

Get on the Track: Migration – An African-American Adventure

Vocabulary Worksheet

1. Migration – change of residence from one place to another
2. Migration stream – a pattern in which movement of people take place moving from one place to another
3. Push factors of migration – factors that encourage a person to leave their homes; examples are lack of jobs, natural disasters, equal rights are not protected, terrorism
4. Pull factors of migration – factors that encourage a person to move to a new place; examples are better jobs, better or more food, more money, better health care, civil rights are protected
5. Boll weevil – a small beetle that causes damage to cotton crops
6. Lynching – to be hanged by a mob without a trial
7. Civil rights – rights belonging to a person because he/she is a citizen of the society

Book Discussion Questions

Please answer the following questions after reading the book *The Great Migration* by National Geographic

1. To what time period is the text referring?

2. Why did African-Americans want to move from their Southern Homes? List three reasons. These are called push factors.

3. How did they travel to the North? Why did they use this method?

4. List two opportunities African-Americans found in the North. These are called pull factors.

5. List two obstacles African-Americans faced in the South.

Teacher Answer Key for Discussion Questions

1. WW I
2. No jobs, education or enough food
3. The train
4. Jobs, voting rights,
5. Little change to make money, little educational opportunities

PUSH AND PULL FACTORS OF MIGRATION

Push Factors

Economic factors:

Lack of employment

Mechanization of agriculture in the South (machines doing the farming)

Natural disasters (boll weevil, floods)

Social Factors:

Lack of health care

Lack of equal education

Lack of voting rights

Political Factors:

Unfair court system

Disenfranchisement (Not being able to vote)

Lynching and terrorism

Pull Factors

Economic Factors:

Hope for better jobs

More money and food

Expanded industry

Social Factors:

Encouragement from family and friends

Better health care

Better education

Political Factors:

To gain civil rights - voting

Desire to be free of abuse

Letter Writing Assignment

Name _____ Period _____

Assignment: You are an African American who has moved your family to the North during the early 1900's. You are writing a letter to a family member who still lives in the South. Your letter needs to convince them to move to the North.

To whom are you writing the letter? _____

Where in the North did you decide to live? _____

List three push factors for leaving the South:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three pull factors for going to the North:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Your letter needs to include the following:

- ___ Heading
- ___ Salutation (greeting)
- ___ Body (3 push and 3 pull factors)
- ___ Closing (for example, Yours Truly or Love)
- ___ Signature