

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **"Against All Odds": Digital Game Exploring Refugee Issues**

Game commissioned by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR)  
([www.playagainstallodds.ca](http://www.playagainstallodds.ca))

### **Introduction:**

*"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."*

*- Article 14 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights*

There are refugees in virtually every country around the world and we hear about their plight on a daily basis through the media. People become refugees when one or more of their fundamental human rights are threatened or violated, and they are forced to flee. Nobody chooses to become a refugee. A refugee is not just a "foreigner". Living in exile often means initially having to depend on the goodwill of others for basic necessities, such as food, shelter and clothing – as well as to feel welcomed in their new communities. Often refugees end up contributing to their new societies in many ways (from the "Against All Odds" UNCHR website).



### **Pre-Game:**

1. What do you think are some of the hardships refugees are subjected to while fleeing their country? (list and briefly describe three):

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2. What challenges might refugees face trying to integrate into a new country? (list and briefly describe three):

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### **During the Game:**

1. Using headphones if possible, go to <http://www.playagainstallodds.ca> and follow the prompts (you do not need to register).
2. Complete the three main sections of the simulation in order: 1. War and Conflict; 2. Border Country; 3. A New Life. At any point you can click on the "[Web Facts](#)" link for more information (for example, the Web Facts page for the "Sort by Origin" mini-game can be very helpful).

**Post-Game:** (Use the [Web Facts](#) pages for questions 1-12)

1. **Interrogation:** What happened to Nolvía Dominguez Skjetne as a result of the 1973 coup in Chile?

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2. **You Have to Flee!** Fleeing from Sarajevo, how long did Jasenko Selimovic have to pack? What did he originally pack? In the end, what are the only two things he managed to escape with?

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3. **Get Out of the Town:** Briefly list the steps Michael took to escape from his 'master' in Sudan:

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4. **Leave the Country Now:** How many km was Florence Balagizi's trek to the central Zairian town of Kisangani, and how long did it take him?

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5. **Shelter for the Night!** What must an asylum-seeker do in Canada if an immigration official determines his or her claim to be eligible for referral?

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6. **Find the Interpreter!:** What does a resettlement country guarantee for refugees? (see the 'What is resettlement?' section)

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7. **Refugee or Immigrant?:** Where was Michaëlle Jean, the former Governor General of Canada, born? In what year did she and her family leave her birth country and seek refuge in Canada?

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8. **New in the Class:** Why did Fegalo Mitee flee Nigeria in 1995? Where did he end up, and how was it for him and his family when he first arrived?

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9. **Looking for a Job!:** Read the (now outdated) article on Ismael Cala. Search his name on the internet to find out what he is currently doing for work.

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10. **Time to Go Shopping:** What is the 'Canadian Experience' conundrum that William Kolong Pioth speaks about? How did William tackle this conundrum?

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11. **Sort by Origin:** Who started to chew the sap from spruce trees? (a precursor to commercial chewing gum) What was the name of the first bubble gum and in what year was it invented?

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12. **Your First Apartment:** What were some of the new experiences that Paw had some difficulty adjusting to in Toronto? Who did she receive help from?

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13. Which mini-game do you think was the most effective? Why?

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14. Which mini-game do you think was the least effective? Why? How could it be improved?

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15. Brainstorm another idea for an impact game that could be designed to educate people about the various issues facing refugees (briefly describe):

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