

Discussion Questions

1. Which tribe does Salva belong to? How do members of their tribe identify themselves?
2. Why are North Sudan and South Sudan fighting?
3. Describe the rebels.
4. Describe the relationship between the Nuer and the Dinka tribes.
5. Why do the men nearly leave Salva behind?
6. Why do they take him with them?
7. Why can't Nya's family live near the lake?
8. What happens after Salva stubs his toe?
9. What was life like for Salva in the refugee camps?
10. What do you think the visitors in Nya's village are doing?
11. Was their hope in the refugee camps for Salva and the others? What made hope difficult?
12. Why did Salva leave Itang?
13. How did Salva finally get to America? Where did he go in America?
14. What news does Salva receive about his father?
15. How does Salva give back to his home country?
16. Why do you think he chose to give back to South Sudan?
17. How can better drinking water improve the lives of people?
18. How can education improve the lives of people?
19. Where are there refugees around the world today? How can we help these refugees?
20. Think of the story's title, *A Long Walk to Water*. How does this apply to Salva and Nya's life?

Sudan

Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It's a smaller country in the Middle East, with a population of about 37 million people. Sudan is near Egypt, the Red Sea, Chad, Libya, and Ethiopia. Egypt and the United Kingdom used to control Sudan, but in 1956 they gained independence from these powers. Despite their new freedom, this caused a breakout of a civil war in the region between the Islamic government and the southern areas. While this war eventually came to rest, in 1983, a second civil war broke out. This war was deadlier than the first and is estimated to have killed almost 2 million people.



While the country is still unstable today, they have worked to create a more solidified form of government. Their president, Omar al-Bashir, is in charge of the presidential democratic republic that the country claims to run under. He lives in Khartoum, the country's capital. Sudan's government is based on Sharia law, although actual laws vary by region.

The official language in Sudan is Arabic and almost 70% of the country is Muslim. South Sudan is a bit different and the people practice a mix of Christianity, Islam, and miscellaneous African religions.

Today, around the world Sudan is known for being a major exporter of crude oil and petroleum. Its land is rich in minerals such as gold, zinc, copper, and silver.

Other Facts about Sudan:

Sudan Quiz

1. When did Sudan become an independent country? From which countries?

2. What immediately began after their independence?

3. What happened in Sudan in 1983?

4. How many people is it estimated have been killed because of the second civil war?

5. What is the capital of Sudan?

6. What is the official language of Sudan?

7. What is Sudan's government like?

8. Who is the current president of Sudan?

9. What is a major export in Sudan that effects the rest of the world?

10. What is the primary religion in Sudan?

11. What is one of the major differences between the people of Sudan and South Sudan?

12. How many estimated people reside in Sudan?

Other Facts About Sudan:

The Lost Boys of Sudan

The Lost Boys of Sudan was a term given to the many orphans that resulted from the second civil war in Sudan that lasted from 1987 to 2005. These orphans were displaced because of the war's genocide and faced threats of forced drafting, undernourishment, or death. During the war, two million Sudanese citizens were killed and the war left children orphaned and unable to care for themselves. The term "lost boys" is thought to have been derived from the children's story, *Peter Pan*.

Many of these lost boys fled to Ethiopian and Kenyan refugee camps, where they were cared for by non government organizations and a United Nations program whose primary goal was taking care of children. Most of these children were 6 and 7 years old and like Salva did, they grew up in these refugee camp.

In 2003, around 3,600 of these children, now adults, sought asylum in major cities across the United States. These cities included places such as Dallas, Atlanta, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and more. After growing up in refugee camps, the boys had to transition to American life, and many were able to complete a college education and obtain U.S. citizenship. Decades afterward, many of these children wanted to return to their home country. Sadly, they found the same unrest and violence they had fled from years ago.

Salva Dut founded in Water for South Sudan in 2003, a nonprofit that helps provide clean drinking water throughout South Sudan. Salva moved from Sudan to New York in 1996.

Other Facts about The Lost Boys of Sudan:

Nya and Salva

Compare Nya and Salva. What do they have in common? What makes them different from each other?

Nya

Salva

Nya and Salva

Salva's Journey

Describe Salva's journey in each of the following scenarios.

EARLY LIFE

ON THE JOURNEY TO THE REFUGEE CAMP

THE REFUGEE CAMPS

LIFE IN AMERICA

Answer Key

1. 1956. Egypt and the United Kingdom
2. A civil war between the Islamic government and the southern areas of Sudan.
3. A second civil war
4. over 2 million
5. Khartoum
6. Arabic
7. Their government style is a presidential democratic republic although their country is still very unstable.
8. Omar al-Bashir
9. Oil
10. Islam
11. The religion in South Sudan is made up of Christianity, Islam, and African beliefs while the people in Sudan are mostly Muslim
12. 37 million