

Newsthink.

Conflict in Sudan

Teacher Notes

This teaching resource has been created for use with learners aged between 10 and 19. Use the PowerPoint and teacher notes to help learners understand what is currently happening in Sudan and empathise with those fleeing their homes.

The resource can be used in form time, assembly time, or in a PSHE, Citizenship or Enrichment lesson. Discussion time can be limited or extended, depending on the learners you are using the resource with and the time available.

Activities are intended to stimulate questions and provide an opportunity for young people to share their own thoughts about conflict and its impact on civilians.

With this in mind, educators should be careful to ensure activities do not further any negative viewpoints or misinformation that young people may have been exposed to.

Educators should be especially aware if there are young learners in their care who have first-hand experience of conflict or violence, or who are refugees.

See our detailed guidance on [how to talk to children and young people about conflict](#).

Background information on the Sudan crisis

Sudan is located in north-eastern Africa, to the south of Egypt. The country is also bordered by Chad, Libya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

The people of Sudan and South Sudan have experienced decades of political marginalization, economic neglect and conflict between governments and armed forces. Historically, Sudan has received large numbers of refugees from South Sudan, due to the violence there.

By the end of March 2023, a total of 9.12 million people remain displaced within and from South Sudan and Sudan. This includes 2.33 million refugees from South Sudan and a further 846,345 refugees from Sudan, as well as 2.23 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan and 3.71 million IDPs in Sudan.

In April 2023, fighting broke out in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. Many people there are currently without water and electricity.

The conflict has escalated in other areas of the country, including North Darfur, North Kordofan, South Darfur, Kassala and Gedaref. More than 600 people have now been killed and 5,000 wounded in the conflict.

In a region of the world that has suffered from decades of hardship and instability, this flare-up of violence has worsened an already huge humanitarian crisis.

British Red Cross volunteers have provided practical and emotional support to people returning to the UK from Sudan. Meanwhile, the Sudanese Red Cross is leading the humanitarian and relief response, rolling out search and rescue operations and evacuations across the country, as well as supporting hospitals.

Learning objectives

- Learn about the conflict in Sudan and its consequences.
- Apply learning and empathy to understand the impact of conflict on civilians.
- Share learning by discussing a debate topic, and showing active listening skills.

How do I use this resource?

Explore the current crisis in Sudan through a humanitarian lens. Use a photo to explore the impact that the conflict is having on civilians, many of whom have fled their country or are still trying to leave.

Download the PowerPoint to deliver the activities. Use one, some or all of the activities, as suits you. Each one can be done in ten to fifteen minutes. Embed this activity into your lessons or use it in assembly or tutor time to engage learners with current events and humanitarian news.

The level of explanation and the length of the session can be adapted to suit the age of your learners.

Throughout the PowerPoint presentation, you'll find useful information in the notes under each slide. Use these to support your explanations to learners and develop discussions.

Session overview

Respond and discuss

Using the PowerPoint, explore the photos of International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) volunteers offloading boxes of aid from a van and the relief tent where exhausted families who are crossing the border to find safety receive essential items.

- Support learners with their analysis of the photos and associated topics, through the “see, think, feel” framework.
- Discuss the questions linked to the photos on slides 3, 4 and 5, ensuring all learners are able to share their responses.
- Use the notes on each PowerPoint slide to guide you and address misconceptions learners may have about the topic.

Discuss and debate the statements:

- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees should have access to food, water and sanitation facilities.
- Everyone fighting a war needs to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL), both government forces and non-State armed groups.

Do learners agree or disagree? Why?

Support learners to listen to and respect others’ viewpoints, and to explain the reasons behind their opinions.

The wider context

Ask learners to consider any other examples they are aware of where violence and fighting have caused civilians to flee their homes. Explore what life is like for displaced communities on the move and staying in camps.

Look at Newsthink resources on Ukraine and Afghanistan for more context around people seeking asylum in other countries because their home country no longer feels safe.

Time to reflect

Encourage learners to reflect on their personal opinions, feelings and values in their own time. They could be encouraged to record their thoughts in a PSHE topic book. Or you could create a ‘Discussion Display’ on a classroom wall, where learners can contribute thoughts or questions.

Next steps

Further discussion and reflection activities could take place in subsequent lessons. You could focus on the following questions:

- What emotions does this topic evoke in you, and why do you think you feel this way?
- What is International Humanitarian Law and why does it exist?
- What are some humanitarian responses to conflict?

Explore further actions people can take to learn more about how to support those affected by the Sudan crisis or other areas currently experiencing conflict, including raising awareness by sharing information with others. This could be through an event held at school, which could also raise money to help support people forced from their homes due to conflict.