

Scholengroep Nijmegen

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



FOREIGNERS IN THE NETHERLANDS



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Stranger

When Dutch children hear the word 'stranger' or 'foreigner', they immediately think of the Sinterklaas song from the 19th century:

*Listen, who is knocking on the door, children
Listen, who's softly knocking on the window?*

*Surely, it must be a stranger, who is lost
I will ask him what his name is.*

His name? Sinterklaas, or so the next line of the song goes. Sinterklaas is a very welcome stranger from a distant country.

Unfortunately, when adults hear the word 'stranger' or 'foreigner', they immediately think of problems. When you look up the word 'foreigner' on google, you will read almost immediately:

"Foreigners who are no (longer) allowed to stay in the Netherlands are illegal residents and have to leave the country."

This doesn't make you feel welcome at all!

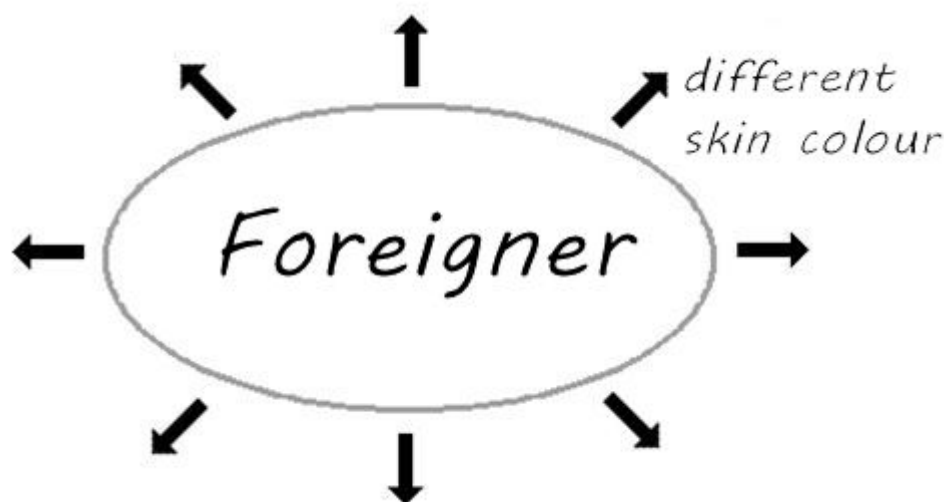
**Surely, he must be
a stranger, who is lost.**



**Ask him what his name is,
quickly!**



1. On the black board we are going to draw a big circle and write the word foreigner in the middle. Which three words are you reminded of when you hear the word 'foreigner'? We will give you one example, but you have to give at least three others yourself.



Types of foreigners

At the moment hundreds of thousands of Dutch people are staying abroad for a longer or shorter time. Sometimes as tourists. But also for work or to study there. In the countries where they are staying at the moment, they are regarded as foreigners. Of course, in our country there are foreigners too..



2. Below you will find several concepts which we use for 'foreigners'. Take a good look at them and fill in the answers in the diagram below:

'FOREIGNERS'	Why have they left their own country?	Why have they come to our country?	Can they stay here?
Asylum seekers			
Immigrant workers			
Illegal residents			
Tourists			
Refugees			



3. A new concept that we have known for several years now is 'the undocumented'. Which concept does this replace?
- asylum seekers
 - immigrant workers
 - illegal residents
 - tourists
 - refugees

Why do we use this new concept nowadays? What would be wrong with the old concept?

Refugees in the world



4. The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) counts each year the number of refugees in the world: 59.5 million refugees.

The block below corresponds with the total of 59.5 million refugees in the world (figures by UNHCR*) (100%)

Indicate the numbers that you think are correct in the boxes below



Below, draw the number of refugees that are fleeing to a different part of the country, but not abroad, according to you (= the displaced):



Below, draw the number of refugees that are fleeing from their country, to a neighbouring country or a country nearby (= the 'real' refugees), according to you.



Below, draw the number of refugees that have made a distant journey to the rich west, according to you: the United States, Canada, Australia or Europe.



And finally, the number of refugees that come to the Netherlands to apply for asylum.



*The UNHCR figures are always announced around World Refugee Day (20 June). Over the past few years the figures have increased time after time!

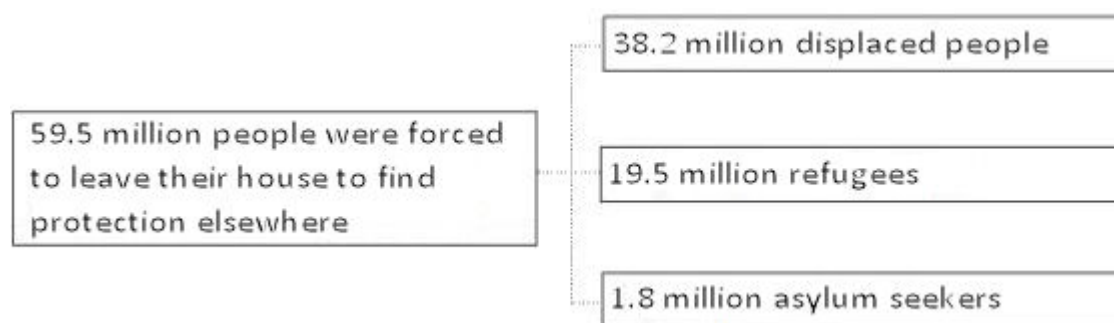
Refugees in figures

Every day 163.000 people were forced to leave their homes, or, when we're making a calculation: every second 113 people had to flee.



'Refugee' is a confusing concept. In daily language use and in the media the concept 'refugee' is used for everybody who feels forced to leave his home and find protection elsewhere. But only someone who flees to another country is called a 'refugee' by the United Nations, the others are 'the displaced', who have to flee their homes, but stay within the borders of their own countries

And to make matters even more confusing, the concepts 'refugees' and 'asylum seekers' mixed up in the media. It's time for some clarity.



The country with the most refugees is Turkey: 1.59 million refugees (most of them from Syria) with a population of more than 75 million inhabitants.

The country with the largest number of refugees per capita is Lebanon. This country has 4.5 million people, of which 1.15 million refugees are from neighbouring country Syria. In Lebanon every 1 in 4 people is a refugee!

Converted Lebanon receives a thousand times as many refugees as the Netherlands!



5. Describe in your own words the difference between 'refugees' and 'asylum seekers'.
6. Imagine you are the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Lebanon. What message would you say against your Dutch colleague?

Why do people flee?

War

Samar (42) lives in the Netherlands. She is originally from Syria.

"It was in the middle of the night when we woke up by an enormous bang. My husband and I jumped out of bed and ran to our daughters. "We are going to die!", they shouted. That night the missiles kept falling around us. That night we decided to flee."



The two countries that most refugees have fled from are Afghanistan (2.56 million) and Syria (2.47 million). By mentioning these two countries we have also struck upon the main reason to flee: war.

The war in Afghanistan has been going on for more than ten years, the war in Syria for more than four years. And now there is also the conflict about the self-proclaimed Islamic State, which is not internationally recognized.

Prosecution

In the Netherlands, the government makes sure that its citizens are protected. Unfortunately there are also countries that do not protect their citizens properly. What is more: there are also citizens that are in danger because of their own governments. If these people run the risk of being arrested, tortured or even murdered, they flee.

There are thousands of people who have left their country, because they fear prosecution because of their race or skin colour, religion, political conviction, ethnicity, or because they belong to a certain population or a certain group. People may also be prosecuted because of their sexual preference.



Criticizing the government is not tolerated in White Russia. A journalist who had written critical words about president Alexandr Loekasjenko was almost arrested, because of 'unfounded fabrications' that affected Loekasjenko's 'honour and dignity'. The journalist had to leave the country immediately.

Natural disasters

People leave or are evacuated because of a natural disaster: an earthquake, a tsunami, a flood, an volcano outburst or a tropical storm.

Some disasters happen more gradually, such as the worldwide rising of the sea level. Lowly situated islands, such as Kirbati and Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean are in danger of disappearing under water in time. If this were to happen, the inhabitants of these islands would have to leave. Others have to leave their homes because, for instance, the soil has become unsuitable for agriculture because of a long period of draught. People who have to flee because of this reason, are called ecological refugees.



This inhabitant of the island group Vanuatu has lost everything, because of cyclone Pam in 2015



7. Give two reasons why many ecological refugees find it easier to stay within the borders of their own country, or go back to their own country, than refugees who flee because of war or prosecution.

The flight suitcase

Imagine, several of your relatives have been arrested at your house. A number of your friends have also disappeared all of a sudden. Nobody has ever heard from them again. Rumour has it that it is your turn now. You decide not to wait for this to happen and leave immediately.



Indicate:

8a. What you would miss most of all if you would have to flee?

8b. You are allowed to take two things in your suitcase: one material item and one immaterial item.

What would be most useful for you?



Stand.nl

Every work day the radio program 'Stand.nl' can be heard at NPO Radio 1. Listeners can call and give their opinion about a statement. Besides, everybody can vote for or against through the internet.

The guest lecturers from Amnesty are the two presenters. Their statement is: 'The outer borders of Europe have to be closed to refugees.'

The rest of the class can be 'called' to give their opinion about the statement. Maximally six 'callers' can give their opinion. They have to indicate whether they are for or against.

After that everybody gets the opportunity to vote for (=green) or against (=red) by holding up a green or a red card. The two presenters will count the votes.



GREEN



RED



Instructions

- 10 minutes Stranger
- 10 minutes Types of foreigners
- 10 minutes Refugees in the world
- 10 minutes Refugees in figures
- 10 minutes Why do people flee
- 10 minutes The flight suitcase OR 15 minutes Stand.nl

Probably there is too much material for a lesson of 70 minutes. If so, make a choice between 'The flight suitcase' and 'Stand.nl'.

Stranger

Association spider: put the spider on the black board and fill in at one of the arrows: 'Different skin colour.' Let the pupils who want to fill in something else come forward. Make sure that you have enough pieces of chalk or white board markers.

Answer to the question:

- 1) Things you can expect and which you can refer to in a hint if pupils cannot think of it themselves:
 - Strange clothing
 - A different language
 - Different habits
 - Different food
 - A different religion
 - Matters like: discrimination, racism, finding something strange

Types of foreigners

Answer to the questions:

- 2) See the scheme on the next page
- 3) c) Illegal residents

People often get negative associations when they hear the words 'illegal residents'. Illegal residents are often regarded as unwanted and unadjusted, and the concepts illegality and criminality are often mixed up. This is why the more friendly concepts 'sans papiers' (=without documents) or 'undocumented' are used more and more often.

Scheme:

'FOREIGNERS'	Why have they left their own country?	Why have they come to our country?	Can they stay?
Asylum seeker	Because they were threatened personally: prosecution or war	Asylum = protection	Yes, if they are recognized. Sometimes only temporarily until the situation improves in their country.
Immigrant worker	Because there was not enough work or only badly paid work in their own country.	They think that they can earn more more here.	Yes, if they have been granted a work permit.
Illegal resident	For various different reasons: fear, poverty, looking for work, etc.	Looking for protection or work. Some become illegal if they cannot stay after an asylum application that has been rejected; other don't lodge an asylum application and become illegal residents right away.	No, if they are arrested, they are sent back immediately.
Tourist	To enjoy their holidays	To have a pleasant holiday	Maximally 6 months. Tourists from some countries can only come if they have a visa.
Refugee	For various reasons: war, prosecution, disasters	To get protection (they then become asylum seekers), to spend time here temporarily (after having been invited by our government) until the situation in their country has improved.	Often temporarily, sometimes they can't (and if they don't want to go back, they become illegal residents)

Refugees in the world

Answer on the question:

4) See 'Refugee diagram' on the nex page.

Worldwide: 59.5 million (2014, no new figures over 2015 yet).



Below, draw the part of the refugees that flees to a different part of the country, but not abroad : 38.2 million



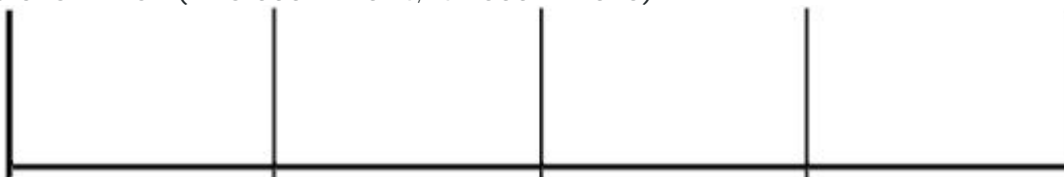
Below, draw the part of the refugees that does flee abroad, to a neighbouring country or a country close to your country (=the 'real' refugees): 19.5 million.



Below, draw the part of the refugee that make a distant journey to the rich western world: the United States, Canada, Australia or Europe: 1.8 million.



And finally, the part of the refugees that will come to the Netherlands, according to you: 0.026 million (=26.000 in 2014; 47.500 in 2015)



Refugees in figures

Answer to the question:

5) A refugee (in daily language) is someone who was forced to leave his house to find protection elsewhere. A refugee (according to the UN) is someone who was forced to leave his country because of war or prosecution and try to find protection elsewhere. A asylum seeker is someone who had to flee his country, go to another country and ask for protection (= asylum) and is allowed to stay in his new country.

6) Dependent on the pupil's opinion.

Why do people flee

Answer to the question:

- 7) A natural disaster only occurs once, a war or prosecution can take years. If the natural disaster is over, the rebuilding process can be started sooner than when there is an ongoing war. Fleeing because of prosecution is also a long-term necessity. Victims of a natural disaster get help of their own government and other countries very quickly. Victims of war or prosecution don't seek help from the government, that made them flee in the first place, and they won't get help from other countries so quickly either, as long as the war or prosecution continues.

The flight suitcase

Answer to the questions:

- 8a) Examples are all kinds of personal things (such as photographs), or persons who you are going to miss (family, friends).
- 8b) Material: practical things, such as money (to be able to pay the human smuggler or the (corrupt) customs officials or water and food to take on your journey).
Immaterial: for instance your memories of people or the house that you are leaving behind.

Stand.nl

The class re-enacts an adjusted broadcast of Stand.nl.

Make sure that there is a green and a red card for everyone.

The statement has been put into words by a member of the House of Commons of the VVD on March 23 2015.

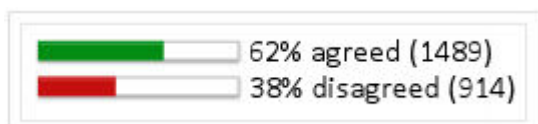
The VVD wants the European Union to carry out one asylum policy, according to which refugees are no longer welcome. Non-Europeans who are fleeing because of war or political prosecution have to be given shelter in their own region.

VVD member of the House of Representatives, Malik Azmani can no longer accept it that boat refugees are drowning in the Mediterranean Sea. Besides, the continually increasing flow of asylum seekers would damage western society.

In the House of Representatives the VVD only seems to be supported by the PVV and refugee organizations are critical too. They say that closing the borders to asylum seekers is impossible. It is against human rights and practically impossible to execute.

Is it indeed inhuman to refuse all asylum seekers from outside of Europe? Or is the VVD proposition indeed the best way to help refugees as well as to limit the coming of new people to Europe?

2403 people reacted.



BACKGROUND

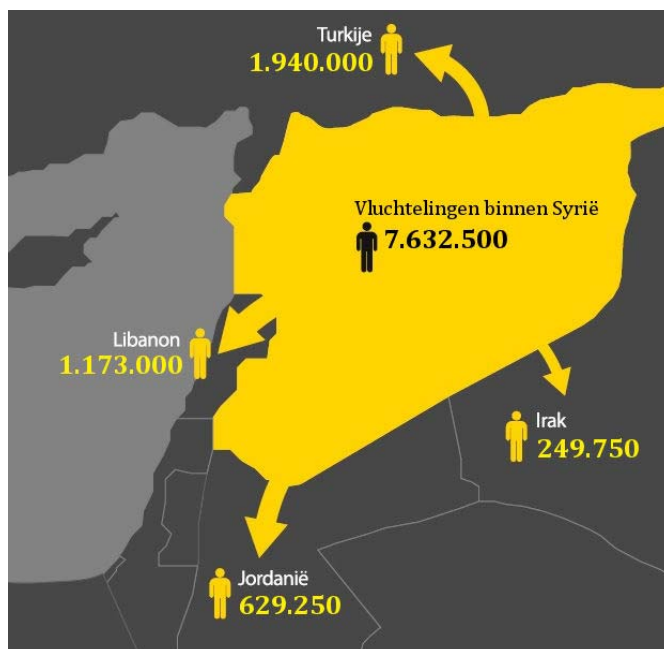
Reception in Europe

Almost half (in the Netherlands) and nearly one-third (in Germany and Sweden) of all refugees who come to Europe are Syrians who have fled the war in their country.

We call not by chance these three countries because they proportionately in Europe absorb most of the refugees:

Europe	Reception of Syrian refugees	Number of Syrian refugees per 1,000 inhabitants
Germany	70,501	0.86
The Netherlands	21,592	1.27
Sweden	25,628	2.63

The figures are from October / November 2015



Syrian war refugees can not be send back to the war. Therefore, European politicians conceived 'shelter in the regions' as a solution.

That's a neat way of saying that the neighbouring countries of Syria must absorb the refugees.

Syria has five neighbouring countries: Iraq, Israel*, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

* Israel and Syria are enemies. They have made war in 1967 and has never signed a peace. Israel also occupied for decades a part of Syria, the Golan Heights. It is logical that refugees can not flee to Israel.

95% of all refugees receive shelter in the region already.

Alternatives

- A) 'Reception in the regions' is (not) a good solution for the current European refugee crisis
- B) The Netherlands can absorb more refugees.