

# Exploring Númenor

## Lesson 5: Númenorean Refugees - Understanding Displacement Duration: 50 minutes

### Learning Objectives

- Introduce the concept of displacement and its connection to the downfall of Númenor.
- Explore real stories to deepen understanding of challenges faced by displaced individuals.
- Reflect on the connections between Númenor and modern refugee experiences.

### Materials

- [Lesson Slides](#)
- Videos or articles featuring real-life refugee stories.
- Paper and writing utensils.
- Images or visual references related to displacement and refugees.

### 1. Opener (5 minutes):

- Begin the lesson by introducing the concept of displacement and its relevance to the mythical downfall of Númenor.
- Connect the idea of displacement with the Númenorean civilisation, emphasizing how their actions led to their own downfall and subsequent displacement.

### 2. Real-Life Refugee Stories (20 minutes):

- Show videos or read articles that feature real-life refugee stories from different parts of the world.
- Engage students in a discussion about the challenges faced by displaced individuals, including the loss of homes, separation from families, and the search for safety and stability.
- Encourage students to express their thoughts and emotions in response to the stories and facilitate a compassionate and respectful dialogue.

### 3. Empathy-Building Activities (15 minutes):

- Conduct empathy-building activities to help students better understand the experiences of displaced individuals such as:
  - Role-play: Divide students into pairs or small groups and assign them different roles, such as a refugee, a family member, or a volunteer. Ask them to act out scenarios that depict the challenges and emotions associated with displacement.
  - Letter Writing: Instruct students to imagine themselves as Númenorean refugees and write a letter expressing their thoughts, feelings, and hopes.
  - Empathy Circle: Arrange students in a circle and give them an opportunity to share their reflections, insights, and questions about displacement and the stories they encountered.



#### **4. Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):**

- Facilitate a class discussion to reflect on the connections between the downfall of Númenor and modern refugee experiences:
- How do the actions of the Númenoreans parallel the challenges faced by real-life refugees?
- What lessons can we learn from Númenor and the real-life stories that can help us empathise with displaced individuals?
- How can we apply empathy and understanding to support refugees and contribute to a more inclusive society?

#### **Optional Extension Activity 1 (Homework):**

- Assign students to conduct further research on the experiences of refugees and displaced individuals in different parts of the world.
- Encourage them to write a reflective essay or create a presentation that highlights the challenges, resilience, and humanity of refugees, drawing connections to the downfall of Númenor and the lessons learned in class.

#### **Optional Extension Activity 2 (Homework):**

- Flip the perspective: Assign students to explore the concept of the Númenoreans as colonialists and their impact on other civilisations.
- Instruct students to conduct research and gather evidence from J.R.R. Tolkien's writings and other sources to support their arguments.
- Ask students to write an essay or create a presentation that analyses the actions of the Númenoreans from a colonialist perspective, considering their motives, methods of expansion, cultural assimilation, and the consequences for the indigenous populations.
- Encourage students to critically examine the parallels between the Númenorean colonialism and real-world historical colonial experiences, drawing connections to issues such as imperialism, cultural appropriation, and power dynamics.
- Prompt students to reflect on the ethical implications of colonialism, the responsibilities of those in positions of power, and the lessons that can be learned to promote inclusivity and equality in modern societies.

*For more detailed teacher notes and lesson resources for this activity, please refer to the detailed lesson plan [here](#)*