

Refugee education

Around half of the world's refugees are children under 18 years of age. They often miss school for long periods, in some cases years, which puts them at risk of missing out on education. This can affect them for the rest of their lives.

Very few refugee children go to secondary school. Around 6 in 10 go to primary, but just 1 in 5 go to secondary school, and only 3% will go to a university or other higher education institution later in life.

Ask your pupils to imagine they have to flee their country because of war or persecution.

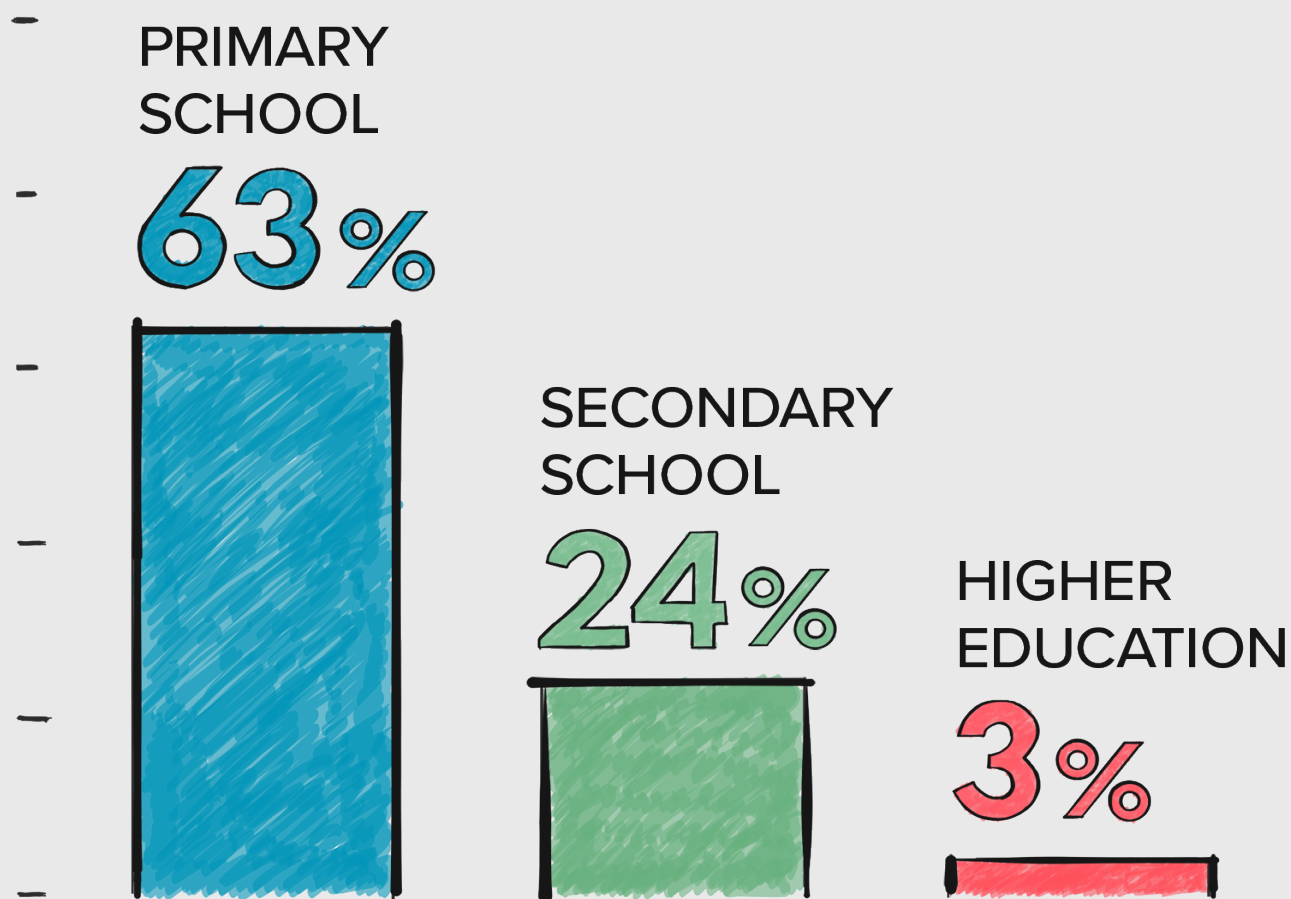
Which country would they go to? Have them write down a country. (cf. Australia, Belgium, France, Turkey, ...).

Have them look up on the internet if they can apply to go to school in that country. Can they find information in a language they understand? Can they find out which subjects they can study (cf. languages, science, engineering, arts, ...).

If they cannot find out where to go to school, what would they do? Would they look for work? Would they try and do other activities?

As an extra exercise, watch [Syrian refugee Omar's story](#). Find out what he did when he could not go to school when his family fled to Jordan at the 2:00 minute mark.

THE STEEP DECLINE OF REFUGEE ENROLMENT



SOURCE: UNESCO (2017), UNHCR (2018)

Source: UNHCR report 'Stepping Up: Refugee Education in Crisis', 2019

Find more facts and figures on refugee children on www.unhcr.org/teaching-about-refugees.html#facts