**Lost Boys: Migration & Cultural Interaction**

Watch fragments from the film “God Grew Tired of Us” to learn about ***the Lost Boys of Sudan*** and their refugee experience.

*Background Information*

Are you familiar with Peter Pan’s Lost Boys? Characters in the J. M. Barrie’s novel “Peter Pan” who formed a family and took care of each other in Never-Never Land. There is a group of over 25,000 young Dinka men who ran away from a civil war.

The Dinka are the largest ethnic group in southern Sudan. In 1987, Sudan's Muslim government pronounced death to all males in the Christian south: 27,000 boys fled to Ethiopia on foot. In 1991, they were forced to flee to Kenya; 12,000 survived to live in a U.N. camp in Kakuma.

These young men travelled across sub-Saharan Africa in search of safety, and eventually found homes in the United States. Relief workers called them the “Lost Boys” after the characters in the J. M. Barrie novel, and the media picked up on this; the group is now known collectively as “The Lost Boys of Sudan.” In the United States, the Lost Boys faced many challenges while adapting to their new lives and trying to maintain their cultural identities as Dinka.

You will watch a fragment from “God Grew Tired of Us” documentary by “National Geographic”.

*Questions for discussion:*

1. What questions and fears do the Lost Boys have about life in the United States?

2. After their arrival in the United States, what do the Lost Boys learn or notice that is new to them?

3. What are the challenges the Lost Boys face in the USA?

4. Do they easily adapt for living in American community?

5. What feelings do they have?

6. What words would you use to describe American culture? (*cultural markers – music, food, fashion, language, or slang; values – individualism, personal rights, innovation, or democracy*).

7. How do the values of the Lost Boys compare to your own?

8. What questions and fears would you have if you were moving to a new place?

9. What differences do you see between Dinka culture and American culture?

10. How do you think you would adapt to life in a new country? Why?