



How did qualifying as a refugee to Canada affect Mary's quality of life?



Mary, a refugee from Sudan, now lives in Alberta.

A Refugee's Experience

Mary came to Canada in 2005 as a refugee from Sudan. Civil war in Sudan had broken apart her family and put her life in danger.

Sudan was like World War II. People were fighting everywhere, and nobody knew where they were supposed to go. My family got separated — we couldn't find each other — so that's how I became a refugee.

Later, I learned that my mom was alive and in Canada. So in 2005 I came here with my two brothers. I was 12 years old, and my brothers were 8 and 9.

When we landed in Calgary, my mom came and picked us up at the airport. I hadn't seen her for eight years. I didn't remember her — she seemed like another lady. But because she was my mom, I thought, "Okay, I guess I'll hug her."

When I came to Canada, I didn't know what it would be like. I didn't know it was a nice country, a safe country. I thought that there would be war and fighting, like in Sudan.

I worry about my dad, and my stepmom, and my stepbrothers. I worry about them when I hear on the news that people are still fighting in Sudan. I hope that they're safe.

Canadians are lucky to live where there is no war. And they are lucky to have good schools. They should thank God, because they are lucky.

connect to the big ideas

1. What evidence can you find on pages 177 and 178 that Canada's immigration legislation responds to world issues?
2. What evidence can you find that political factors influence Canada's policies on refugees?