Journeys and Choices

Compare why people moved and what they faced.

SS24.5.4 "Analyze the reasons for increased immigration to, and migration within, the United States and Alabama in the early twentieth century. 4a Compare the experiences of immigrants who entered the United States through various ports of entry..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline reasons people moved, circle barriers they faced, and number the three entry places 1, 2, and 3. Use your marks to compare the journeys.

Different Paths, Different Experiences

1. In the early 1900s, families crossed oceans and land borders to enter the United States. Some hoped for steady work, while others fled hunger or unfair treatment. Many Europeans arrived at Ellis Island in New York Harbor. Workers checked their health and papers, and most were admitted within hours. Still, a person who was sick or lacked required papers might be held or sent back.

2. On the West Coast, Asian newcomers passed through Angel Island near San Francisco. Laws restricting Chinese immigration led officials to question many Chinese arrivals closely; some waited weeks or longer. At southern border stations, Mexican immigrants entered by train or on foot, often seeking farm or railroad work. Officials checked travelers there too, but crossing by land was different from arriving by ship.

3. Meanwhile, Black families in Alabama faced low farm pay, crop losses from boll weevils, and Jim Crow laws that enforced segregation. Threats of violence also made life unsafe. During World War I, northern factories needed workers, partly because fewer workers came from Europe during the war. Thousands of Black Alabamians moved north, hoping for jobs and greater safety. This movement became part of the Great Migration.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could a Chinese immigrant's experience at Angel Island differ from a European immigrant's experience at Ellis Island? What helps explain the difference?

2. How did travel through southern border stations differ from travel through Ellis Island? Give one reason people used each route.

3. Identify one economic condition and one social condition in Alabama that helped start the Great Migration. Explain how each could lead a family to leave.

4. Why did northern cities attract Black Alabamians during World War I? How was the war connected to the need for workers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about two travelers in the early 1900s: one entering through a place in the passage and one leaving Alabama for the North. Give a reason each traveled, one difference between their journeys, and one way they were alike.

ANSWER KEY

Journeys and Choices

GRADE 5 · SS24.5.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline reasons people moved, circle barriers they faced, and number the three entry places 1, 2, and 3. Use your marks to compare the journeys. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could a Chinese immigrant's experience at Angel Island differ from a European immigrant's experience at Ellis Island? What helps explain the difference?	**Many Europeans at Ellis Island were admitted within hours after checks. Some Chinese immigrants at Angel Island faced close questions and waited weeks or longer because laws restricted Chinese immigration.**
2	How did travel through southern border stations differ from travel through Ellis Island? Give one reason people used each route.	**Mexican immigrants could enter southern border stations by train or on foot, often seeking farm or railroad work. Many Europeans arrived by ship at Ellis Island, and some hoped for steady work.**
3	Identify one economic condition and one social condition in Alabama that helped start the Great Migration. Explain how each could lead a family to leave.	**Low farm pay or crop losses made earning a living difficult. Jim Crow segregation or threats of violence made families seek a safer life elsewhere.**
4	Why did northern cities attract Black Alabamians during World War I? How was the war connected to the need for workers?	**Northern factories offered jobs. They needed workers partly because fewer workers came from Europe during the war.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Ellis Island, a European newcomer might hope to find steady work. In Alabama, a Black farmer might leave low pay and Jim Crow laws behind to seek a northern factory job. The first traveler entered the United States, while the second moved within it. Both hoped a new place would offer a better life.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the museum label, check for four sentences, a reason for each journey, a difference, and a similarity.