to review the definition of a refugee and brainstorm causes for refugee crises throughout history and today.
2. Distribute North Korean timelines, have small groups review the timeline, and ask them if anything stands out that may have caused people to flee the country. Have the students create a list of possible challenges refugees may face in trying to leave North Korea.
3. Have the students keep some of their responses in mind as they view Hyeonseo Lee's story about her life as a North Korean refugee.
https://www.ted.com/talks/hyeonseo_lee_my_escape_from_north_korea?language=en

4. After they view Hyeonseo Lee's story, small groups will meet again to discuss the following questions displayed on the Smartboard:
 - a. What are some of the historical and contemporary causes for the current North Korean refugee crisis?
 - b. What were some of the challenges Hyeonseo Lee and her family faced during their escape?
 - c. What part of Hyeonseo Lee's story stood out to you the most?
 - d. How are the North Korean refugee challenges similar and different to some of the other refugee crises around the world?
5. Bring the group back together to discuss their responses and the predictions they made before viewing her story.
6. Each student will then complete an exit ticket and post their response to a class Padlet page. They will need to respond to the following question posted on our class Padlet page: How has Hyeonseo Lee's story better help you understand the North Korean refugee crisis?

Extending the Lesson:

1. Create contacts with local refugee organizations like CRIS to organize opportunities for students to meet and hear the stories of refugees and immigrants who have been relocated in Columbus.

Sources:

Lee, Hyeonseo. "My Escape from North Korea." *TED*. Web.

"North Korea Profile - Timeline." *BBC News*. N.p., 6 May 2016. Web.

"Padlet Is the Easiest Way to Create and Collaborate in the World." *Padlet*. N.p., n.d. Web.

6. A list of resources (books, periodicals, videos, websites, etc.) you plan to use for each lesson plan.

"The Art Institute of Chicago." *The Art Institute of Chicago*. N.p., n.d. Web.

Duus, Peter. *Modern Japan*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998. Print.

Euronews. "Europe and Asia Joined by Marmaray Tunnel under the Bosphorus Strait." *YouTube*. YouTube, 29 Oct. 2013.

"Globalization." *National Geographic Society*. N.p., 28 Mar. 2011. Web.

Kener, David, and Michael Gonchar. "Scenes in Tableau: Drama Strategies to Use With Any Day's Times (Part 2)." *The Learning Network*. N.p., 7 Aug. 2012. Web.

Lee, Hyeonseo. "My Escape from North Korea." *TED*. Web.

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Powell, Devin. "Japan's Kamikaze Winds, the Stuff of Legend, May Have Been Real." *National Geographic*. N.p., 4 Nov. 2014. Web.

" SILK ROAD Dialogue, Diversity & Development." *Interactive Map of the Cities along the Silk Roads*. N.p., n.d.

" SILK ROAD Dialogue, Diversity & Development." *Movable Heritage and Artifacts alongside the Silk Roads*. N.p., n.d. Web.

Spielvogel, Jackson J., Jay McTighe, Dinah Zike, Doug Fisher, and Nancy Frey. *Discovering Our Past: A History of the World*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2013. Print.