

Yusra Mardini is a Syrian swimmer who competed in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. This is her incredible story.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercise. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|--------|-----------------|----|--|
| 1..... | a border | a. | a sports trainer |
| 2..... | a disaster | b. | a sports competition held every four years |
| 3..... | to escape | c. | to get away |
| 4..... | the Olympics | d. | to get on a boat |
| 5..... | a coach | e. | a sudden accident that causes a lot of damage or kills a lot of people |
| 6..... | to board a boat | f. | to depend on |
| 7..... | dignity | g. | a line separating two countries |
| 8..... | to rely on | h. | a sense you have of your own value and that other people respect you |

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

- Yusra used to have lots of friends, loved going to school and to the **gym / pool / extra classes** .
- Her swimming coach told her she could compete in the **Olympics / FIFA World Cup / World Championships** one day!
- Her life was in danger because of the **war / earthquake / flood** .
- Yusra and her **little / middle / big** sister, Sara, travelled to Turkey. The plan was for her family to follow.
- Yusra and her sister were **unable to swim / weak swimmers / strong swimmers** and helped to save the lives of everyone in the boat.
- They swam and pulled the boat for more than **three and a half / four and a half / five and a half** hours.
- Yusra made it to Europe and arrived at her new home in **Turkey / Germany / Greece** .
- Yusra is proud to be a goodwill ambassador for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and she represents people who are all fleeing **violence / disease / natural disasters** .

Discussion

What did you think of Yusra's story?