

Teacher Background Notes

PUSH AND PULL FACTORS OF MIGRATION

Push Factors—Factors that make you want to leave a place

Economic factors:

- Lack of employment
- Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods)
- Lack of food or shelter
- Lower standard of living

Social Factors:

- Lack of health care
- Lack of educational opportunities
- Lack of religious tolerance

Political Factors:

- Unfair legal system
- Disenfranchisement (Not being able to vote) or lack of governmental tolerance
- War and terrorism

Pull Factors—Factors that draw you to live in a place

Economic Factors:

- Hope for better employment
- More money and food
- Better shelter
- Hope for family to have a higher standard of living

Social Factors:

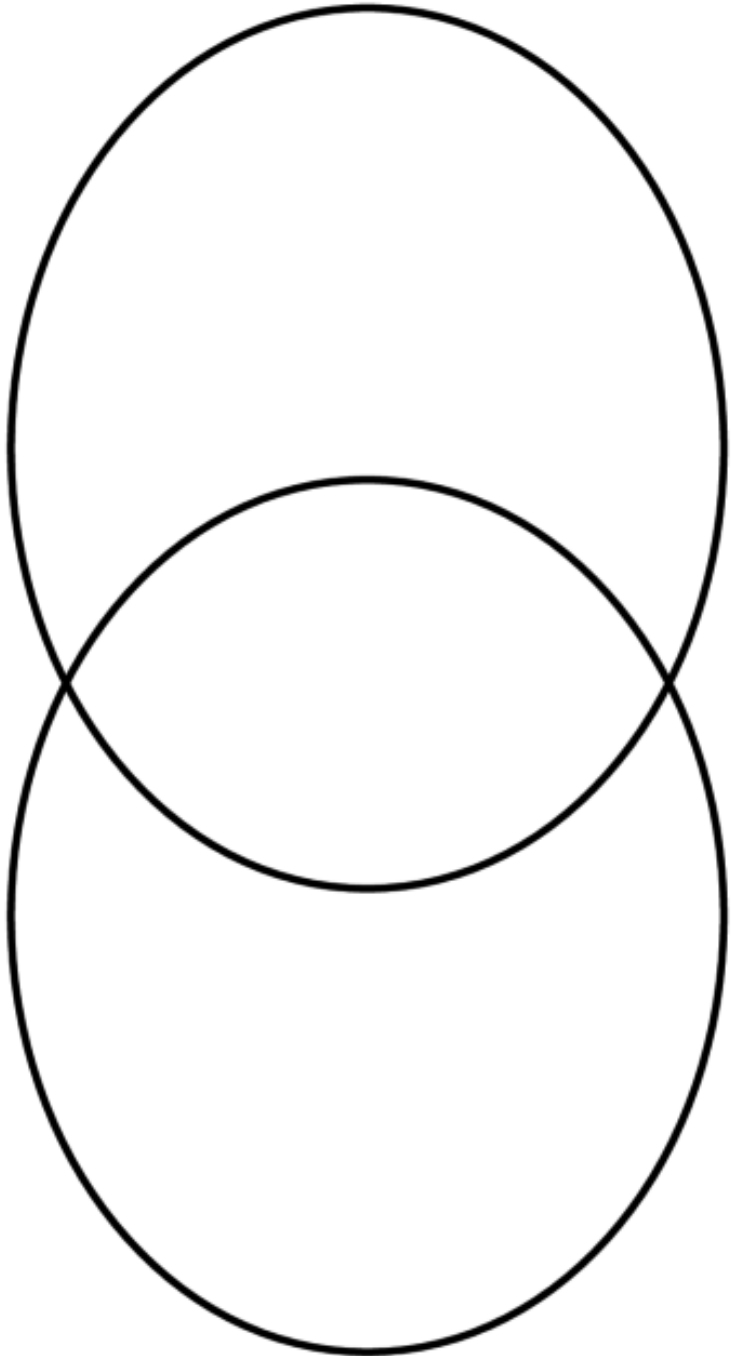
- Encouragement from family and friends
- Better health care
- Better educational opportunities
- Religious tolerance

Political Factors:

- To gain protection under the law
- Right to vote and freedom from persecution
- Safety

<http://www.deucegym.com/venn-diagrams/>

Venn Diagram



Push Pull Factor Word Sort

Push Factor	Pull Factor
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Famine	Loss of home	Wanting to be with family
Job opportunity	Poor educational opportunity	Personal freedom
War	Chance to own land	Good climate
Natural disasters (earthquakes, volcanos, etc.)	Poverty	Gold
Chance to make more money	Adventure	Religious freedom
Better health care	Opportunity to vote	Low standard of living
Higher standard of living	Personal safety	Better legal system

Immigrant Stories

My name is Clara. I came from Guatemala in 2008. I came to live with my aunt in Tucson, Arizona, because in Guatemala I didn't have much of a chance of a good education. Many girls only go to school until they are 13 or 14, and then they get married. The most important thing to my family back in Guatemala was for me to get a good education. I have a brother that still lives there with my mother and father. I miss my family. I feel lucky to have an aunt that is an American citizen. She helped me get through college. I am now very successful.

My name is Nia. I am from Jamaica. I came to the United States in the 1990s when I was only 13 years old. My grandmother wanted to bring me much earlier, but the paperwork that she had to file took 10 years to be accepted. I miss Jamaica very much. My family says that I will have a better life here and there will be more opportunities for me to do well in America. Some of my other family members have come to the United States to live since I arrived. We now live in Connecticut.

My name is Imre. When I was a little boy in Hungary in the 1950s, my father and mother were killed in the war that was tearing our country apart. My brother and I traveled as orphans, living in the streets and begging for any food. We traveled all over Europe before I was able to come to America. My brother stayed behind in Europe. I felt alone at first, but then I met the woman that I married. We moved to Phoenix, Arizona, because there were jobs available for hard-working immigrants. I didn't speak English when I first got here, but I learned enough to do simple jobs to make a living. I am happy to live in a safe place like America.

My name is Lan. I am from Vietnam. My dad is an American that fought in the war in Vietnam. He met my mother in Vietnam in the 1970s, fell in love, and married her. He brought my mom to the United States because it is safe here. Eventually, my parents would have five children. We live in Eugene, Oregon. Not only do we all live the United States...but my grandmother Hong has joined us. It is nice having all of the family together. I speak English and Vietnamese.

My name is Catherine. I came from Ireland in the 1840s. When I was a little girl, we had a famine in Ireland. My mother, brother, father, and I had just enough money to pay for cheap tickets on a boat to America. When we got here, we had to stay in a small room with another family that also came from Ireland. Even though it was crowded, we still had more food than we did in Ireland. Sometimes, people that weren't Irish would talk badly about people from Ireland. They didn't want us here. They said we could get them sick. I didn't understand this, because I felt healthy. It ended up all right though. I am now a woman married to a banker and have three children. I have plenty to eat each day.

My name is Carlo, but here they call me Charles. I came from Italy. I came to New Orleans, Louisiana, in the early 1900s. My job is to deliver huge blocks of ice. In the days before refrigerators, people used ice to keep their food cold. It was great having a job, but it was hard work! I had a mule that used to help me carry the giant blocks of ice through the streets. I got married to a lovely lady and had seven children. I came here with nothing but my clothes. I made a little bit of money working hard. I was able to have a house and raise my children the right way. They said that America was the land of opportunity. I guess they were right.

My name is Moses. I came from South Sudan in Africa three years ago. My mother and three sisters brought me to America to be free from my father. In Africa, my dad used to hit my mother and me. There are lots of bad things, like war and terrorism, happening in Africa. I am happy that my mother brought me to America where I can go to school and eat school lunches. The people at the refugee center help us keep our apartment, and they are teaching my mom how to speak English. It is much safer here than in South Sudan for many reasons. I think it was a good thing that we came here.

My name is Ling. I came from China to help build the railroad in the United States in 1873. The work was hard, but there were many of us working together. The goal was for the United States to have train tracks run from coast to coast. Many of us workers were immigrants. I am Chinese but some workers were Irish and Italians. The job was often dangerous, but I was glad to be here and working. By working here, I can send money home to my family in China. Sometimes I wished I was home. I miss my family and the food. China isn't easy to get back to. There's a lot of water separating the United States from Asia.

My name is Paul. I am from Germany. My father was a farmer. We moved to the United States in the early 1900s because there were too many people living in Germany. Even though my dad was a great farmer, back in Germany we didn't have enough land to grow enough food for our own family. When we got to America, we learned English and built a place to live on our land. The work was hard because we first had to clear all the land before we could grow crops. Our only friends lived miles away. I felt lucky to have my family, but I could tell that my dad was lonely a lot. Living in America wasn't an easy life.

My name is Ricardo. I am from Cuba, and I came to America in 1961. There are many other Cubans that have moved to the United States. Many Cubans live in Florida. We like to live near each other so that we don't feel too far from home. It's nice having a Cuban for a neighbor, one that speaks your language (Spanish) and cooks and eats the same kind of food you do. Most people that have come from Cuba like me are unhappy with the way the Cubans run their government. In the United States, a person has rights, based on the Constitution. In Cuba, the government decides what is best for a person.

Name _____ Reflecting on Text and Myself

Read each story. Write the name of the storyteller in the first box. Write what country they came from in the second box. Then reflect on something the storyteller said that meant something personal to you. The first one is done for you.

Storyteller	From what country	Text and Myself
Clara	Guatemala	I want to go to college and be successful.

Optional--Immigration Push and Pull Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the following questions using your Immigrant Stories Fact Sheet

1. In Catherine's story, a pull factor was that she had more food in America.

T _____ F _____

2. A push factor for Imre was the war happening in Hungary.

T _____ F _____

3. The push factor in Paul's story was the government was not fair.

T _____ F _____

4. The push factor in Clara's story was medical care in Guatemala was limited.

T _____ F _____

5. The pull factor in Lan's story was to be safe.

T _____ F _____

6. In Moses's story, what was a pull factor?

_____.

7. In Ricardo's story, what was a push factor?

_____.

8. In Ling's story, why couldn't he go back to China easily?

_____.

9. In Imre's story, what was the pull factor to move to Phoenix?

_____.

10. In Carlo or Charles's story, what he did to earn money once he came to America?

_____.

Immigration Comprehension Quiz **Answer Key**

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. T
6. safe from harm, school, food, Mom happier
7. unhappy with Cuba's government
8. There's lots of ocean between the U.S. and China.
9. jobs
10. ice delivery man

Migration or Immigration Survey

Name _____

Please complete the following statements:

Person being surveyed _____

I moved to Arizona because

I moved to Arizona _____ years ago when I was _____ years old.

Two great things about living in Arizona are

My ancestors are from _____.

If I had my choice to live anywhere, I would love to live in _____.

I would choose this place because of these two reasons

The worst place I ever lived was _____.

I didn't like living there because of these two reasons