Routes and Results

Trace why groups migrated and what happened after they arrived.

SS24.HG.9a "Explain the causes and effects of the migration of various ethnic groups to the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one cause of migration and circle one effect for each group, then write matching numbers beside each group's cause and effect to show three cause-and-effect links.

Leaving, Arriving, and Building Communities

(1) In the 1840s, a potato disease destroyed much of Ireland's main food crop. British government relief did not prevent widespread hunger, and many Irish families left for the United States. Ships brought them to eastern ports, where factory work and construction jobs offered wages. Most immigrants had little money, so many settled near those jobs in crowded city neighborhoods. Irish workers helped build roads and canals, while Irish churches and mutual aid groups supported newcomers. Some employers refused Irish applicants, often because of anti-Catholic prejudice. Migration offered work and community, but it also exposed families to discrimination.

(2) In the 1850s, people from southern China crossed the Pacific as war and economic hardship disrupted life at home. Reports of California gold and demand for labor in the American West drew many, especially men, to the United States. Chinese workers mined, farmed, and helped build the transcontinental railroad. They also created businesses and community organizations in western cities. Yet violence and laws targeting Chinese residents limited where some could work or live. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred most Chinese laborers from entering. This law divided families and sharply reduced new arrivals from China.

(3) During the Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910, violence and economic disruption pushed many people from Mexico to seek safety and wages across the border. United States farms, railroads, and factories needed workers, making the trip attractive. Some migrants settled in border cities; others followed seasonal jobs farther north. Families formed neighborhoods, opened shops, and strengthened labor and cultural life in their new communities. During the Great Depression, officials forced many people of Mexican descent to leave the United States, including some citizens. This loss separated families and reduced communities' populations. Migration and government responses both shaped where families could build lasting homes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did events in Ireland and job opportunities in the United States together shape where many Irish immigrants settled?

2. How did conditions in China and opportunities in the American West lead to migration, and what was one result?

3. Explain how events in Mexico and demand for workers in the United States led to migration. What was one effect in U.S. communities?

4. How did barriers faced by Irish and Chinese immigrants differ, and what effect did each barrier have?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label arguing whether conditions in homelands or opportunities and rules in the United States did more to shape migration and its effects. Use evidence from at least two groups in the passage, and explain a cause and an effect for each group.

ANSWER KEY

Routes and Results

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.9a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one cause of migration and circle one effect for each group, then write matching numbers beside each group's cause and effect to show three cause-and-effect links. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did events in Ireland and job opportunities in the United States together shape where many Irish immigrants settled?	**The failure of Ireland's potato crop and widespread hunger drove families to leave. Jobs in eastern cities drew many to crowded neighborhoods near factories and construction work.**
2	How did conditions in China and opportunities in the American West lead to migration, and what was one result?	**War and economic hardship pushed people from southern China to leave, while reports of gold and demand for labor drew them west. Chinese migrants helped build the transcontinental railroad, among other contributions.**
3	Explain how events in Mexico and demand for workers in the United States led to migration. What was one effect in U.S. communities?	**Violence and economic disruption during the Mexican Revolution pushed people to leave, while U.S. farms, railroads, and factories offered work. Migrants formed neighborhoods and opened shops.**
4	How did barriers faced by Irish and Chinese immigrants differ, and what effect did each barrier have?	**Some employers refused Irish applicants, limiting their access to jobs. The Chinese Exclusion Act barred most new Chinese laborers, reducing arrivals and dividing families.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Opportunities and rules in the United States did more to shape where migrants settled and what happened next. Jobs in eastern cities attracted Irish families escaping hunger, and those jobs helped them build urban communities, though employers sometimes rejected Irish applicants. Work on western railroads and farms attracted Chinese migrants fleeing hardship and war. Their labor helped build the transcontinental railroad, but the Chinese Exclusion Act later barred most new Chinese laborers and divided families. In both cases, hardship pushed people to leave, while American opportunities and policies shaped the results.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect links in the short answers. For the museum label, accept either position if the student uses two groups and explains a cause and an effect for each.