REFUGEE WEEK COMPREHENSION – ONE STAR

**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.

**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/** 

ONE STAR COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a refugee?

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

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

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

5. What could we learn from refugees?

6. What did newspapers tell people about refugees?

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

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

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

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