Why People Move

Find the reasons behind three major migrations.

6-9.WH.2.2 "Identify the main reasons for major migrations of people."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline why people left each place and circle what drew them toward a new place. Number the three migrations 1, 2, and 3.

Three Journeys, Different Reasons

1. In the 1840s, a disease called potato blight destroyed much of Ireland's potato crop. Many poor families depended on potatoes for food, so the crop failure led to terrible hunger. During the Great Famine, more than a million people left Ireland. Many sailed to the United States or Britain. They did not leave simply to explore. Hunger and the loss of a reliable food supply drove them away, while the hope of finding food and work drew them toward new homes.

2. Between about 1916 and 1970, millions of Black Americans moved from the rural South to cities in the North and West. In the South, racist laws and violence limited their safety and freedom. Farm work often paid little. Northern and western factories offered jobs with better pay, especially when industries needed workers. Families also hoped for greater freedom, though racism existed in their new cities too. Unlike the families leaving Ireland's famine, these migrants faced several powerful reasons at once: escaping unfair treatment and seeking safer lives and better jobs.

3. In 1947, British India was divided into two independent countries, India and Pakistan. The new border placed many Muslims in India and many Hindus and Sikhs in Pakistan. Violence between religious communities spread during the division. Millions crossed the new border, often traveling toward a country where their religious community was the majority. Some hoped to live near people who shared their faith, but fear of attack was a major reason many fled. Not everyone chose to leave freely, and the journeys could be dangerous.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What was the main reason many people left Ireland during the Great Famine?

2. Identify two reasons Black Americans moved from the South to northern and western cities.

3. Why did many people cross the new border between India and Pakistan in 1947?

4. How was a main reason for leaving Ireland different from a main reason for crossing the India-Pakistan border?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a migration not described in the passage. In three sentences, describe where a group moves, give a concrete clue about why, and identify the main reason as a danger they leave or an opportunity they seek.

ANSWER KEY

Why People Move

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline why people left each place and circle what drew them toward a new place. Number the three migrations 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was the main reason many people left Ireland during the Great Famine?	**Potato blight destroyed much of the potato crop, causing hunger and a loss of reliable food.**
2	Identify two reasons Black Americans moved from the South to northern and western cities.	**They sought to escape racist laws and violence and to find better-paying jobs.**
3	Why did many people cross the new border between India and Pakistan in 1947?	**Many fled because they feared attacks during violence between religious communities.**
4	How was a main reason for leaving Ireland different from a main reason for crossing the India-Pakistan border?	**Many people left Ireland because crop failure caused hunger. Many crossed the India-Pakistan border because they feared violence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Several families moved from their remote town to a nearby city. Their town's only school had closed, but the city had schools their children could attend. Their main reason for moving was the opportunity for their children to continue their education.

For Part 2, accept accurate paraphrases grounded in the passage. For Part 3, accept a plausible migration with a concrete clue and a matching main reason that differs from the passage's examples.