

RefAid App: A Didactical Guide for Classroom Integration

Introduction

RefAid is an app designed primarily to assist refugees and migrants in finding essential services nearby. While the app is not inherently educational, it can be transformed into a powerful tool within the classroom to foster discussions and lessons around humanitarian aid, geography, social studies, and more. This guide seeks to offer teachers a roadmap to utilising the app as a part of their curriculum effectively.

Learning Objectives

Empathic Understanding: To develop students' empathic understanding and awareness of the situations refugees face.

Geographical Awareness: To foster geographical knowledge and awareness regarding the distribution of essential services globally.

Civic Responsibility: To cultivate a sense of civic responsibility and the role of humanitarian aid in society.

Critical Thinking: To enhance critical thinking skills by analysing the effectiveness of digital platforms in aiding refugees.

Lesson Ideas

1. Exploring the Refugee Experience

Activity: Students use the app to find services available in different regions and compare them to understand the differing circumstances refugees might encounter.

Discussion: Class discussion focusing on why these services are necessary and the conditions that lead to refugees needing them.

2. Mapping Humanitarian Aid

Activity: Students can create a map or chart documenting the various types of services and their prevalence in different geographical areas.

Assignment: Students can be assigned to research the organisations listed in the app, exploring their missions and the kinds of aid they provide.

3. Role-playing Activity

Activity: Students role-play as individuals who are trying to establish a network of services in a specific region using the app.

Discussion: After the role-play, students discuss the challenges they encountered and possible solutions.

4. Developing Communication Skills

Activity: Students can develop communication material (like brochures or guides) to assist refugees in navigating the services available in the app more efficiently.

Presentation: Students can present their material to the class, explaining the rationale behind their choices and layout.

Assessment and Feedback

Class Participation: Assess students based on their participation in class discussions and activities.

Project Evaluation: Evaluate the projects (like the communication material or maps) based on their thoroughness and understanding demonstrated.

Reflective Journal: Encourage students to maintain a reflective journal to document their learning process throughout the unit.

Conclusion

Incorporating the RefAid app into your classroom activities can not only foster a deeper understanding of the refugee crisis but also help develop empathic and critical thinkers who are globally aware and socially responsible. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the suggested activities according to the age group and learning objectives of their class.



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