Reasons to Move

How push and pull factors changed during the Great Migration

GHW.3.2 "Identify and describe the push-pull factors that resulted in the migration of human population over time, and detect changes in these factors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline conditions that pushed people to leave the South, circle conditions that pulled them toward other places, and number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to track how those factors changed over time.

The Great Migration: Changing Reasons, Changing Destinations

1 In 1916, a Black farmworker in Mississippi might have heard that a Chicago meatpacking plant needed workers. Across the South, Jim Crow laws enforced racial segregation, and violence threatened Black residents. Cotton farming offered uncertain income, especially where boll weevils damaged crops. These conditions pushed many people to consider leaving. At the same time, factories in northern cities needed labor during World War I. The war reduced immigration from Europe, which made some employers more willing to hire workers from the South. Higher wages and a chance to vote without the same barriers pulled migrants north, though opportunity was not equal for everyone.

2 This movement became known as the Great Migration, but its pace did not stay steady. In the 1920s, relatives and friends who had already moved sent news about jobs and places to stay. Their letters and visits made northern cities seem less unfamiliar. Then the Great Depression began in 1929. Factories closed or cut their workforces, so a major pull factor, the hope of a steady industrial job, weakened. Southern racism and poverty did not disappear, but fewer jobs awaited people who left. Migration continued at a slower pace in the 1930s.

3 During World War II, defense plants again needed workers. After the war, machines replaced many farmworkers in the South, adding pressure to leave. In this later wave, many Black migrants headed not only north but also west, including to California's growing cities. Job openings and existing family networks helped draw them to these destinations. Yet arriving did not end discrimination: housing restrictions and unequal hiring limited choices in many cities. By about 1970, millions had moved during the Great Migration. Across these decades, the push of unequal treatment persisted, while the strength and location of job opportunities changed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In the first paragraph, identify one condition that pushed people from the South and one that pulled them north. Explain how each affected the decision to move.

2. How did World War I strengthen the pull of northern factory jobs?

3. What changed about a major pull factor during the Great Depression, and how did that affect migration?

4. In the later wave, what new pressure to leave the South appeared, and how did migrants' destinations change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a family considering a move from a coastal fishing town to an inland city. At first, fish catches fall and a food-processing plant opens in the city; ten years later, coastal flooding worsens and the plant cuts jobs. In four sentences, explain the push and pull factors in both periods and how the family's decision might change.

Reasons to Move

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline conditions that pushed people to leave the South, circle conditions that pulled them toward other places, and number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 to track how those factors changed over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In the first paragraph, identify one condition that pushed people from the South and one that pulled them north. Explain how each affected the decision to move.	**Jim Crow laws pushed people to leave because they enforced segregation. Northern factory jobs pulled people north by offering work.**
2	How did World War I strengthen the pull of northern factory jobs?	**The war increased factories' need for workers and reduced immigration from Europe, so some employers were more willing to hire workers from the South.**
3	What changed about a major pull factor during the Great Depression, and how did that affect migration?	**Factory closures and job cuts weakened the pull of steady industrial work. Migration continued, but at a slower pace in the 1930s.**
4	In the later wave, what new pressure to leave the South appeared, and how did migrants' destinations change?	**Farm machines replaced many southern workers, adding pressure to leave. Migrants went west as well as north, including to California cities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At first, falling fish catches push the family away from the coast, while a job at the food-processing plant pulls them toward the inland city. Ten years later, flooding makes the push to leave stronger. The plant's job cuts weaken the city's pull because steady work there is less likely. The family might still leave the coast but look for a different city.

Accept other passage-supported push and pull factors in the short answers. For the open task, look for a correct distinction between reasons to leave and reasons to choose a destination, plus an explanation of how their strength changes.