

Reading comprehension

Angelina Jolie was born on June 4, 1975 in Los Angeles, California. Her parents were both movie actors and she began acting at a young age, studying at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute at the age of 11. She later majored in film studies at New York University. At 16, she took up a career in modeling. She started acting in movies in the 1990s and in 1999 won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the movie, *Girl Interrupted*. She has since become one of Hollywood's top names, having starred in over 30 movies.

² Off-screen, Angelina Jolie devotes considerable time and money to **humanitarian** causes. One of her main interests is helping internationally displaced persons. She began visiting **refugees** in camps around the world to draw attention to their needs. She was appointed as a Goodwill **Ambassador** for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). She also received the Global Humanitarian Action Award from the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. for her activism on behalf of refugee rights. In addition to forming the Jolie-Pitt **Foundation**, whose aim is to help eradicate **poverty** and conserve wildlife, she regularly donates money to organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and travels the world drawing attention to global issues.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDgIVseTkuE>

¹ Born on February 2, 1977, in Barranquilla, Colombia, Shakira is a hugely successful pop singer and dancer. She wrote her first song at the age of 8. Her music is a blend of Latin, rock, and Arabic music styles. Her hit album, *Pies Descalzos*, meaning "bare feet," sold more than 3 million copies. By 2012, her U.S. album sales had reached nearly \$10 million and her worldwide album sales had reached more than \$70 million. She is the highest-selling Colombian artist of all time.

² In addition to her busy music career, Shakira is known for **philanthropic** work in her native Colombia. As a young girl, she often saw street children who slept in the park each night and she promised to do something to help them someday. After achieving her phenomenal musical success, she created the Fundación Pies Descalzos (Barefoot Foundation) to fight against social **injustice**. The aim of the foundation is to help **underprivileged** children escape a life of poverty. Since 2003, it has opened six schools in Colombia providing education, nutrition, and counseling to more than 4,000 children and their families. Although it is based in Colombia, the Barefoot Foundation is planning to expand to other countries and has started projects in South Africa and Haiti. Shakira is also a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and was named a member of President Obama's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics in 2011.



Vocabulary: Social Issues

Match the words (1-8) with the definitions (a-h)

1. Humanitarian	A) Situation that is not fair or equal
2. Refugee	B) The estate of not having enough money to pay for basic needs
3. Ambassador	C) Helping people, especially by giving money to those who need it
4. Foundation	D) Someone who leaves their home country because it is not safe there
5. Philanthropic	E) Not having as many advantages as other people
6. Poverty	F) An organization that provides money for a charity
7. Underprivileged	G) Concerned with helping someone who are suffering
8. Injustice	F) Someone who represents an organization.

Discussion

Which humanitarian causes do you feel are most important in the world today? Why?

What do you think is the best way to help refugees?

What about people who live in poverty?

What kind of social injustice is most serious in your country, in your opinion?