

Murder Mystery

Objectives:

- To encourage empathy towards refugees and asylum seekers from Africa.
- To explore why there are refugees and asylum seekers from Africa.
- To explore the impact of the migration of skilled workers from African countries.

You will need:

- Eleven large envelopes, one for each 'station' – put the corresponding statements in the envelopes together with any images (without the captions)
- A copy of the Information Record Sheet for each group.

Time required:

- 60 minutes

Instructions:

- Prepare the envelopes and distribute them around the classroom.
- Write the headline: **UNKNOWN MAN FOUND DEAD NEAR HOSTEL** on the board reporting the murder of an unknown individual/ foreigner/ migrant.
- Tell the students they have the task of finding out as much as they can about the murdered man.
- Put the students into six or seven groups and give each group an Information Record sheet.
- They will have approximately 20 minutes to visit eleven 'stations' around the classroom where information will be found in envelopes.
- Each group is told which station is their starting point but after that it is important that a group decides together where to go next.
- Any photos they find may give clues. They should be collected up at the end of the activity and displayed on the board.
- They can read as much (or as little) of the information as they want before returning the information to the envelope for the next group and moving on.
- They should be encouraged to work quickly to see which group can find out the most in the allotted time. NB They will not find out everything. They may decide only to read part of the information in an envelope before moving on. But in the class discussion missing information will be shared.
- **After the students have found out as much as they could about the murdered man**, the information on their sheets about his life can be shared and suggestions made as to the identity of the people on the photos.



Discussion:

Debrief the activity bringing out the following points during the discussion of the responses on the Information Record Sheet.

- Where did he come from?
 - explore some well established myths around migration. The following links seek to challenge the myths surrounding refugees and asylum seekers by focusing on the facts:
<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/downloads/news/PostElectionguideonlineversionE.pdf>
<http://www.refugee-action.org/information/challengingthemyths.aspx>
 - understand some of reasons behind migration
 - understand the impact of migration on Africa
- Why did he come here?
 - explore differences in development within and between countries
 - understand reasons behind migration
- Why did he leave his country?
 - understand differences in quality of life among different groups of people
- What problems did he face in his new country?
 - explore the value of good relationships and respecting differences between people.
 - explore bigotry and prejudice
- What work was he doing and why?
 - Understand why developed countries need migrants
 - Understand the consequences for countries if skilled workers feel forced to leave.

The story of Keshor Chisanga

The students will be discovering this information in a variety of ways and **it is important that they know nothing to begin with.**

Keshor Chisanga worked as a paediatrician in a hospital in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, and was well respected by his peers and the patients. He came from a poor background. His mother had picked coffee as well as bringing up 6 children. He had done well at school and when his youngest baby sister died after contracting gastro enteritis he decided to become a doctor. He was married with three daughters and a son back home.

For some time he had felt frustrated because he was not being promoted. Several times he applied for senior positions and each time was not even granted an interview. He suspected that this was because as a young doctor he had belonged to an anti government group protesting about conditions in hospitals in rural Zimbabwe. Once, when he was on a demonstration a police bullet had caught the back of his leg. He'd felt lucky to have such a minor injury – one of his friends had been killed. He received some very threatening letters through the post warning him that if he did not actively support the government his family might "find themselves in difficulties".

He decided to leave Zimbabwe and prepare a new life for his family in England. He had read a great deal about England and believed it to be a free and fair country where people could get a good education and live peacefully. But in England he could not find employment as a doctor. He was passionate about his career and this made him very unhappy. He took work wherever he could. Once he worked in a car-wash and once in a supermarket. He thought it was easier for his workmates to accept him if he gave himself an English name – Joseph.

He believed that one day things would improve. Once the government gave him refugee status things would definitely get better. But he didn't realise it would take so long. There were many things that he didn't tell his family back home when he rang them or e-mailed them – like the time he was fingerprinted. The man from the home office said it was just a formality but it made him feel like a criminal. He didn't tell them about the hostel he had been living in for 2 years either. This was one time he had felt most depressed – there was no privacy, something he desperately needed while he was missing his family so much. The hostel was almost as bad. He wanted a decent house so that he could bring his family over. He missed them all so much.

He was beginning to hate the hostel – there were some people hanging around lately who shouted racist comments whenever he or his friends came out. When he talked to his family he tried to sound cheerful, even when he was exhausted after a 12 hour shift at work – or had been walking the streets for hours while his room mate in the hostel slept after working a night shift.

But recently getting through to his family was becoming very difficult. He tried to e-mail at least twice a week or phone. Either there was no answer or the phone would be cut off in the middle of a conversation. He knew that things were getting increasingly difficult for his family; there were widespread food shortages in many areas. And, he was aware that they were in danger of being victimised by the authorities. (In Zimbabwe his family were being carefully watched by the police and all phone conversations listened to).

Information Record Sheet

Try to find out as much as you can about the murdered man. When you have visited a 'station' decide quickly and carefully which 'station' to go to next. You have about 20 minutes.

Where did he come from?

Why did he leave his country?

Why did he choose to come here?

What problems did he face in his new country?

What work was he doing and why?

What else have you found out?

Hostel

Cleaner 1	<p>He was tall with nice brown eyes and a big smile. He had black hair going a bit grey at the temples. He kept it neat and trim. He was slim for his height.</p> <p>He liked casual clothes but he thought he was a bit old for jeans. Of course I told him that was daft – even grannies wear them nowadays.</p>
Friend 1	<p>When it was our turn to use the kitchen he would make the most delicious suppers. He said he was looking forward to his wife's cooking; she was the real expert. One thing was really weird though..... that scar on the back of his leg – he wouldn't tell me anything about it.</p>
Friend 2	<p>I once heard him play a guitar - he was pretty good – he borrowed it from that friend of his – the café owner. You want to know about the day he was killed – I don't know much - he went out to e-mail his family that day and he seemed very agitated about something.</p>

The Happy Wanderer

Acquaintance 1	<p>He took care of his appearance. Said it was important to look your best; didn't want anyone to think that people from his country didn't know how to dress properly.</p> <p>Did he ever get angry – no! I never saw him angry but he was really upset about the fingerprinting – he said it made him feel like a criminal.</p>
Publican	<p>He bought a paper about twice a week - he loved reading the news. When I had time we would chat about things happening all over the world. He was really interested in African countries.</p>
Acquaintance 2	<p>He had great respect for this country. He believed England to be a free and fair country where people could get a good education and live peacefully. Not like in his own country.</p>

The Travellers Return

Acquaintance	<p>I think the government over there doesn't like it when you disagree. That's what he said.</p>
Barmaid	<p>We all called him Joseph – didn't know it wasn't his proper name. He often spoke about his family – said it wouldn't be long before they could join him over here.</p> <p>Recently getting through to his family at the internet café was becoming very difficult. Either there were no replies or the phone would be cut off in the middle of a conversation.</p> <p>Look – I've got a book he left here one day – I wanted to give it back to him – there's an email address on it.</p>

Detention Centre

Chief warden	He stayed here for 9 months while he applied for refugee status. Then he moved to the hostel in Leeds. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work until they get refugee status. I'm afraid this takes a long time – the rules are very strict.
Official	I remember him talking about Zimbabwe and his family. He was doing this for them – he said. He showed me this picture of his mother in her village. He did get fingerprinted once – it's just a formality.

Home Office

Official	We were finding out about his professional background – he was a very well respected children's doctor in Harare in Zimbabwe. But he had good reasons for being an asylum seeker. Ask his family. Here's the email address of his eldest daughter. We now know that his family were being carefully monitored by the secret police over there. Their phone calls were being tapped.
Minister	I know he was desperate to practice medicine; but these things take time. He told us that as a young doctor he had belonged to an anti government group and protested about conditions in rural hospitals.

Café El Refugiado

Waitress	He came in every Wednesday for Fish and Chips – said it made him feel really English – English people liked these he said –and so do I!. He came in the other week and showed me a blue dress he'd bought for his wife at the Oxfam shop. He was delighted – blue was her favourite colour and he couldn't wait to give it to her. He was really glad he'd managed to get a job at the supermarket. But he was really upset about those kids – said he never expected something like this in such a fine country like England. I was worried about him lately – he seemed very depressed. He showed me this picture of his daughters.
Café Owner	He told us about his garden back home where his wife was trying to grow roses. I think he really missed her. And I know he lived in a hostel near by. It's just around the corner. He said he shared a room with two friends.
Friend	I know he was worried about his family; especially his eldest son who was getting into trouble with the police – just like he did when he was young.

Car Wash

Migrant worker	He used to do something really important – doctor or something. I know he went to a local pub sometimes.
Manager	Don't know whether he was legal or not – I don't ask questions. He only stayed a couple of months.
Worker	The moneys rubbish – you have to be pretty desperate to work here. Not many English people look for work here.

Supermarket

Manager	He worked here for a few months. Always on time and a good worker. Said it was better than the last place he worked at. I don't know what we'd do without the foreign workers. There would be none of this cheap food on the supermarket shelves.
Co-worker 1	Lately he was different – not so happy. Something was bothering him. He mentioned that he was worried in case his family back home didn't have enough to eat. Probably that gang outside the hostel – but he said they were just kids and they didn't know what they were doing. Oh, and I know that he loved music – he often looked at the CDs we sell here; he bought a couple for his son. Once he bought a packet of chocolate buttons – said he was going to buy these for his little girl when she came over.
Co-worker 2	He once told me he was a doctor at home – he was desperate to work as a doctor here. I know he wanted to get out of the hostel. There were some people hanging around there lately shouting racist comments when he and his friends came out. I think they came from an anti-immigration group. Maybe the police know more about it. They have a unit especially for these cases.

Police Hate Crimes

Inspector 1	We were told about the racist incidents outside the hostel and were in the middle of investigations. I remember Joseph saying they were just kids. He was upset about it – said he never expected something like this in such a fine country as England.
Police officer	The victim was: An African male; weight around 95kgs; age around 45; distinguishing marks: scar on back of shin.
Police statement 1	This individual may have been an illegal immigrant; he may have been involved in terrorism; as you know the government insists we must be constantly alert. We are making every effort to find out who this individual is and who murdered him. We believe we have a witness and are waiting for him to come forward.
Victims brother	I have come here from Zimbabwe to identify his body. Our mother and his family are devastated by this news. He called himself Joseph. He thought it would be easier for people here to remember.

Anti-immigration Action Group

Member 1	All we want is for the government to be really tough on immigrants. They are flooding in from all over the place. Taking our jobs and our houses. They even get free TVs!
Member 2	He only came here to take our jobs – he was perfectly OK at home. He’s only got himself to blame.
Member 3	Don’t go blaming my lad – he wouldn’t hurt a fly. From what I hear that man shouted at my boy outside that place they all live.

Internet Café

Wife (Zimbabwe)	Joseph? Who’s Joseph? My husband is called Keshor Chisanga – that’s his family name. About 5 years ago we got threatening letters demanding he publicly supports the government. It frightened all of us. He decided to make a new start for us all in the UK. But he seemed to be becoming increasingly depressed. He was trying so hard to get us over there. He knew we were being targeted by the authorities here and the Home office in your country didn’t really listen.
Eldest Daughter (Zimbabwe)	Our grandmother told us that he decided to become a doctor after his little sister died of gastro enteritis. He was the eldest of six children. Our grandmother raised her children and earned money from harvesting coffee beans. She was so proud of Keshor. He was shot by the police while on a demonstration against the government. He was lucky – his friend was killed. He couldn’t get promotion here. He was such a good doctor. He became increasingly frustrated about this.

Photo Clues



Photo clue: Keshor's first place of work

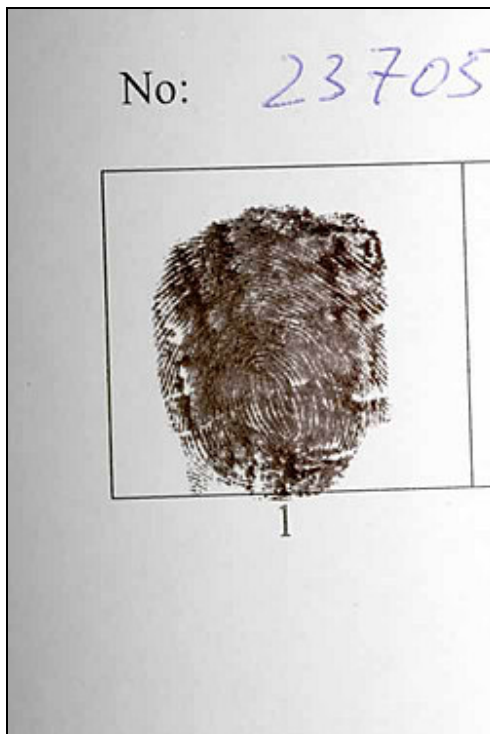


Photo clue: Keshor's fingerprint



Photo clue: A witness to the crime



Photo clue: Keshor's grandmother in Zimbabwe



Photo clue: Two of Keshor's daughters



Photo clue: Manager at the Café Refugiado



Photo clue: Friend at hostel