Why They Moved

Read for the reasons behind immigration.

5.SS.1.7 "Explain the religious, political, and economic motives of immigrants to the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reason people left home, circle what they hoped to find in the United States, and label the reasons religious, political, or economic.

Different Reasons to Leave

1. In the 1840s, a disease destroyed much of Ireland's potato crop. Many families had little food, and work was hard to find. Some sailed to the United States, hoping to earn wages and feed their families. Crossing the ocean cost money and could be dangerous, but staying could mean hunger. For these families, the need for food and paid work was a powerful reason to leave.

2. In 1848, people in German states called for more rights and a greater voice in government. After these uprisings failed, some people who had supported them feared arrest or punishment. They moved to the United States, where they hoped to speak and take part in public life more freely. Others also wanted farmland or jobs. A family's decision could have both political and economic reasons.

3. In the late 1800s, many Jewish families in the Russian Empire faced unfair laws because of their religion. Violent attacks on Jewish communities also made life unsafe. Some left for the United States, hoping to practice their faith in safety. They also looked for jobs to support their families. Their move shows how a religious reason and an economic reason could shape the same choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why was the move to the United States an economic choice for some Irish families?

2. Why was the move a political choice for some people from German states?

3. Why did some Jewish families in the Russian Empire have a religious reason to leave?

4. How did economic reasons also affect the decisions of people from German states and Jewish families from the Russian Empire?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a family living outside the United States in the late 1800s. In four sentences, explain two different types of motives that might lead them to immigrate, with a specific reason for each; use details not found in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Why They Moved

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.1.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each reason people left home, circle what they hoped to find in the United States, and label the reasons religious, political, or economic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the move to the United States an economic choice for some Irish families?	**With little food and few jobs in Ireland, they hoped to earn wages and feed their families in the United States.**
2	Why was the move a political choice for some people from German states?	**After calls for more rights failed, some supporters feared punishment and hoped to take part in public life more freely.**
3	Why did some Jewish families in the Russian Empire have a religious reason to leave?	**They faced unfair laws because of their religion and violent attacks, so they hoped to practice their faith in safety.**
4	How did economic reasons also affect the decisions of people from German states and Jewish families from the Russian Empire?	**Some people from German states wanted farmland or jobs. Jewish families also looked for jobs to support their families.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Rivera family prints a newspaper that criticizes their country's ruler. Officials threaten to jail them for publishing it, so the family has a political reason to leave. Their small print shop also earns too little to pay rent. The hope of finding better paid work in the United States gives them an economic reason to move.

Accept passage-based explanations in students' own words. For Part 3, look for four sentences with two correctly identified motive types and a distinct, plausible reason for each.