



KINDERTRANSPORT

rescuing children

on the brink of war

What Is a Refugee?

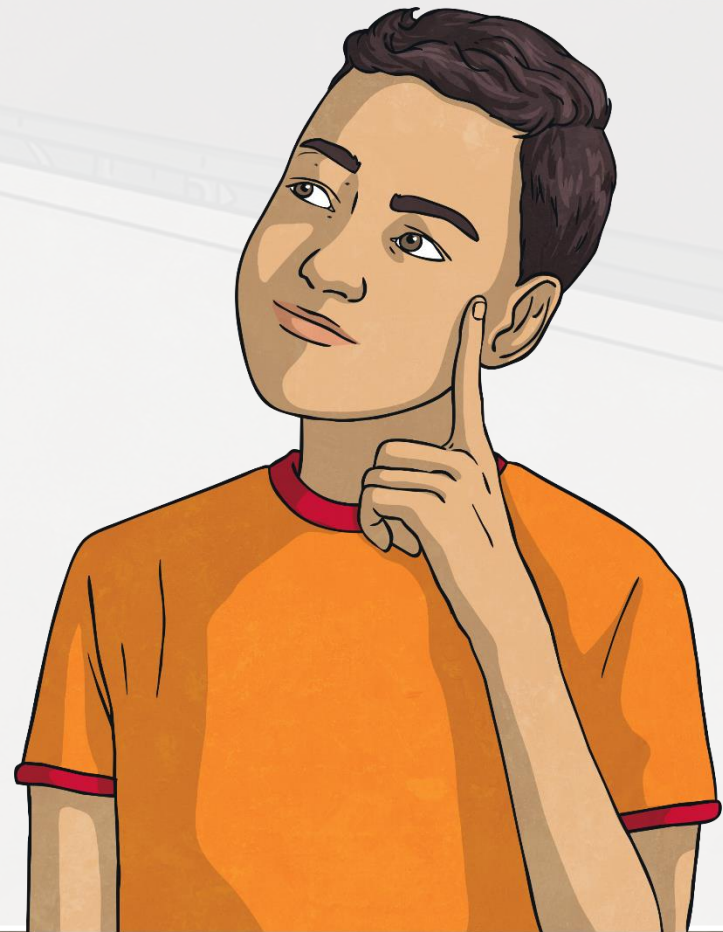
A refugee is someone who has had to escape their country due to war, persecution or a natural disaster.

There are many refugees today.

What would you do if you had to leave your country because you were in danger?

Where would you go?

What would you take with you?



Jews in Nazi Germany

When Adolf Hitler became the leader of Nazi Germany in 1933, one of the first things he did was to **persecute** Jewish people.

He did this by changing the laws in Germany so that they treated Jews badly.

By 1935, Jews weren't allowed to marry non-Jews, have certain jobs or even have a German passport. They were told they were no longer German, but Jewish.

In November 1938, violence across Germany broke out against Jews.



Persecute means to target a group of people and treat them cruelly. For example, changing laws to punish them or imprisoning them.

Kristallnacht

On 9th November 1938, a Nazi officer was killed in Paris by a young French Jewish boy. In revenge for this, the Nazis ordered violence against all Jews across Germany.

That night, 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and taken to prison camps. 91 Jews were killed and 267 synagogues were burned down.



Kristallnacht

Kristallnacht frightened many Jewish people into planning an escape out of Germany.

Many couldn't afford to move, so they decided to try and get their children out of Germany.



Jewish people were forced to wear a yellow star of David on their clothes.
Why do you think the Nazis made Jews do this?

The Kindertransport

In 1938, the British government made it easier for groups of people to move to Britain.

Charities decided this would be a quick way to get Jewish children out of Nazi Germany as refugees.

This rescue mission was called the Kindertransport.

Until the start of the Second World War, 10,000 Jewish children were given refuge and safety in Great Britain.

The children had to be very brave travelling on the Kindertransport to a different country without any of their family. They didn't know when they could go back home again.



Polish Jews arrive in London, in February 1939.
What would you have taken with you on the Kindertransport?

The Journey

The first trains left Berlin, Germany, on 1st December 1938. More trains left Austria.

When Czechoslovakia was invaded by Nazi Germany in March 1939, Kindertransports left Prague quickly full of Jewish children.

Jewish children also escaped from Poland in March and August 1939, just before the Nazi invasion.



The Kindertransport journey was taken by train and boat. It was an exhausting journey. How do you think these children would have felt?

Who Could Go on the Kindertransport?

It was difficult for Jews to leave Germany. Most countries wouldn't accept large numbers of refugees because they didn't want to have to pay for them.

Charities on the Kindertransport had to prove that the children wouldn't be a burden on the British public.

In November 1938, an appeal was broadcast on the radio asking for foster homes for the refugee children. The people who fostered did not have to be Jewish.



Over 500 families volunteered to have some of the children.

Settling in Britain

The Jewish children, who arrived through the Kindertransport into Britain, came with only a few possessions. They spoke little or no English and most had never left their home countries before.

Most children were placed in British homes but some spent the war years in hostels or on farms in larger groups.

When the war started and the Holocaust began, there was no contact between the children and their families.



The Holocaust was the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War.

After the War

Once the Second World War was over in 1945, the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed to the world.

There were few Jewish families left in Europe who had survived the killings.

Most of the Kindertransport children had lost their whole families, but they had survived.

Many remained in Britain after the war and had families of their own.



Every child of the Kindertransport was special and many became very prominent artists and professionals. Four of the Kindertransport children even became Nobel Peace Prize winners!



TASK:

- 1) Add this further information to your Holocaust Factfile.
- 2) Complete the reading comprehension entitled 'Mlislle-refugee-settlement-farm'