

Syria

Land of Diversity

Where is Syria?

- Syria is located on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea in south-western Asia.
- Syria enjoys a beautiful and diverse nature: from sandy beaches, green mountainous regions to fertile plains.



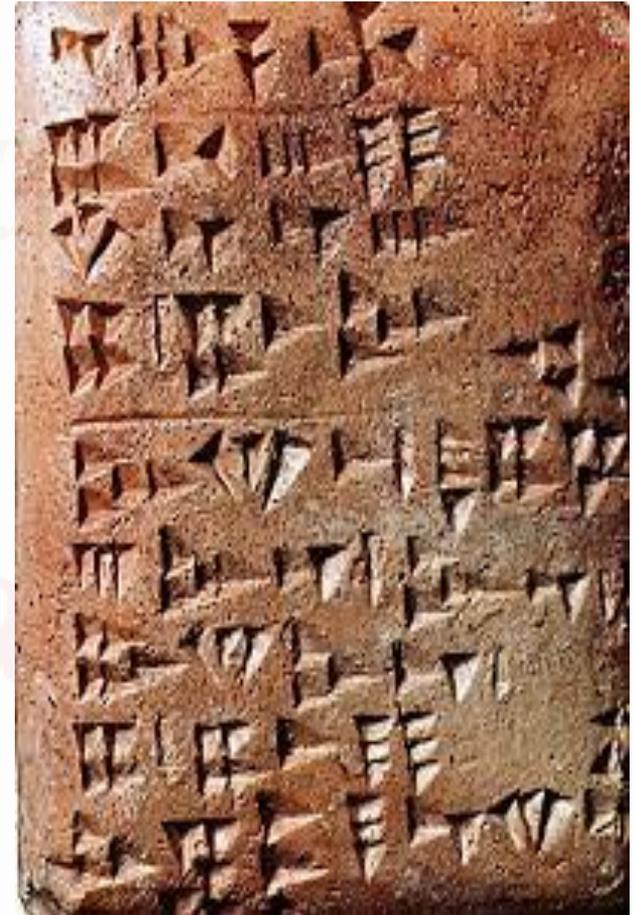
History

- Located at the heart of the ancient world, Syria was historically a crossroad for commerce and trade. Syria is commonly known as the cradle of civilizations as many of the greatest human achievements began in Syria.
- The Hittites, Assyrians, Akkadians, Greeks, Romans, Umayyads, Ayyubids, Mameluks and Ottomans all left their stamps on the Syrian culture and history.
- There is 6 locations in Syria already on the Unesco World Heritage List and 12 more on the Tentative List.



Ugarit

- In Ugarit, located in present-day Latakia, the oldest and first written alphabet in the World was developed there around 1400 BC
- Syria is also a center for music and art – the first composed music or melody originated from Ugarit
- There are many ancient historical sites and artifacts in Syria as numerous civilizations and empires inhabited the area throughout history. Syria has seen many great human accomplishments that have impacted the world, some of which are still used today.



Palmyra

- Palmyra is an ancient Semitic city located in present-day Homs. The empire was wealthy and established many colonies along the silk road.
- Zenobia, a queen of Palmyra was a strong female figure in history as she became ruler after her husband's death in year 267.



Emesa

- Presently known as the city of Homs, Emesa was a great Roman empire
- Julia Dumna, the empress, is also considered to be a powerful female figure in Syrian history as she defied gender expectations of the time and involved herself in important political matters.



Ma'loula

- Ma'loula, meaning entrance in Aramaic, is a village located north of Damascus in the mountains.
- It is an important historical and cultural Christian site because it is one of the only places in the world that has preserved the ancient Aramaic language.

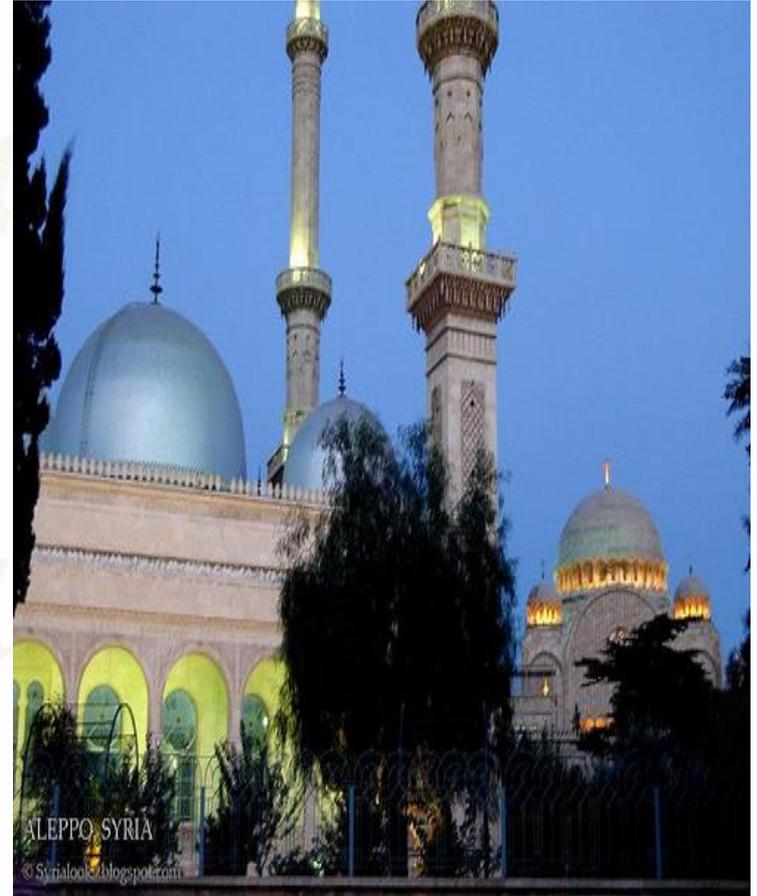


Ethnic Diversity

- The Syrians forms a mosaic of cultures and ethnic groups, which has been building up for thousands of years.
- Arabs forms majority of the population.
- Other ethnic groups includes Kurds, Turkomans, Circassians and Armenians
- Some of these ethnicities were refugees fleeing from civil unrest in the region and became a part of the Syrian texture.

Religious Diversity

- Syria has a great degree of ethnic and religious diversity presently and all throughout history. Syria was always a place for religious harmony not division.
- Muslims, Christians Jews, Mandaean, Yezidei and many other religious group coexisted for a long time in Syria.



Society Characteristics

- Educated
- Young
- Family Centred
- Religious Tolerance

Syrian

Canadian

Council of BC

Influential Syrians

- Malek Jandali – a world-renowned Syrian-American composer and pianist
- Dr. Fouad Tayfour – a world-renowned eye surgeon and leader in vision correction, and was the first to perform laser eye surgery
- Diana Hadid – a famous Syrian-American contemporary artist
- Steve Jobs - brought us apple and the iphone
- Jerry Seinfeld – part Syrian
- Paul Abdul – Father is Syrian-Jewish
- Jihad Abdo – Hollywood actor

Syrian in Canada

- 48% of Syrian origin are university graduates, compared to 28% in the total population of Canada.
- The rate of **females** of Syrian origin with a university degree is lower (45%) compared to males (50%) but higher than the rate of all Canadian women (30%).
- Labour force of Syrian origin is lower (80%) than the rate of the total population of Canada (86%).
- The labour force participation rate of females of Syrian origin is lower (72%) compared to males (89%) and lower than the rate of the total female population of Canada (82%).



Syrian in Canada

- Employment of Syrian origin is lower (73%) than that of the total population (81%).
- Employment rate of females of Syrian origin is (64%) lower compared to males (82%) and lower than the rate of the total female population of Canada (77%).
- Unemployment rate of people of Syrian origin (9.1%) is higher than that of the total population of Canada (6.2%). The unemployment rate of females is higher (11.0%) compared to males (7.5%) and higher than that of the total female population of Canada (6.1%).

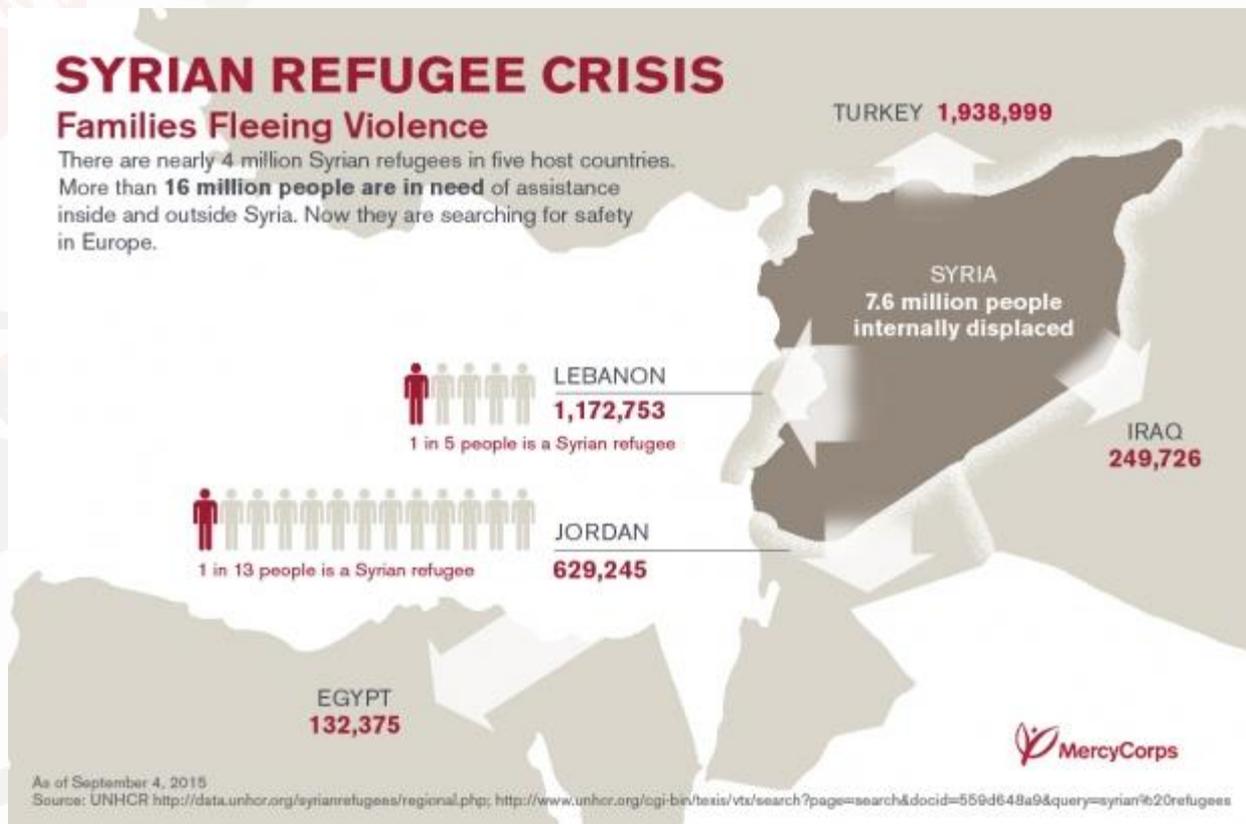


Quick Facts about the Syrian Crisis

- Started in March 2011
- Peaceful protests for a year
- Militarized the conflict 2012
- First chemical attack on Ghouta Aug 2013
- ISIS rise 2013
- Complicated conflict – a place for proxy war

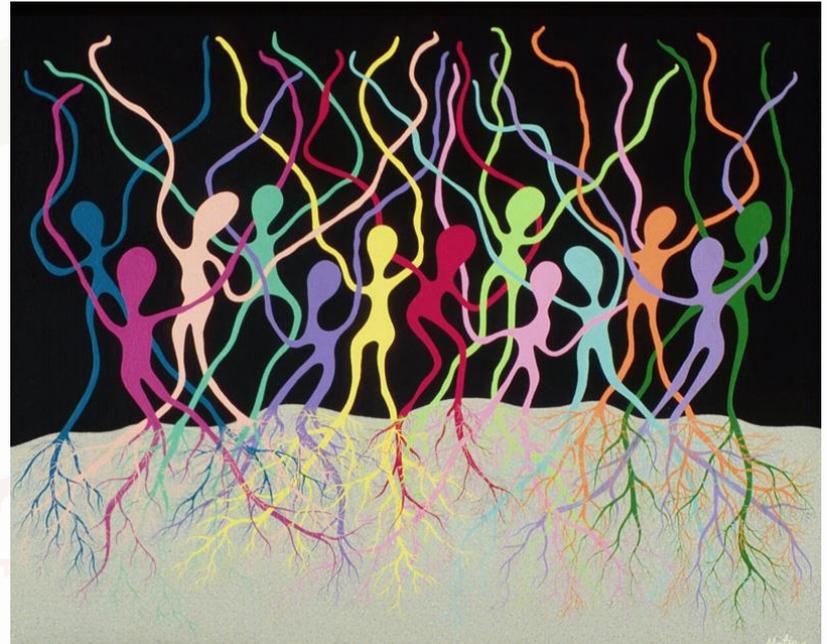
Quick Facts about the Syrian Crisis

- 15 million displaced - Worst humanitarian crisis since WWII
- Refugee waves started 2015



Cultural Bridging

- Parenting Styles
- Counselling Concept
- Health Care
- Recycling





SYRIA

Land of Diversity & Civilization