

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- 1. Read a discussion prompt on a card**
- 2. Find out who in the group has experienced this, and in what way**
- 3. Read the related refugee fact**

FURTHEST DISTANCE WALKED IN ONE DAY, ONE WEEK OR ONE MONTH

**A Syrian refugee's journey to Serbia
would be 1,400 miles. It would take 452 hours,
8 hours a day, for 50 days on foot.**

LONGEST STAY IN A COUNTRY THAT'S NOT HOME

**The World Bank estimates that the average time
spent living in a refugee camp is 17 years.**

MOST UNUSUAL BIRTH STORY (YOU, A SIBLING, A CHILD, A FRIEND...)

**Za'atari, a refugee camp in Jordan, has 85,000 residents.
The UNHCR estimates that that between 50 and 80 children
are born in the camp every day.**

THE SCARIEST JOURNEY TAKEN

**Over 9,000 refugees have died attempting to cross
the Mediterranean sea in the last three years.**



LAMENT FOR SYRIA

by Amineh Abou Kerech, 13 years old

Can anyone teach me
how to make a homeland?
Heartfelt thanks if you can,
heartiest thanks,
from the house-sparrows,
the apple-trees of Syria,
and yours very sincerely.



**To keep you going brother.
All our favourite songs.**

Spotify Code: <https://spoti.fi/2udp6RX>



NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SYRIA?



Photo: Syria Relief/ Save the Children

A WAR HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SYRIA FOR OVER SEVEN YEARS.

More than 465,000 Syrians have been killed in the fighting. More than 12 million - half the country's population - have been forced to flee their homes.

But how did the trouble start and what has happened since it began?

WHAT CAUSED THE UPRISING?

In 2011, successful uprisings - that became known as the Arab Spring - toppled Tunisia's and Egypt's presidents. This gave hope to Syrian pro-democracy activists who resented the Syrian government.

In March 2011, peaceful protests took place after 15 boys were detained and tortured for writing graffiti in support of the Arab Spring. One of the boys, a 13-year-old, was killed after having been tortured.

The Syrian government, led by President Bashar al-Assad, responded to the protests by killing hundreds of demonstrators and imprisoning many more.

Thousands of soldiers in Assad's army defected, creating their own Free Syrian Army. They aimed to overthrow the government, and Syria began to slide into civil war.

WHY IS IT STILL GOING ON?

Peace negotiations have been held to bring about a ceasefire. But the main sticking point has been what happens to Assad.

To complicate matters, since the conflict began, many new rebel groups have joined the fighting - and have frequently fought one another.

ISIS emerged in northern and eastern Syria in 2013 after gaining control of large parts of

Iraq. The group quickly gained international notoriety for its brutal executions and its ability to recruit fighters from around the world.

FORCED TO FLEE

The fighting in Syria has now gone on longer than World War II. The violence is causing profound effects beyond the country's borders, with many Syrians forced to flee their homes to seek safety elsewhere in Syria or beyond.

As of February 2018, over 5.5 million people had fled Syria.

Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan are hosting most of the Syrian refugees, many of whom attempt to journey onwards to Europe in search of a better life.