Kingdoms on the Move

Trace how migration changed political control after Rome.

SS24.8.1b "Explain the rise of Germanic kingdoms, the migration of their peoples, and the effect on political boundaries in Europe."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline causes of migration or weaker Roman rule, circle the names of groups that formed kingdoms, and number three sentences that show how control of land changed.

When Roman Borders Changed

1. Imagine crossing a frontier where Roman soldiers once checked travelers. In the late 300s, groups of Goths moved south across the Danube into Roman territory, partly because the Huns had advanced into lands north of the river. Roman officials let many Goths enter, but harsh treatment and food shortages led to fighting. Over the next century, Roman leaders in the west struggled to defend and govern distant provinces. In 476, a Germanic commander removed the last western Roman emperor, yet local rule did not suddenly become the same everywhere.

2. The Visigoths, one Gothic group, moved through the western empire and sacked Rome in 410. In 418, Roman authorities settled them in southwestern Gaul, in what is now France. Their leaders built a kingdom there while claiming more land; Roman offices and laws did not simply vanish. Farther north, the Franks gained power in Gaul as western Roman control weakened. Around 486, the Frankish leader Clovis defeated a Roman ruler in northern Gaul. His expanding kingdom replaced Roman rule across much of the region and later pushed Visigothic power toward Iberia.

3. Across the North Sea, Angles, Saxons, and other peoples traveled from parts of northern Europe to Britain during the 400s and 500s. Roman troops and officials had already left Britain, leaving local rulers to defend their territories. Some newcomers fought for land; others formed alliances with people already living there. Over time, several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms took shape in areas that had been part of Roman Britain. These new borders were not lines drawn in a single year. Migration, warfare, and agreements changed who governed places once linked by Roman power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Huns' advance help set off changes inside Roman territory?

2. How did the Visigoths' move into southwestern Gaul change who held power there?

3. How did the Franks change who controlled northern Gaul and where Visigothic power remained?

4. How did migration to Britain, together with Roman withdrawal, lead to new political boundaries?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for a visitor who thinks Europe's new kingdoms and borders all appeared in 476. Trace two different paths from migration to a new kingdom, and explain why political boundaries changed over time.

ANSWER KEY

Kingdoms on the Move

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.1b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline causes of migration or weaker Roman rule, circle the names of groups that formed kingdoms, and number three sentences that show how control of land changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Huns' advance help set off changes inside Roman territory?	**The Huns' advance helped drive Goths across the Danube into Roman territory, where harsh treatment and food shortages led to fighting.**
2	How did the Visigoths' move into southwestern Gaul change who held power there?	**After Roman authorities settled the Visigoths there in 418, Visigothic leaders built a kingdom, although Roman offices and laws did not simply disappear.**
3	How did the Franks change who controlled northern Gaul and where Visigothic power remained?	**Clovis defeated a Roman ruler in northern Gaul. The expanding Frankish kingdom replaced Roman rule across much of Gaul and pushed Visigothic power toward Iberia.**
4	How did migration to Britain, together with Roman withdrawal, lead to new political boundaries?	**After Roman troops and officials left, Angles and Saxons crossed the North Sea to Britain. Several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms formed in areas once governed as Roman Britain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Goths crossed the Danube partly because the Huns advanced, and Visigothic leaders later built a kingdom in southwestern Gaul. That land had been governed by Rome, though some Roman offices remained. Angles and Saxons crossed the North Sea into Britain after Roman officials had left, and several kingdoms arose there. Settlement, fighting, and agreements changed political boundaries over many years, not all at once in 476.

Accept other accurate paths from movement or weakened Roman control to new kingdoms. Responses should distinguish the gradual changes in political control from the removal of the western emperor in 476.