Should They Move?

Predict why a farming community might migrate and what could happen next.

SS24.7.4c "Predict causes and consequences of human migration, including push and pull factors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that might push the villagers away from home, circle two details that might pull them toward the valley, and number two possible results of moving 1 and 2. Use your marks to trace why the families might move and what could happen next.

A Village Faces a Choice

1. Imagine a farming village in Southwest Asia about 7,000 BCE. Families grow wheat and barley and keep goats near a small stream. For several years, the spring rains arrive late, and the stream runs low before harvest. Seeds planted in dry soil sprout poorly. Goats must be led farther away to find grass, leaving fewer hands to work the fields. The families store grain, but their supply shrinks each winter. Some villagers begin to discuss moving together before another harvest fails.

2. A traveler reports a broad valley several days away. Its river usually flows through the growing season, and wild grasses grow along its banks. People living there have shared news that open land lies above the river's floodplain. The villagers cannot know whether every season will be wet, yet the valley might offer water for crops and grass for goats. To reach it, families would have to carry seed, tools, and stored grain. They must also decide who can make the trip.

3. If the families move, they may plant near the river and bring their goats to nearby pasture. A better harvest could leave extra grain to save or trade. But travel would use food they cannot replace on the road, and the new fields might belong to another community. Settling farther from old neighbors could also make shared work and visits harder. If the families stay, they keep familiar homes and ties, but another dry season might leave too little grain to feed everyone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two conditions at home might push the families to leave? Explain how each could affect them.

2. Which two features of the valley might pull the families there? Explain how each could help.

3. If the families move, how might their food supply change? Explain what could cause that change.

4. Predict one problem the families might face if they move. What could cause it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a different Neolithic village where game animals have grown scarce and a distant lakeshore has fish and reeds but floods each spring. In four sentences, explain one push factor and one pull factor, then predict one helpful and one harmful consequence of moving, with a reason for each prediction.

ANSWER KEY

Should They Move?

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.4c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that might push the villagers away from home, circle two details that might pull them toward the valley, and number two possible results of moving 1 and 2. Use your marks to trace why the families might move and what could happen next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two conditions at home might push the families to leave? Explain how each could affect them.	**Late rains and a low stream could leave too little water for crops. Goats must also travel farther for grass, leaving fewer people to tend the fields.**
2	Which two features of the valley might pull the families there? Explain how each could help.	**The river might provide water for crops, and grasses along its banks might feed the goats.**
3	If the families move, how might their food supply change? Explain what could cause that change.	**Water from the river might help crops grow, leading to a better harvest and extra grain to save or trade.**
4	Predict one problem the families might face if they move. What could cause it?	**They might run short of food because travel would use stored grain that they could not replace on the road.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Scarce game would push the village to leave because hunting now brings in less food. Fish would pull families toward the lakeshore because they could catch them to eat. Moving might improve the food supply if the families learn to catch enough fish. Spring floods could damage homes if the families build too close to the lake.

Accept other predictions supported by details in the passage or the Your Turn scenario. Students should connect each predicted consequence to a plausible cause.