Moving America

Three migrations and the places they changed

SS24.HG.9b "Explain the causes and consequences of migration within the United States,citing historical examples."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each migration, underline a reason people left, circle a reason they chose their destination, and draw a box around one effect on a place.

When Americans Moved

1. In 1916, a family in rural Mississippi might have heard that a Chicago factory needed workers. During the Great Migration, millions of Black Americans left the South for cities in the North and West, especially from about 1916 to 1970. Segregation, racial violence, and limited economic opportunity pushed many to leave. Industrial jobs and the hope of greater freedom drew them to cities such as Chicago. Migrants helped expand neighborhoods, churches, businesses, and Black political influence. Yet discrimination in housing and hiring followed them, and their departure changed the labor force and communities they left behind.

2. Two decades later, a farm family in Oklahoma might have packed a car for California. In the 1930s, drought, severe dust storms, and falling farm income made it hard for many families to stay on the Great Plains. The Great Depression deepened their hardship. Some headed west because California's farms offered seasonal work, even though jobs were not guaranteed. Their arrival increased the supply of farm labor and helped California growers harvest crops. Many migrants faced low wages, crowded camps, and hostility from residents. In towns they left, shrinking populations meant fewer customers for local stores.

3. After World War II, another large movement reshaped the country. Many Americans moved from older industrial regions in the Northeast and Midwest to the South and West, an area often called the Sun Belt. Some left because factory jobs were declining in their home communities, especially in later decades. Expanding defense and aerospace industries, lower-cost housing, and widespread air conditioning made Sun Belt cities attractive. As cities such as Phoenix and Atlanta grew, new roads and neighborhoods spread outward. Growth created jobs and political influence, but it also increased demand for water and land. Some older industrial cities lost residents and tax revenue.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What pushed many Black Americans to leave the South during the Great Migration, and what drew them to cities such as Chicago?

2. How did environmental and economic conditions work together to drive migration from the Great Plains? Explain one consequence in California.

3. Why did some Americans move to the Sun Belt, and what was one consequence for older industrial cities?

4. Compare one effect of the Great Migration on its destination cities with one effect of Sun Belt migration on its destination cities.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two migrations from the passage, then write a 75 to 100 word museum label arguing which better shows changes in both the place people left and the place they entered. Compare a cause and a consequence for each migration, using specific evidence from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HG.9b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

For each migration, underline a reason people left, circle a reason they chose their destination, and draw a box around one effect on a place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What pushed many Black Americans to leave the South during the Great Migration, and what drew them to cities such as Chicago?	**Segregation, racial violence, and limited economic opportunity pushed many to leave. Industrial jobs and the hope of greater freedom drew them to cities such as Chicago.**
2	How did environmental and economic conditions work together to drive migration from the Great Plains? Explain one consequence in California.	**Drought and dust storms damaged farming while falling farm income and the Great Depression deepened hardship. In California, migrants supplied labor that helped growers harvest crops.**
3	Why did some Americans move to the Sun Belt, and what was one consequence for older industrial cities?	**Expanding industries, lower-cost housing, and air conditioning attracted movers. Some older industrial cities lost residents and tax revenue.**
4	Compare one effect of the Great Migration on its destination cities with one effect of Sun Belt migration on its destination cities.	**Great Migration arrivals helped expand Black neighborhoods and political influence in northern and western cities. Sun Belt growth spread roads and neighborhoods outward and increased demand for water and land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Great Migration best shows how movement changed both ends of a journey. Racial violence and limited opportunities pushed Black Americans from the South, while factory jobs drew them to Chicago. Their departure changed southern labor forces, and their arrival strengthened Black neighborhoods and political influence in northern cities. The Dust Bowl migration also changed both places: drought and falling farm income drove families west, where their labor helped California growers harvest crops. But its effect on Great Plains towns, including lost store customers, was more narrowly economic than the changes described for the Great Migration.

Accept other passage-supported causes and consequences. For the museum label, look for a defensible choice, an accurate comparison of two migrations, and effects on both the departure and destination communities of the chosen migration.