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Mount aun Uphille Stradght Ahead

SPECIAL ISSUE EUROPE'S REFUGEE CRISIS





On September 2, newspapers around the world published a sad photo. It showed the body of three-year-old Alan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish shore. The Syrian boy had drowned, along with his brother and mother, while crossing the Mediterranean Sea from Turkey to Greece. The family had been trying to reach Europe.

The heartbreaking image focused the world's attention on people who have been fleeing to Europe in recent years.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Since January 2015, some 500,000 migrants have entered the European Union (EU). The United Nations (UN) says about 8,000 more are entering every day. As many as one million could arrive by the end of 2015.

It's the largest movement of people in Europe since World War II.

Most of these migrants are **refugees**. They're fleeing from countries engulfed in violence, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea. Above all, they're coming from Syria, where a **civil war** is raging.

THE ROAD TRAVELLED

The majority of migrants are following one of three routes across the Mediterranean. The most popular one involves crossing from Turkey to the Greek islands of Kos, Chios, Lesvos or Samos in rubber dinghies or small wooden boats. From there, migrants take a ferry to the Greek mainland. Then, they travel through Macedonia

and Serbia, then on to Hungary, Austria and Germany.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 508 million people – 7.3 percent of the world's population – live in the EU.

DESPERATE JOURNEY

The journey is long and tiring. People crowd onto buses, trains or taxis. When they can't take transportation, they walk with their belongings for days in the heat or cold. Women carry small children. Families push elders along in wheelchairs.

The migrants sleep outside on sidewalks or train tracks. They wait in huge line-ups at reception centres for water and

DEFINITIONS

CIVIL WAR: a war between two or more groups within one country

EUROPEAN UNION (EU): a group of European countries that participates in the world economy as one economic unit, operating under one official currency, the Euro

MIGRANT: someone who travels to another country to work

REFUGEE: a person who flees his or her home country to escape persecution

UNITED NATIONS (UN): an organization encouraging peace, cooperation, social progress and economic stability. Created after World War II, it has 192 members, including Canada.

SPECIAL ISSUE EUROPE'S REFUGEE CRISIS

food. They are tired, sick, and despairing.

KEEP MOVING!

The EU has been struggling to cope with the huge **influx**.

Nations along the south coast, such as Greece, were quickly overwhelmed when migrants started arriving in the thousands in April. Then as the tide of refugees pushed north and west, other countries were unable to handle all of the people needing help, too.

Some nations blocked their borders, turning people back. They were concerned about security. Governments also worried that migrants, if they stayed, would take away jobs, and stretch resources. And allowing migrants to enter without permission might encourage other desperate people to set sail for Europe.

Hungary was especially hostile to the migrants. It built barbed wire fences to prevent them from passing through. It also sprayed crowds at the border with tear gas and water cannons.

"Those arriving have been raised in another religion, and represent a radically different

culture," said Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

GERMAN HOSPITALITY

By contrast, Germany welcomed the weary migrants. The government wouldn't set a limit on the number it would accept. Thousands of citizens offered the travellers food, water and clothing.

"The... right to **asylum** for the... **persecuted** knows no upper limit; that also goes for refugees who come to us from the hell of a civil war," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

However, at least 800,000 migrants could settle in Germany by year's end. That's one percent of the country's population! Even if Germany is willing to take everyone in, the country can't shoulder the entire burden.

AN EU PLAN

So on September 22, the EU approved a plan to share across its 28 states the 120,000 refugees now in Greece and Italy. This was a small amount compared to the number of people seeking asylum. But it was a start.

The EU will also increase aid for Syrian refugees in Turkey and the Middle East so they would be

HELPING HANDS

Many people have been doing what they can to help the refugees.

- Some 160 Austrian drivers ferried refugees arriving from Hungary to shelters in Vienna.
- Seventy-one German doctors are treating refugees in a former army barracks.
- A Berlin group has created a Refugee Phrasebook to provide basic vocabulary in 28 languages.
- A Munich soccer team has set up a training camp for migrant children and youths.

less likely to attempt the journey westward. Borders will also be tightened to make it harder for migrants to enter illegally.

These measures won't end the crisis, but they are a step in the right direction.

"The refugee crisis can be brought under control, but it will take a tremendous amount of effort, it will take a long time, and it will take many steps in many areas," said EU Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans. *

DEFINITIONS

ASYLUM: the right to stay in a country, given by a government to protect someone who has fled from trouble in his own country INFLUX: a large number of people or things coming to a particular place

PERSECUTE: to treat someone very badly, or to refuse them rights, especially because of their race, religion, or political beliefs

ON THE LINES

| Answer the following in complete sentences: | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1. How many countries belong to the European Union? | | |
| 2. List at least two important facts about this political-economic union. | J | a l |
| | | |
| 3. Explain what a refugee is. | | |
| (i) | | |
| 4. How many migrants have entered the European Union since January? | | |
| 5. Where are most of these migrants from? | | |
| c = | | i. |
| 6. Identify the most popular route that migrants are using to reach central Europe. | | |
| | | |
| 7. How did Hungary react to migrants who were crossing its territory? | | |
| | | |
| 8. How did Germany react to migrants who arrived in its territory? | | |
| | | |



BETWEEN THE LINES

An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.

| What inference(s) can you draw from the fact that about 8,000 migrants or more are entering the European Union every day? | | |
|---|--|--|
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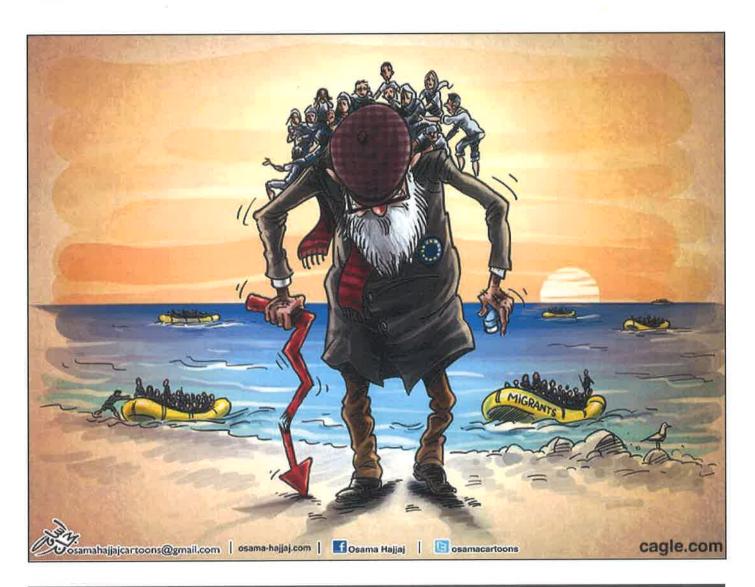
JUST TALK ABOUT IT

- 1. In what ways could this story be considered 'good news'? In what ways could it be considered 'bad news'? Overall, would you say this is more of a good or a bad news story? Explain.
- 2. Consider the following quote by German Chancellor Angela Merkel: "If Europe fails on the question of refugees, then it won't be the Europe we wished for."
- a) What is your understanding of this quote?
- b) Respond to this quote. What connections can you make? What questions do you have? For what reasons do you agree with the speaker? For what reasons do you disagree?
- 3. What is your understanding of the terms 'migrant' and 'refugee'? In what ways are these two terms similar? Different? Explain.

ONLINE

Visit our student website at www.news4youth.com and click on the What in the World? tab to:

- 1. Watch a video called "Most Shocking Second A Day Video" that depicts one second out of every day for a child that is fleeing war (or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBQ-IoHfimQ).
- 2. See a warm welcome for refugees that are arriving in Austria and Germany by watching the YouTube video "Refugees cheered into Germany and Austria" (or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txdKyT2tscU).
- 3. Watch a brilliant six-minute <u>animated explanation of the refugee crisis</u> called "The European Refugee Crisis and Syria explained" (or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w).
- 4. Read the 1951 Refugee Convention that defines who is a refugee, their rights, and the legal obligations of states (or visit http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49daoe466.html). ★



YOUR TASK:

Examine the editorial cartoon. Then, answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

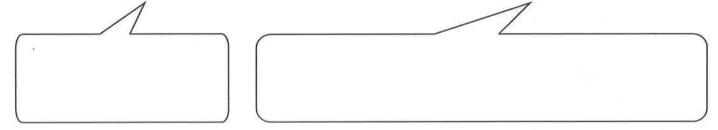
- 1. What do you already know about Europe's refugee crisis? Explain.
- 2. Describe what you see and read in the cartoon. Who is featured? What is this person doing? What symbols can you find? What else do you notice?
- 3. As you see it, what might the cartoonist be saying about Europe's refugee crisis? Explain.
- 4. For what reasons do you agree with the cartoonist's perspective? For what reasons do you disagree? ★



Imagine that you are an investigative reporter interviewing the person in this scene. Generate two powerful questions to ask in your interview. (A powerful question is not easy to answer, is specific to the situation, is open-ended and requires further research.) Then, record plausible answers – those that are most likely to be given, believable, and supported by evidence in the image.



Refugees walk near the border fence between Hungary and Serbia on September 12, 2015. (Thomas Campean / Anadolu Agency / Getty Images)





Complete this map assignment to better understand the article Europe's Refugee Crisis.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
- 2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
- 3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
- 4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

United Kingdom (yellow)

France (orange)

Germany (purple)

Poland (orange)

Hungary (green)

Romania (red)

Bulgaria (green)

Greece (purple)

Italy (green)

Part B Locate and label the capital city of each country above and underline each city name.

Part C Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Netherlands (pink)

Belgium (brown)

Russia (red)

Belarus (green)

Spain (red)

Ukraine (yellow) Austria (brown)

Slovakia (pink) Switzerland (yellow)

Czech Republic (red)

Algeria (pink)

Turkey (red)

Part D Shade the following Balkan countries as indicated:

- 1. Slovenia (orange)
- 2. Croatia (yellow)
- 3. Bosnia and Herzegovina (purple)

- 4. Montenegro (red) 7. Kosovo (yellow)
- 5. Albania (pink) 8. Serbia (orange)
- 6. Macedonia (brown)

Part E Locate and label the following German cities:

Hamburg

Munich

Frankfurt

UPHILL: PART D, Labe nombo

UPHILL

STRAIGHT AHEAD -

Part F Locate and label the following and shade all ocean water dark blue:

English Channel

Mediterranean Sea

Adriatic Sea

Ionian Sea

Aegean Sea

Black Sea

Part G Locate and label the main land route migrants are using to travel across Europe.

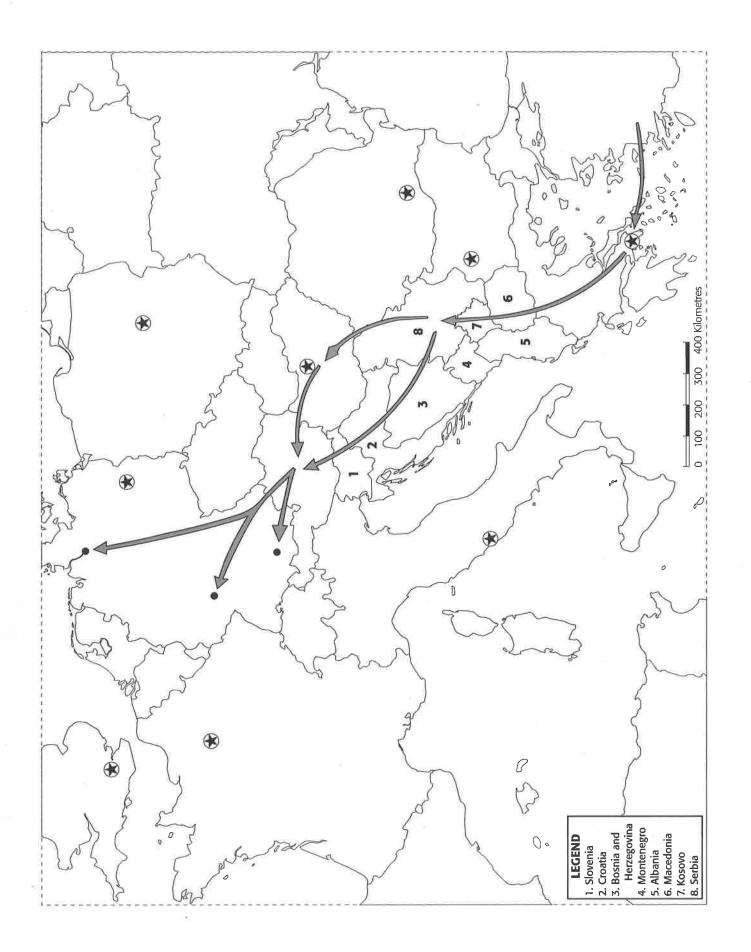
Part H Shade all remaining territory grey.

Part I Complete your map with a frame, title and compass. ★





Turkey





A civil war with no end in sight has claimed between 200,000 and 300,000 lives in the Middle Eastern nation of Syria. It has displaced nearly eight million people within the country's own borders. As well, some four million refugees, including two million children, have fled to neighbouring countries and Europe over the past four years.

HOW THE WAR BEGAN

The roots of the war go back to March 2011. That was when the Syrian people rose up against their government. They were angry with President Bashar al-Assad, a harsh **dictator**, who has ruled Syria since 2000.

Mr. Assad banned opposition parties and severely restricted freedoms. Torture and

corruption were widespread. People wanted change, but he refused to give in to their demands. He vowed to stay in power and ordered his powerful military to attack his own citizens.

HOSTILITIES ESCALATE

His opponents fought back. By August 2011, the rebels had loosely organized into a group called the Free Syrian Army. The fighters had different beliefs, but they all wanted to see an end Mr. Assad's government.

One year later, the conflict had become a full-scale civil war. Violence has been escalating ever since. Worse still, a ruthless extremist group called Islamic State (IS) has been able to take advantage of the chaos to gain

DID YOU KNOW?

Only ten percent of Syrian refugees have fled to Europe. The rest have sought shelter in neighbouring countries. Nearly 1.2 million are in Lebanon. About 2 million have crossed into Turkey. Jordan has taken about 630,000 refugees, 250,000 have fled to Iraq, and 125,000 are in Egypt. Other Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia, haven't taken in any.

control of huge sections of northern and eastern Syria and neighbouring Iraq.

IS wants to control the entire Middle East and rule it according to Islamic law.
The group is responsible for hundreds of public executions. It has carried out mass killings of

DEFINITIONS

CIVIL WAR: a war between two or more groups within one

CORRUPTION: dishonest or illegal behavior by officials or people in positions of power who accept money in exchange for favours

DICTATOR: a person who holds absolute power in government **DISPLACE**: force to move to a new location **EXTREMIST**: one who holds extreme views and is willing to act, often violently, in support of a belief

rival armed groups and religious minorities. The terrorist organization has also kidnapped and murdered hostages.

IT'S COMPLICATED

In Syria, IS is carrying out a "war within a war." It is fighting the rebels as well as others with whom it doesn't agree, including the Syrian government.

This has complicated the situation for nations who want to see Mr. Assad defeated. Why? Because a Western coalition led by the United States strongly opposes IS. It has been battling this group for over a year hoping to destroy it.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some 69 Canadian advisors, 600 soldiers, and six Canadian fighter bombers are taking part in the coalition against Islamic State.

Yet destroying Islamic State would help President Assad – which is the opposite of what the West wants to see happen. In fact, France, Britain, Canada and the U.S. have provided logistic and political support to some of the Syrians who are fighting him.

RUSSIA AND IRAN

Meanwhile, Mr. Assad's government receives strong support from Iran and Russia. Iran provides financial, technical and military assistance. Russia supplies arms and aircraft. It has also blocked **United Nations**Security Council resolutions aimed at reining in Mr. Assad.

In mid-September, Russia sent an additional 28 military planes and 15 helicopters to Syria. American authorities worried that the move would interfere with coalition air strikes against IS. It could also hinder efforts to find a political solution to the conflict.

'WE'RE ALWAYS AFRAID'

Tragically, the 12 million Syrians still in the country continue to suffer. They desperately want an end to their pain.

"Kids cannot go to school or they risk getting hit by a barrel bomb. Children in refugee camps [don't] have proper shelter in winter. A woman cannot deliver [a baby] in a safe environment. Children suffer

ABOUT SYRIA

With a 4,500-year history, Syria is one of the world's oldest nations. It is 185,180 square kilometres in size – more than twice as big as New Brunswick. It is made up of fertile plains, mountains and deserts. Its capital is Damascus. Arabic is the official language.

Before the war, Syria had a population of 22.5 million. Most were Muslims who belonged to the Sunni **sect** (74 percent) or the Alawite Shia sect (12 percent). Mr. Assad and the group who run the government are Alawite Shia.

from preventable diseases," said Dr. Joanne Liu, head of the aid group Doctors Without Borders.

People need food, blankets, clean water, health care and other **humanitarian aid**. Some mothers are eating just one meal a day to have more to feed their children.

"We're living on the edge of life," said one Syrian. "We're always nervous. We're always afraid."

No wonder millions have been risking everything, hoping for a new start in other countries. ★

DEFINITIONS

HUMANITARIAN AID: help provided to ease suffering **SECT**: a subdivision of a larger religious group

SECURITY COUNCIL: the most important branch of the United Nations. It authorizes peacekeeping operations, sanctions and military action. There are 15 countries on the Security Council. Five – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – are permanent and can veto any resolution. The remaining ten are elected for two-year terms.

UNITED NATIONS (UN): an organization encouraging peace, cooperation, social progress and economic stability. Created after World War II, it has 192 members, including Canada.



ON THE LINES

| Answer the following in complete sentences: |
|---|
| 1. List at least three important facts about Syria. |
| |
| 2. Name the leader of Syria. |
| 3. Describe what life has been like for people under his rule. |
| 4. What happened in Syria in March 2011? |
| 5. How did Syria react to anti-government protests that spread across the country four years ago? |
| 6. Which group has taken advantage of the civil war and has occupied large areas of Syria? |
| 7. How did some Western nations react to the spread of this extremist group? |
| |
| 8. Which two countries support Syria and what assistance are they providing? |
| |
| 9. List at least two consequences of the civil war for the people of Syria. |
| |



BETWEEN THE LINES

An *inference* is a conclusion drawn from evidence. A plausible inference is supported by evidence in the article and is consistent with known facts outside of the article.

| What inference(s) can you draw from the fact that about half of Syria's population has been displaced since the civil war began in 2011? | | |
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JUST TALK ABOUT IT

- 1. a) What is your understanding of the reasons for the civil war in Syria?
- b) For what reasons is the Syrian civil war complicated to solve? Explain.
- 2. As you see it, what is the significance of the Syrian civil war? Give reasons to support your response.

ONLINE

Go to www.news4youth.com and select the What in the World? tab to:

- 1. Watch a short animated explainer <u>about Iraq</u>, <u>Syria</u>, and the so-called <u>Islamic State</u> called "Iraq Explained -- ISIS, Syria and War" (or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQPIREDW-Ro).
- 2. Watch a February 2015 BBC <u>interview with Syrian president Bashar al-Assad</u> called "Syria conflict: BBC exclusive interview with President Bashar al-Assad" (or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiC4w7Erz8I).
- 3. Visit the website of the <u>United Nations Security Council</u> (or visit http://www.un.org/en/sc/).
- 4. Read an article and hear a speech by the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, regarding the <u>Assad regime's use of chemical weapons</u> (or visit http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/16/syrian-chemical-attack-sarin-says-un).
- 5. Go beyond the numbers with <u>Doctors Without Borders in Syria</u> (or visit **http://reachofwar.msf.** org/). ★



2nd map = UPHILL
MOUNTAIN

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article Civil War in Syria.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
- 2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
- 3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
- 4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Turkey (orange)

Syria (red)

Iraq (purple)

Cyprus (yellow)

Lebanon (green)

Jordan (brown)

Israel (orange)

Egypt (pink)

Part B Locate and label the capital cities of these countries and <u>underline</u> each city name.

Part C Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Bulgaria (purple)

Russia (brown)

Georgia (pink)

Armenia (green)

Iran (red)

Saudi Arabia (yellow)

Part D Locate and label the following Syrian cities:

Aleppo

Homs (Hims)

Part E Locate and label the following and shade all salt water dark blue:

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Red Sea

Part F Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Euphrates

Tigris

Nile

Part G Locate and label the Dead Sea and shade it light blue.

Part H Locate and label the Suez Canal.

Part I Shade all remaining territory grey.

Part J Complete your map with a frame, title and compass. ★

Mountain ALL.



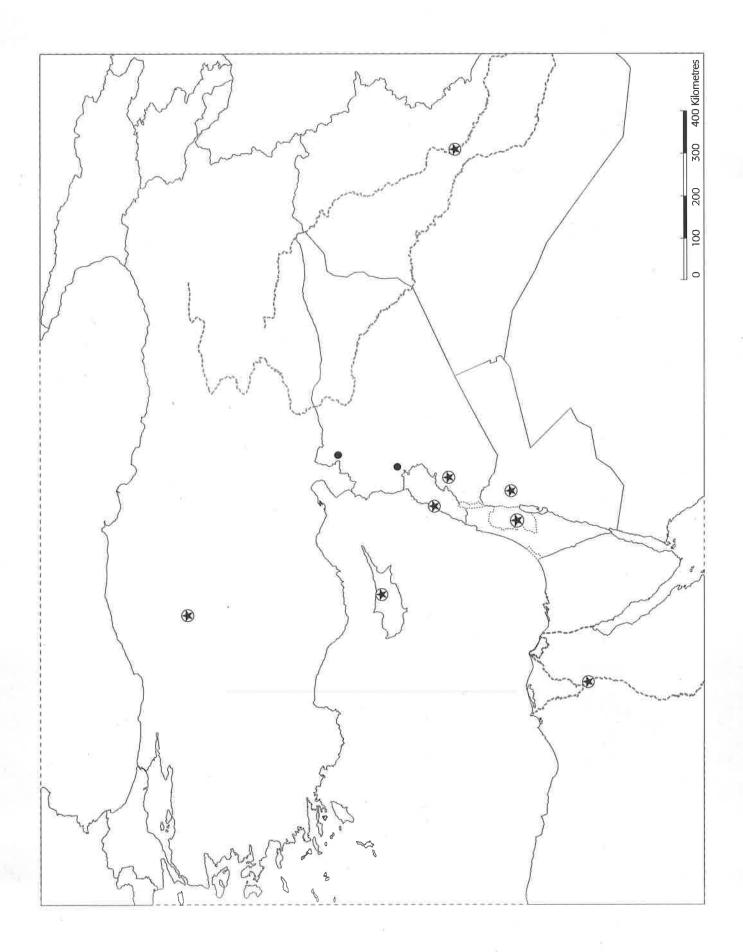




Islamic State

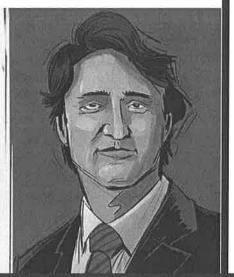


Syrian flag









On October 19, voters will decide who should sit in Canada's 42nd **Parliament**.

So far, it's been a tight three-way race between the major parties. Who will get the most **seats**? Stephen Harper's Conservatives? Thomas Mulcair's New Democrats? Justin Trudeau's Liberals?

And how many seats will the Green Party, the Bloc Quebecois, and Strength in Democracy win?

DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT

Prime Minister Harper visited Governor General David Johnston on August 2 and asked him to call the election. At dissolution, the Conservatives held a majority of the seats: 159. The Official Opposition, the NDP, had 95. The Liberals had 36. The Bloc Quebecois, Greens, and Strength in Democracy each had two. Independents held eight seats. Four seats were vacant.

THE RACE BEGINS

The 11-week election campaign is longer than the previous two campaigns combined. That makes it the longest campaign since 1872. It's also the most costly one in Canadian history.

Stephen Harper, Canada's Prime Minister since 2006, is seeking to become only the fifth prime minister to earn a fourth mandate.

In August, polls showed that he could succeed. The New Democrats were in first place with 33 percent, followed by the Conservatives at 31 percent and the Liberals at 27 percent.

THE ECONOMY

A key issue in this election is the economy. Canada did better during the 2008 **recession** than many countries. But now we're on the verge of another economic downturn.

Many ordinary families are struggling to make ends meet. Incomes are down, but food,

DEFINITIONS

DISSOLUTION: the dissolving of Parliament before an election **INDEPENDENT**: an MP who doesn't belong to any political party

MANDATE: the authority of an elected government or official to do the things that they promised to do before an election **OFFICIAL OPPOSITION**: the party with the second-most seats in the House of Commons

PARLIAMENT: an assembly of the representatives of a political nation or people, often the supreme law-making authority RECESSION: six months of negative economic growth as measured by a country's gross domestic product (GDP) SEAT: position in the House of Commons



housing and household debt keep going up.

Many people can't get full-time jobs – even with university degrees. Unemployment is especially high for young people. Yet only 40 percent of unemployed Canadians are eligible for Employment Insurance. Some people have even given up looking for work.

In general, the Conservative approach to helping the economy has been to cut spending, but Mr. Trudeau says he has a better plan. He wants to increase taxes on the very wealthy and provide financial benefits to the middle class.

"When the middle class does well, so does the entire country," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mulcair believes investing in "affordable, quality child care" so both parents can work would help the economy the most.

FACE TO FACE

On August 7, Mr. Harper, Mr. Mulcair, Mr. Trudeau and the Green Party's Elizabeth May took part in a televised leadership debate.

Debates give Canadians a chance to hear politicians discuss how they plan to handle the country's problems. However, just 1.5

CANADA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS

Canada is divided into political regions known as constituencies, or ridings. Each riding elects one Member of Parliament (MP).

The number of ridings changes to reflect Canada's population shifts. In 2011, there were 308 ridings. In the upcoming election, there will be 338.

The three major parties will run a candidate in most ridings. Canadians 18 years and older vote for the candidate of their choice.

They show identification at a neighbourhood polling station, and get a ballot listing the candidates. With a screen for privacy, voters mark an X beside their choice, and put their folded ballot in the ballot box.

The ballots from every poll in the riding are counted at the end of the day. The candidate with the most votes becomes the MP, and speaks for the people of the riding in the House of Commons.

The party with the most MPs forms the new government. Its leader becomes prime minister. The other MPs form the opposition. If the government wins more than half the seats, it has a majority government and can pass laws without the help of other parties. If not, it needs support from some opposition MPs to govern. This is called a minority government.

Federal elections must be held every four years in October.

million Canadians tuned in – 40 percent less than during the last election campaign.

GET OUT AND VOTE!

Observers hope that this doesn't mean that fewer people will turn out to vote in October.

The average voter turnout for Canada's general elections since 1867 has been 70.7 percent. The lowest voter turnout on record was in 2008. That year, just 58.8 percent of eligible voters cast a ballot. Last election, voter

turnout was 61.4 percent – the third lowest in Canadian history.

Yet a strong voter turnout is the key to a healthy democracy. The more Canadians know about the parties and issues and cast a ballot, the more their views are represented in government.

"This is an election... on the big issues that affect us all, our economy and our nation's security," said Mr. Harper after calling the vote.

Stay tuned for the results! ★

DEFINITIONS

VOTER TURNOUT: the percentage of eligible voters who cast a ballot in an election

PAGE 5



ON THE LINES

| Answer the following in complete sentences: | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Explain what dissolution is. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 2. How many seats were in the last Parliament? | | | | |
| 3. Identify the largest party in the House of Commons at dissolution. | | | | |
| 4. Name the leader of this party. | | | | |
| 5. List the two largest opposition parties and their leaders at dissolution. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 6. When will Canadians vote for a new Parliament? | | | | |
| 7. What is the key issue in the election campaign? Explain. | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 8. Explain how the three main parties differ on this issue. | | | | |
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| | | | | |



EXAMINE THE OPTIONS

1. Visit the official websites for each of the federal political parties in the chart below. For each party, record 2-3 platform planks (policies) that you *most agree with* and 2-3 that you *least agree with*.

| Conservative Party of Canada: | Liberal Party of Canada: https://www.liberal.ca/ |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| http://www.conservative.ca/ | |
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| New Democratic Party of Canada: | Bloc Québécois (http://www.blocquebecois.org/), |
| http://www.ndp.ca/ | Green Party of Canada (http://www.greenparty. |
| _ | ca/en), or Strength in Democracy Party/Forces et Démocratie |
| | (http://www.forcesetdemocratie.org/accueil.html) |
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2. After completing the chart, consider: Which party's platform do you most agree with? Which do you least agree with? Give reasons to support your response.