



Teaching resources - Our history & heritage

Simple Act #23. Find an object that tells a story about migration

Notes for teachers:

These activities are suggested for young people Key Stage 2+

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session students will:

- have an understanding and increased awareness of issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers
- be able to appreciate the variety of different needs a refugee has in moving to a new country and be able to identify items they personally think would be most useful to them after a sudden evacuation
- consider the significant contributions that refugees, migrants and their descendants have made to the UK, and how they have influenced our history, heritage and culture
- have developed their research, creative writing and presentation skills

These boots are made for walking

Objects can be such powerful metaphors. Take a pair of shoes as an example - they are a symbol of comfort, movement and achievement but they can also tell a story of human cruelty and loss. Recall a picture of shoe-mountains in Nazi concentration camps.

Learning Activity 01:

Look out for seemingly insignificant objects like shoes and you might find the story of exile, refugee journeys or new beginning you would like to tell us about. Can you think of an object at home which you would choose to take with you on a journey? If you could only choose one object what would it be? A cuddly toy to keep you comfy? A treasured book? A photo album or a picture of a loved one?



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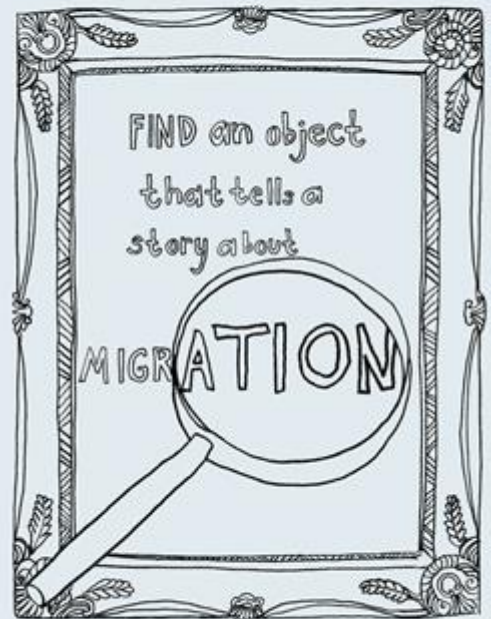
Shelter from wind and rain

Blankets, quilts, cushions but also fashion items and traditional clothes can help you tell colourful stories about exile or migration. They can each symbolize a journey, or tell stories of hardship and perseverance.

Learning Activity 02:

Choose an object from home that reminds you of your family and share it with your class. Do a little research on where your object is from, where it might have been made and how it might have been made. Think about the materials used to create it, what it is used for and the state in which it was found. Can your parents, carers or guardians tell you about its history? You can build up a brilliant picture of its story and its journey to your home.

Why not draw your object and make your own museum collection in the classroom.



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On the move

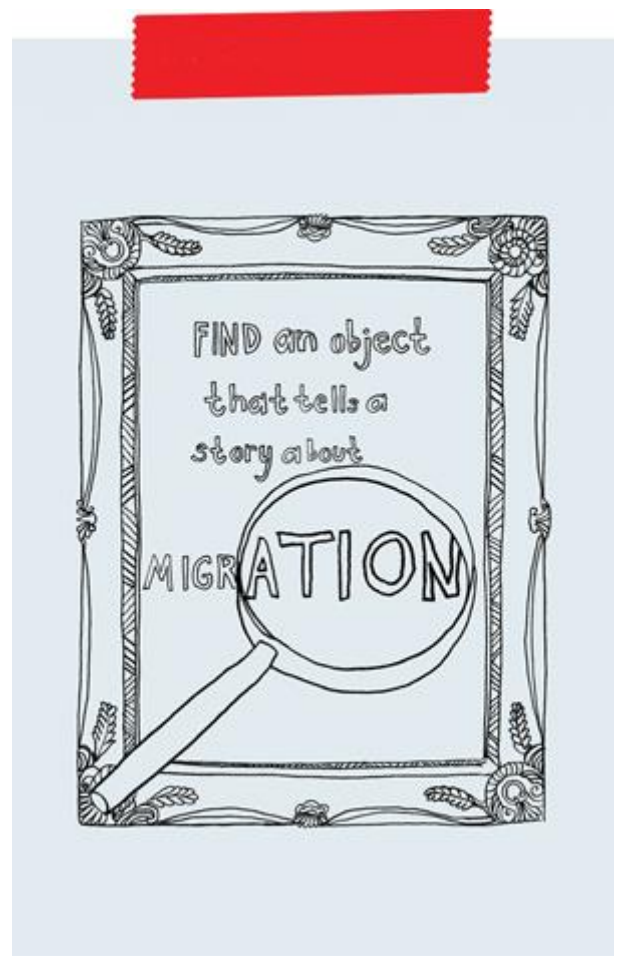
Bicycles, aeroplanes, trains, buses or skateboards tell their stories about movement, getting away, arriving, making an impact, technical development and joining in.

Learning Activity 04:

Can you think of a journey you have made with family or friends? Map out a journey, choose your modes of travel and go on an adventure! What objects do you find along the way and what do you take with you? A travel bag and compass? A worn pound coin and an odd pair of socks? Find out about these objects and tell their journey; their story of exile and migration.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

Special skills like silk weaving, mosaic laying, carpentry, masonry and leather manufacturing were brought to the UK by people who settled from abroad to escape war and persecution. The Huguenots were the first big wave of refugees that fled a horrendous religious cleansing undertaken by Louis XIV of France. They brought with them weaving, engraving, tailoring and cloth dying skills, which have helped Britain develop a vibrant design and textiles industry. They also built some beautiful buildings. Canterbury, for example, attracts thousands of visitors each day who admire its beautiful Huguenot architecture.



Learning Activity 05:

Find an object of craft that tells a story about contribution or achievement, dedication and skill that has changed Britain for good. Are you wearing a knitted school jumper or carrying a pencil case full of coloured pens and pencils? Discover their history and what their origins might be. Who can lay claim to these inventions?



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These learning resources are developed in partnership with the brilliant **Simple Acts**.

You have now completed a Simple Act by completing these learning activities! Please get in touch and tell us all about it [HERE](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/done-an-action.htm) (<http://www.simpleacts.org.uk/done-an-action.htm>).

There are more ideas on the Simple Acts website, including incorporating these activities with a trip to your local museum! Visit the Simple Acts website [HERE](http://www.simpleacts.org.uk) or go to: www.simpleacts.org.uk

Refugee Week has also created a new online interactive time-line to help to share often surprising facts about the contributions of refugees throughout our history. We are also inviting you to add your insights and personal experiences about our local or national history and heritage. Read more at: www.refugeeweektimeline.org.uk

We hope that you will join us on our quest to learn more about our history & heritage – we promise it will be an exciting and gripping journey!