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Title: The Lost Boys of Sudan: A Case Study of Culture, Migration and the Refugee Experience

Subject: Geography / AP Human Geography

Grade Level: High School (9-12)

Lesson Overview

In this unit, students read and respond to the non-fiction memoir *They Poured Fire On Us From the Sky* and the film *God Grew Tired Of Us*, both focused on the experiences of the Lost Boys of Sudan. As an extension activity, students meet with one of the book's authors or a former Lost Boy to discuss their experiences and turn awareness into action by participating in fundraising efforts for H2O For Life - Water For Sudan.

Objectives

1. To identify cultural similarities and differences.
2. To understand how political, economic and cultural conflict can influence the division and control of Earth's surface.
3. To describe push and pull factors that create population movements.
4. To gain insight into challenges faced by refugees and international migrants.
5. To strengthen reading, writing, speaking and technology skills.
6. To turn awareness into positive action by encouraging student participation in H2O For Life - Water For Sudan activities.

Correlations to National Geography Standards (1994)

Standard 1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools and technologies to acquire, process and report information.

Standard 3: How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places and environments on Earth's surface.

Standard 4: The physical and human characteristics of places.

Standard 6: How culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.

Standard 9: The characteristics, distribution and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Standard 10: The characteristics, distributions and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.

Standard 13: How forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.

Standard 17: How to apply geography to interpret the past.

Standard 18: To apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Correlations to Minnesota Academic Standards in Social Studies and History (2004)

Essential Skills: The student will use maps, globes, geographic information systems, and other databases to answer geographic questions at a variety of scales from local to global.

Spatial Organization: The student will understand the regional distribution of the human population at local to global scales and its patterns of change.

Spatial Organization: The student will describe and provide examples of the primary factors behind the regional pattern of culture groups in the U.S. and the world.

Spatial Organization: The student will explain how the regionalization of space into political units affects human behavior.

Materials Needed

They Poured Fire On Us From the Sky books, *God Grew Tired of Us* DVD, Internet access

Procedure

See <http://fromsudantostillwater.wikispaces.com/Curriculum>

Part 1: Intro, Background on 2nd Sudanese Civil War, Vocabulary Overview Guide, Character Web

Part 2: Dinka Cultural Traits Chart

Part 3: They Poured Fire On Us From The Sky Response Questions

Part 4: Challenges Matrix

Part 5: Refugee Camps Characteristics List and Compare/Contrast

Part 6: God Grew Tired Of Us Response

Part 7: Small Group Discussion Questions

Part 8: Culminating Activities - Challenges and Motivations Tagxedo/Wordle, Magnet Summary Blog Entry

Part 9: Bonus Activities

Assessment

Informal: Response Activities, Small Group Discussion

Formal: Challenges and Motivations Tagxedo/Wordle, Magnet Summary Blog Entry

Extension

Author Visit. For information, see <http://theypouredfire.com>.

H2O For Life. H2O for Life partners schools, youth groups, businesses, faith organizations, clubs and individuals with schools in developing nations in need of water, sanitation and hygiene education. (WASH in Schools). See <http://www.h2oforliveschools.org>

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