

Movement and Memory

Trace how westward expansion changed migration and cultural life.

SS.8.A.4.4 "Discuss the impact of westward expansion on cultural practices and migration patterns of Native Americans, African slave populations, and other minority groups."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one detail about a group's migration pattern and circle one cultural practice that was pressured, preserved, or adapted.

Westward Expansion and Communities

- ① As settlers pushed west during the 1800s, the United States took Native land through treaties, war, and removal policies. The Indian Removal Act drove many southeastern Native nations west, including the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears. Later, reservation policies confined many communities to smaller areas. Moving disrupted hunting routes, farming places, and ties to sacred lands. Government boarding schools also pressured Native children to abandon their languages and customs. Families resisted by preserving stories, ceremonies, and languages whenever they could.
- ② Westward expansion also enlarged the cotton frontier, increasing demand for enslaved labor. Through the domestic slave trade, enslaved African Americans were forcibly moved from the Upper South to states such as Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. These sales separated parents, children, and spouses, changing family migration patterns without their consent. On plantations and in towns, people maintained cultural connections through religious meetings, songs, foodways, and extended kin networks. Such practices helped communities share news, support one another, and resist the isolation created by forced movement.
- ③ The gold rush and railroad work drew many Chinese migrants to the West after 1848. They traveled across the Pacific, while some later moved among mining camps, railroad sites, and western cities as jobs changed. Racist violence, special taxes, and exclusion from many occupations limited where Chinese people could live and work. In Chinatowns, residents built associations, celebrated festivals, used Chinese languages, and operated businesses. These communities preserved cultural practices and offered help with housing, work, and legal challenges amid discrimination.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did United States removal and reservation policies affect Native American migration and cultural practices?

2 What caused enslaved African Americans to be moved west, and how did that movement affect families?

3 Explain how job opportunities and discrimination shaped Chinese migration and settlement in the West.

4 How did both enslaved African Americans and Chinese migrants maintain cultural connections while facing pressure from westward expansion?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Native American nations, enslaved African Americans, or Chinese migrants. Write a three-sentence explanation that names one pressure or opportunity caused by westward expansion, explains its effect on migration, and describes one cultural response.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one detail about a group's migration pattern and circle one cultural practice that was pressured, preserved, or adapted. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did United States removal and reservation policies affect Native American migration and cultural practices?	They forced or confined Native communities to new, smaller places, disrupting ties to hunting, farming, and sacred lands. Boarding schools pressured children to give up languages and customs, while families preserved stories, ceremonies, and languages.
2	What caused enslaved African Americans to be moved west, and how did that movement affect families?	The expanding cotton frontier increased demand for enslaved labor. The domestic slave trade forcibly moved people from the Upper South and separated parents, children, and spouses.
3	Explain how job opportunities and discrimination shaped Chinese migration and settlement in the West.	Gold rush and railroad jobs drew Chinese migrants west and led some to move among job sites. Violence, taxes, and job exclusion limited where they could live and work, encouraging settlement in communities such as Chinatowns.
4	How did both enslaved African Americans and Chinese migrants maintain cultural connections while facing pressure from westward expansion?	Enslaved African Americans used religious meetings, songs, foodways, and kin networks. Chinese communities used associations, festivals, Chinese languages, and businesses to preserve culture and support residents.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Westward expansion forced many enslaved African Americans from the Upper South to the cotton frontier through the domestic slave trade. This movement separated families and changed migration patterns without their consent. Religious meetings, songs, foodways, and kin networks helped people maintain connections and resist isolation.

Accept responses that accurately use one of the three groups named in the passage and include a cause or pressure, a migration effect, and a cultural response. Cultural details may be paraphrased if they remain supported by the passage.