Teaching Refugee Adults Functional Mathematics

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The Faces of Refugees

- Refugee Film

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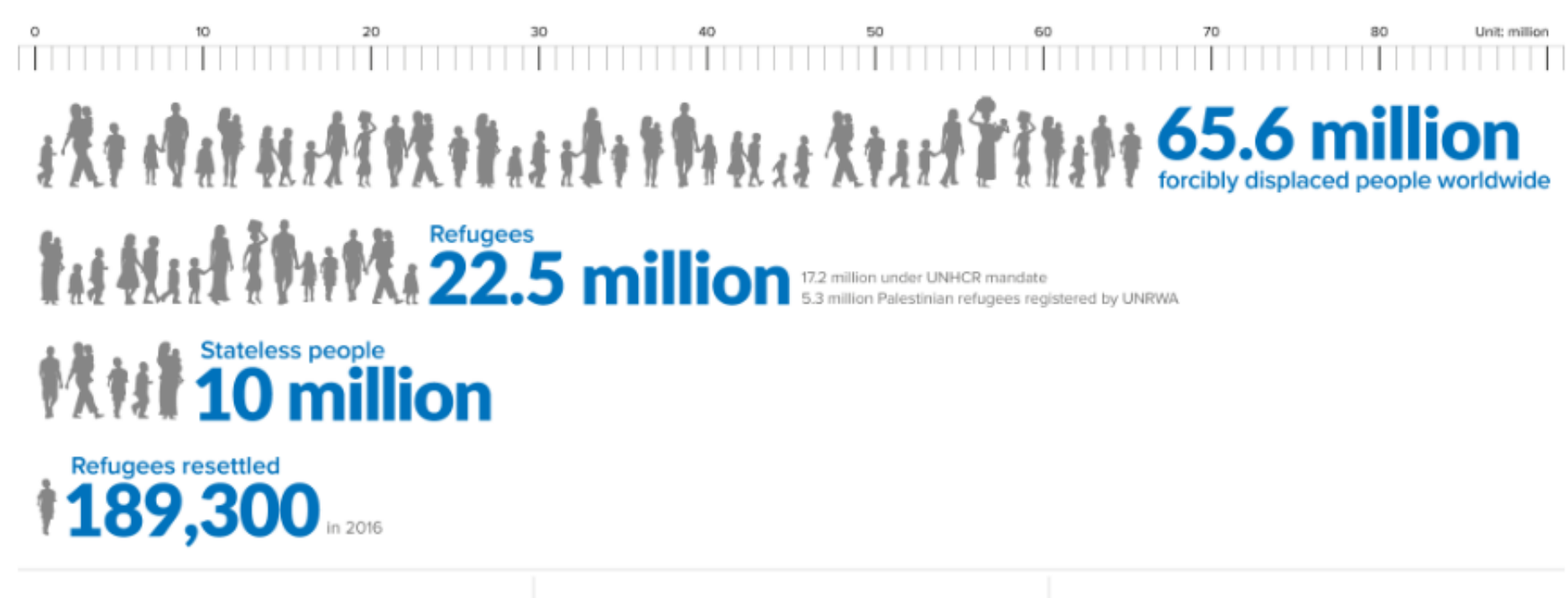
Who are Refugees?



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Refugees

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

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Functional Mathematics

Identification of Money

Measurement

Time

Numeracy

Financial Literacy

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Research in Strategies for Teaching Functional Mathematics Skills

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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What Research Says

- Focus on academic language, literacy, and vocabulary with word walls, cloze activities
- Link background knowledge and culture to learning.
- Increase comprehensible input and language output.

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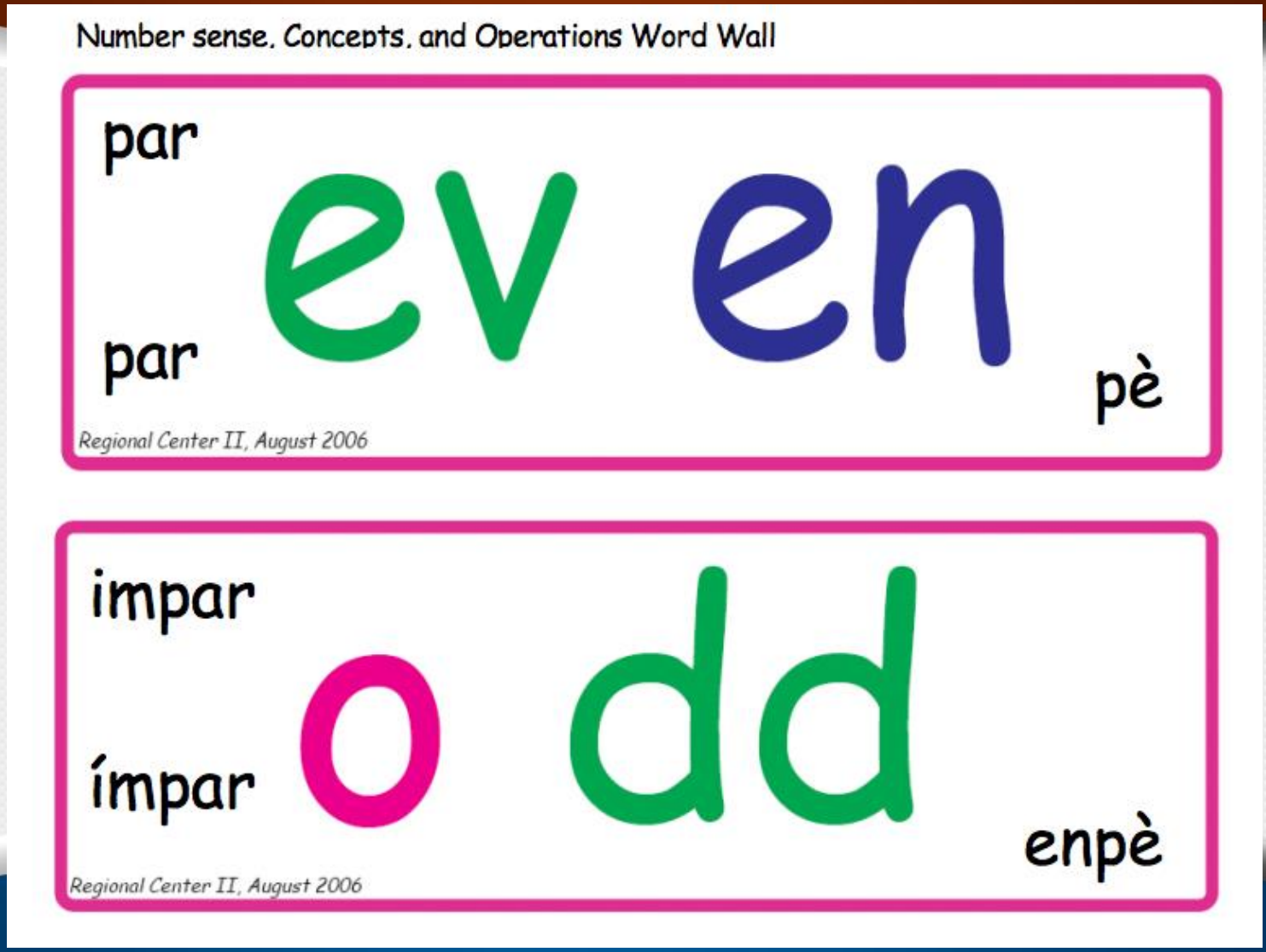
Word Walls



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What Research Says

- Promote classroom interaction
- Stimulate higher order thinking and the use of learning strategies.

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Research Question

- What are the best strategies that best fit a refugee population for functional math?

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Methodology

- Interviews with refugees
- Student Work
- Interviews with social workers and teachers

Qualitative Research Design

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Emerging Themes

Refugees stay in camps very few months.

Everyone wants to come to the U.S.

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Emerging Themes

- The Iceberg Theory is true! In Congo...No School...In Uganda… No School.. In US School, School, School

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Repetition, Repetition, Repetition

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Creating a Safe Place

- Governments normally guarantee the basic human rights and physical security of their citizens. But when people become refugees this safety net disappears.

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Confusion over Words and Sounds

- OUGH

?

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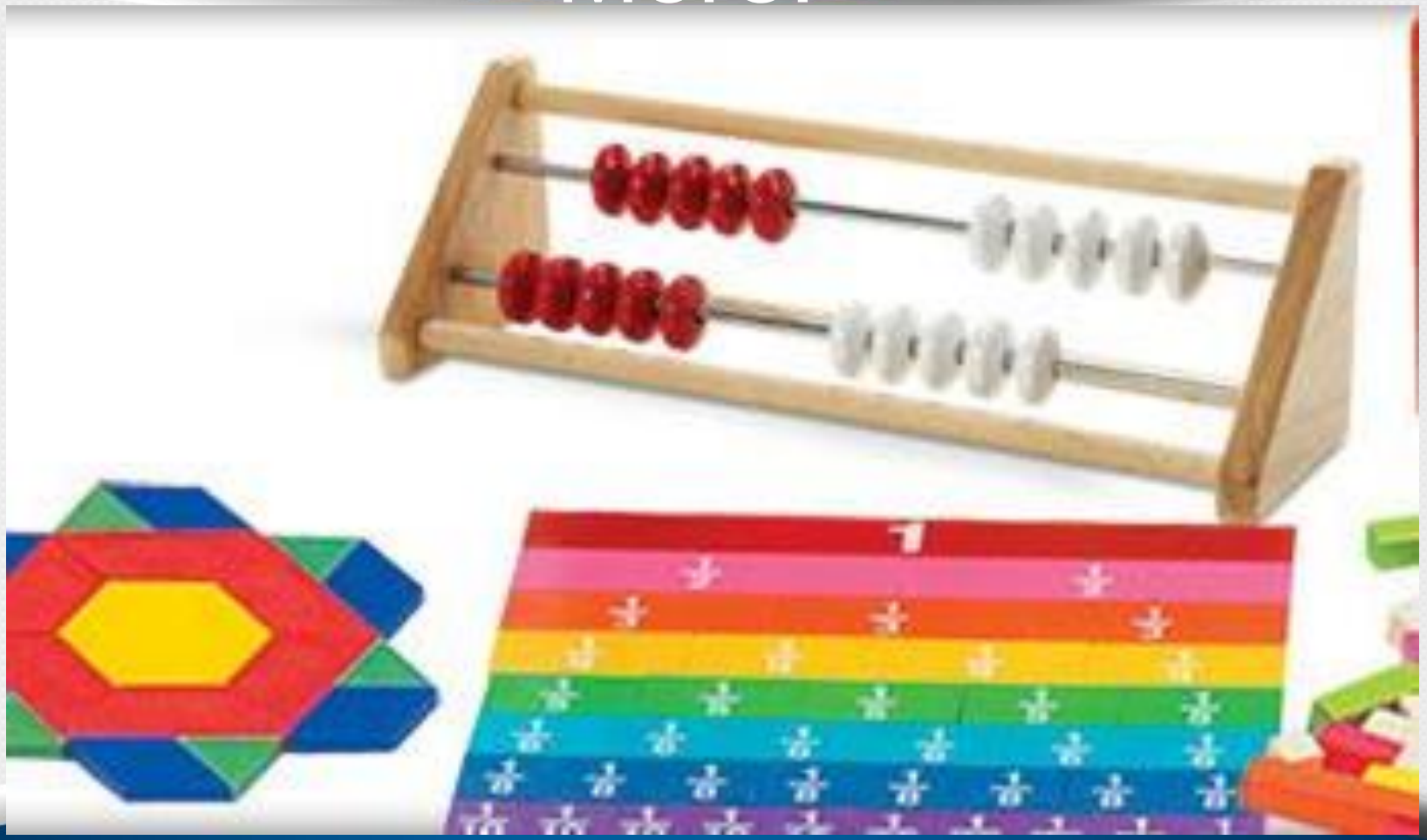
A picture is worth A Thousand Words…An Object is worth More!



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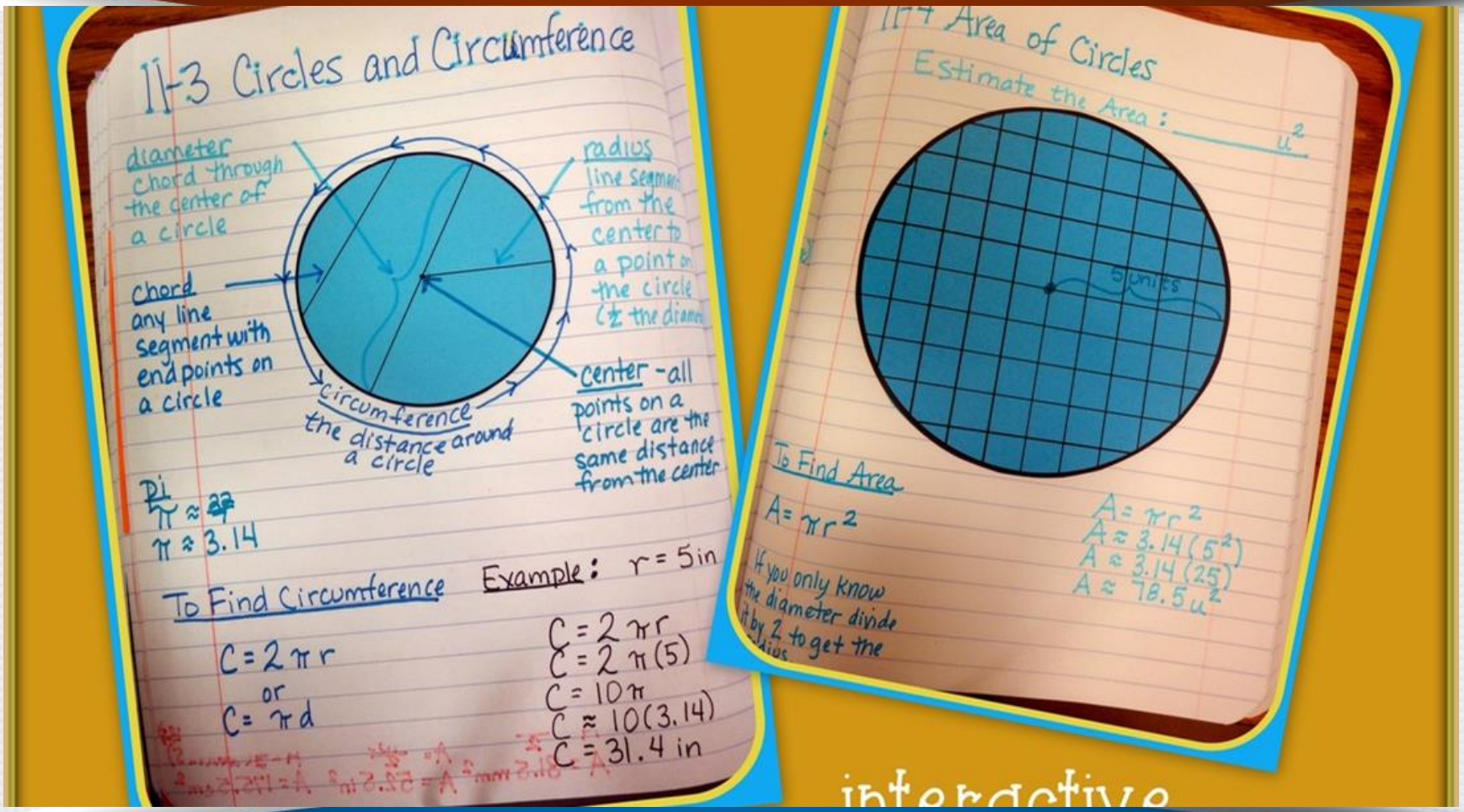
Interactive Notebook



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Gestures are Helpful!

The coded transcriptions of the lessons showed that when a teacher used a combination of words and gestures, students had a relatively high chance of correctly solving the equations. When teachers used words, but no gestures, students were approximately 30% less likely to show correct methodology.

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