

Home

The British Red Cross works to help refugees and asylum seekers in the UK by providing resources, support with wellbeing and finding family members, legal guidance and advocating for their rights. For more information on how we support refugees look [here](#).

Every year June 15-21 is Refugee Week and this year we are exploring the idea of empathy and “imagine”. Using this creative activity, explore the idea of “home” and reflect on the challenges young refugees face when deciding to leave their home.

Learning objectives

Learners will:

- Reflect on the meaning of “home”
- Explore the feelings of being far from home
- Develop empathy and understanding

Reflection activity: What does “home” mean?

Look at the picture of this vase here. It is called “Home”.



This vase was part of the British Red Cross refugee exhibition in 2017 'All I left behind, all I will discover.' The exhibition showcased a series of art works created by young refugees supported by British Red Cross projects in London and Kent. The exhibition allowed young refugees and asylum seekers from countries like Eritrea, Syria and Sudan, to tell their own stories for Refugee Week. The artworks speak about difficult journeys, missing home and dreams for their new lives. Above all they show how many challenges these young people have coped with.

Look at the images this young refugee decided to use on their vase to describe their home.

What images can you see?

Why do you think they chose these images?

What does "home" mean to them? Is it a house, a country, a group of people?

Visualisation activity: Can you imagine home?

Close your eyes, can you imagine being in this marketplace? What does it sound like? What does it smell like? Is it warm or cold?

Now imagine your own home. What does it look and sound and smell like? Is it really different from the refugee's home? How is it different? How is it the same?

How does imaging "home" make you feel? If you were far away from home, how would you feel?

Do you think this refugee misses his home? Would you miss home too? What parts of home would you miss?

Creative activity: My idea of "home"

Now think about your own ideas of "home". Using the blank template of a vase or drawing your own template, design your own version of this vase. What images and ideas would you use to show your home? Think about what home means to you? How does it look? How does it make you feel?

You can draw a scene of your home country, like the original vase. Or you can focus on your family, the building you live in or something else you see as your "home". You can draw pictures or use colours and shapes to express a feeling. Be as creative as you like.

Secondary extension activities (ages 13-19)

Extension activity: Leaving home behind

How do you think it feels to leave your home behind? Imagine you were a refugee and you suddenly had to leave your home.

How would you feel? What would you miss the most? What could you take with you to remind yourself of home?

Imagine you have 10 minutes to leave home. What objects would you take with you to remind yourself of home? Think about the practicalities. You can't take anything too big or too heavy to carry. You can only take things that can fit in your bag.

Consider the journey you will have to take. Should you take something which is useful? Or expensive? Should you take something that is fragile? Why or why not?

You can create a "grab bag" of objects to take with you. For more about this activity look at the [Pillow case project](#) resource on how to make a grab bag from a pillow case.