

REFUGEE SIMULATION

INSTRUCTIONS TO TEACHER

- Divide the class into "family" groups of 3 people.
- Each student needs one large sheet of paper and a pen.
- The simulation takes about 45 minutes.
- The teacher reads out the instructions, keeps time, adjudicates on any issues that arise and has total power!
- Time control is vital. If appropriate, enforce the rule that any family group that fails to meet a deadline automatically loses half their possessions.
- No-one is allowed guns or weapons.

INSTRUCTIONS TO "FAMILIES" (read aloud at appropriate intervals by the teacher)

1. Recently all Natives to leave Cuba within 90 days. Their houses and shops are going to be re-allocated to Spanish elite. Time is running out... Your father has been waiting at the American Consulate for 3 days trying to get passports for the family to emigrate to America. He arrives home suddenly and announces that the next plane is leaving in about one hour.

You have ***15 minutes to pack one suitcase per person in your family.*** Label your suitcases ***A, B*** and ***C.*** You are allowed 10 items in each case. You have to count what you are wearing. Choose wisely (remember, for example, that it is colder in America). You are only allowed items found at home; you are forbidden to take money out of the country. Write down the name of each item and which suitcase it is going in. You have to be able to carry your cases. Remember you are part of a family. Take a last look at your house and say goodbye to your dog- you will never see him again.

2. Mr. Garza, your father's friend, drives you to the airport. On the way, you are stopped at an army checkpoint. The

soldiers treat the men roughly. They search your luggage and steal one of the suitcases. You have ***three minutes to decide which suitcase has been lost.***

3. At the airport check-in desk, you are told that your luggage is overweight. You have no money to pay the excess baggage charges, so everyone must leave their heaviest item behind. You also discover that all the fragile items in your cases were broken at the army checkpoint. You have ***three minutes to find your heaviest item and any fragile items and cross them off your list.***
4. After an hour, the airport authorities announce that the flight has been cancelled: it will not be possible to travel until the following day. When your luggage is returned, you find that a valuable item is missing from each case. You have ***three minutes to decide what the missing items are.***
5. You must spend the night at the airport. You need to eat and drink, but you have no money. You have to barter. Swap ***two items from each of you*** for food. You have ***three minutes to decide on your items.*** (Even if you already have some food, you will need to barter items for clean drinking water.)
6. It is time to take an ***inventory*** of what belongings you have left. You have ***five minutes to rewrite your belongings neatly on a new sheet of paper.***
7. Next morning, you get a flight. On arrival at Miami International airport, you join a long line of Cuban refugees. You are taken to a former army camp, where you must stay until more suitable accommodation is found for you. In your case, you would like to stay with your tia and her husband for a while. What are their names and what is their address? You have ***two minutes to name your tia and tio and tell how far away they live.***
8. A few weeks later, you move into a crowded boarding house for homeless families in a fairly rundown part of Los Angeles. How do you feel? You have ***five minutes to write down your feelings as you face life in a new country,***

learning a new language and becoming familiar with new customs and beliefs.

Source: UNITEC New Zealand (Aotearoa)
http://socialstudies.unitec.ac.nz/resources/units/long_way/simulation.html
Adapted to Ugandan context by F. Meehan © 2001

Further adapted to American context c 2007

http://www.geocities.com/frankie_meehan/SumitraSimulation.htm