

Iraq

Iraq is a country located in the Middle East. In the past, it was called Mesopotamia - the cradle of civilization. Iraq gave the world one of the first types of writing (cuneiform), temples, city-states, the lunar calendar, metal work, temples, architecture, and much more. Iraq was shining in honor and glory for much of its history.

In recent decades however, Iraq has suffered from constant war - foreign and domestic. The country and its people are separated by political, religious, and ethnic differences. The country has seen destruction brought about by bullets, bombs, and other casualties of war. In times of peace and good economy, the country has prospered and people have enjoyed excellent healthcare, lifestyle, and education. Since 2000, millions of Iraqis have become refugees in nearby countries. Many have been resettled to America.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in culture, diversity, and community engagement, or simply want to assist refugees starting their new lives in our community, please contact:

Commonwealth Catholic Charities
820 Campbell Avenue SW, Roanoke 24016
Telephone: 540-342-7561

Answer to questions: 1. Turkey 2. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait 3. Syria 4. Iran

Produced by the Roanoke Refugee Mental Health Council.

More at: www.dbhds.virginia.gov/professionals-and-service-providers/oclc/oclc-focus-areas/refugee-mh/roanoke-council

I am Harith

By: Roanoke Refugee Mental Health Council

Hi, my name is Harith and I came from Iraq. I'm 10 years old. The fighting in my country started before I was born. Growing up, I wasn't allowed to go outside and play, or even go to the grocery store because I might get hurt. Fighting can happen any day and anytime. One year, I even stayed at home from school for safety reasons. In 2009, my family fled to Jordan so we could be safe, but life there as refugees was very difficult. My parents were not allowed to work and I was not allowed to go to school. One day, we got happy news from the United Nations processing center. My family was accepted for relocation to the United States! Everyone was excited.



I arrived in America two years ago. A lot of things were new to me and my family. I have to learn new lifestyle, new culture, and new language. I went to a new school and made new friends. When I joined the soccer team, I made a lot more friends. I am happy that I came to America and I don't worry about safety issues anymore.

Harith is a fictional character. Any resemblance is a coincidence and not intentional.

Map of Iraq



Because of war, Iraqis travel to different countries. Can you tell what country they are heading to?

1. What country or countries are North of Iraq?

2. What country or countries are South of Iraq?

3. What country or countries are East of Iraq?

4. What country or countries are West of Iraq?

See answers on the back page.



Refugees Fleeing Iraq

Photo courtesy of The Telegraph, June 12, 2014.

Can you draw items and objects that refugees left behind? What would you take with you if you have to move to a new country very quickly?