

Classroom Activity for “Somali Invasion”

by Deepa Rao

Objectives:

- To read article on the impact of new immigrants who move to small communities in the United States
- To introduce new vocabulary
- To use pre-reading activities to improve reading comprehension

Materials:

- Quotes (listed on next page)
- Map of the world
- “Somali Invasion” article

Pre-Reading Activity

1. The following quotes come from a documentary film called, *The Letter*, about the relocation of over 1,000 Somali refugees in Lewiston, Maine in 2002. The quotes reflect the attitudes of Maine residents (including the new Somali residents) and non-Maine residents about the Somali arrival into Lewiston.
 - Choose two or three quotes from the next page to read and discuss with your class. Vocabulary words are italicized and at a higher reading level. They must be reinforced in context.
 - Ask Class: Based on these quotes, predict what you think the article, *Somali Invasion*, is about?
2. Use a map to help students locate Somalia and Maine. What do students already know about both places? Compare and contrast information in books and on the Internet about the weather, the types of people, types of professions, the politics, etc.
3. Read the article *The Somali Invasion*.

Post-Reading Activity

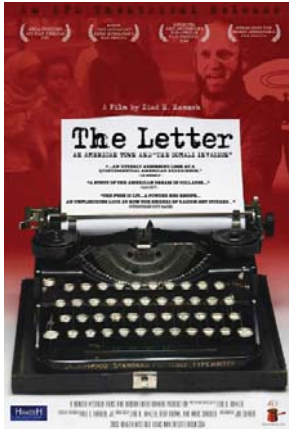
Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Are the Somalis refugees or immigrants? Why?
2. Why did the Somalis move to Lewiston? From where?
3. How did the residents of Lewiston react to their arrival?
4. Why were some Lewiston residents and the mayor opposed to the Somalis moving to Lewiston?
5. What did the Somalis add to the Lewiston community?
6. Have you or anyone you know had a similar experience to the Somalis? What happened?

Additional Activity:

Cloze Activity

Create fill-in-the-blank sentences for use with vocabulary words.



Home video copies of *The Letter* will be available for purchase in April from Arab Film Distribution. Home video copies can be used by a teacher in a classroom, but not for public screenings or class screenings that are open to outside attendance. The film is set to be shown in theaters in the fall of 2005. Check www.arabfilm.com/in_theaters_schedule_letter.html to find out where. To learn more about the film go to www.arabfilm.com.

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