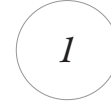




# Child Migrants in the U.S.

A lesson plan designed by *Chelsea Collins*



Estimated  
class period

Through close reading and reflection, this lesson gives students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of modern-day migration.

## Directions:

### HOMEWORK

Students should analyze an excerpt from "The Circuit" by Francisco Jimenez. Specifically, students should focus on the conflict, as well as how characters respond to developments in the plot.

### CLASS 1

#### Step 1: Read closely

- Students should read "Central American children heading to U.S. to escape danger" independently, showing evidence of a close reading by marking up the text with thoughtful questions, comments, or areas of confusion.
- Students should complete the first two response questions on the reflection worksheet.

#### Step 2: Dig deeper

- In teams of 3-4, students should discuss their close reading notes and response questions.
- Students should finish the response questions as a team.

#### Step 3: Reflect

- Post images related to the topic around the room. Then, have students complete a Gallery Walk to make connections between the images and the text. Students should independently jot down their reactions, connections, and reflections as they move around the room.
- Students should discuss their reflections with their team members.
- Groups should report out and engage in a whole-group discussion around the topic.
- Individually, students should write down comparisons between the images, the article, and "The Circuit."

### ABOUT THE TEACHER

Chelsea Collins is the 2015-2016 New Jersey Teacher of the Year. She teaches sixth grade language arts at Woodstown Middle School, where she also coaches the field hockey team, is a co-advisor for the Pawprints Yearbook, advises the STAND program, and is the sixth grade team leader.

### MATERIALS

- Newsela article: "[Central American children heading to U.S. to escape danger](#)"
- Short story: "[The Circuit](#)" by [Francisco Jimenez](#)
- Reflection worksheet: "[Child migrants to U.S.](#)"
- Assorted images related to modern-day migration

### STANDARDS

Collins believes this lesson plan could address these national Common Core guidelines:

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.2

Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details.

#### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1.A

Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.

### TAKE IT A STEP FARTHER.

Help students truly understand the complexities of modern-day child migrants by taking them on a service learning trip to Arizona. Learn more at [efexploreamerica.com/MAI](http://efexploreamerica.com/MAI)