AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
Refugees: The Vietnamese Boat People

Instructions
You will have one lesson (in the Language Laboratory) and one homework period to learn more about the story of the Vietnamese Boat People. The activities outline below will guide you as you navigate through the CBC Archives entitled “Boat People: A Refugee Crisis.”

Go to the CBC Archives website outlined below.
http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-69-524/life_society/boat_people/

Click on each clip in turn (follow the order from 1-10). Listen to (CBC Radio) or view (CBC Television) the clip and skim read through “The Story” and “Did You Know?” sections on each page. Compile brief answers to the activities.

Activities

Why they fled: the fall of Saigon
1. Who comprised the first wave of Vietnamese Boat People?
2. Why did they flee by boat?

Re-education camps or death camps?
3. How did the new Vietnamese government decide to re-educate former American allies, government workers, intellectuals and merchants from the former South Vietnam?
4. Who comprised the second wave of Vietnamese Boat People in 1978 and why?

Pirates and sinking ships: One refugee’s story
5. List some of the perils the Vietnamese Boat People faced.
6. What did the Boat People suffer at the hands of Thai pirates?
7. Why did South Asian countries refuse to accept the refugees?
8. In particular how did Malaysia treat the Boat People?

Refuge for the unwanted
9. What happened to the Boat People who survived the arduous journey across the South China Sea?
10. Compare the conditions in the refugee camps in Hong Kong and Thailand.

The one-man board of immigration
11. Under what criteria were certain Boat People automatically accepted for immigration to Canada?
12. Outline briefly the refugee policy contained in the new Canadian Immigration Act of 1978.
Sponsoring refugees: Canadians reach out
13. What did private sponsorship of the Boat People refugees entail?
14. What did the Canadian government agree to do in July 1979?
15. List some of the Canadian groups who sponsored Boat People refugees. Why did they feel compelled to sponsor the Boat People?

Welcome to Canada
17. What was the cost to the Canadian Government? What was the cost to the refugee sponsored by the Canadian government?
18. Identify other challenges that the Boar People refugees faced upon landing in Canada.

…but some say “go home”
19. List some of the concerns expressed by some Canadians. How would you categorize such responses?

They take the jobs Canadians don’t want
20. Describe the options for the Boat People concerning employment in Canada.
21. What were wages like for the Vietnamese Boat People in Canada?
22. What did some Canadians claim happened to their jobs?

Adjusting to Canada – from ABCS to - 40 degrees
23. List some of the adjustments the Boat People had to face in Canada?
24. What major psychological obstacles did the Boat People have to overcome?
25. List some of the other obstacles that the Boat People had to face in Canada.
26. What were some of the social consequences that Vietnamese Boat People refugees suffered?