Two Ends Changed

Trace how one migration reshaped places people left and places they entered.

GHW.3.3 "Analyze the changes in population characteristics and physical and human environments that resulted from the migration of peoples within, between, and among world regions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one cause of the move and circle two changes in population. Label one environmental change in the South with S and one in Chicago with C so you can compare both ends of the journey.

From Southern Farms to Chicago

1. Between about 1916 and 1970, millions of Black Americans moved from the rural South to northern and western cities in a movement called the Great Migration. Many left because farm jobs were shrinking, wages were low, and racist laws and violence restricted their lives. Rail lines carried families from Mississippi and other southern states to Chicago. A family leaving a Mississippi farm might find factory work in Chicago, but the move did not erase discrimination. This was migration within the United States, yet it changed the geography of population across major regions.

2. In Chicago, newcomers increased the city's Black population and made some neighborhoods much more crowded. Housing discrimination kept many families from renting or buying outside limited areas, especially on the South Side. In those neighborhoods, migrants and longtime residents expanded churches, newspapers, shops, and music venues. Demand for homes also encouraged construction, replacing some open ground with buildings and pavement. Those hard surfaces absorbed less rainwater than soil, increasing runoff during storms. Migrants shaped the city, but segregation determined where many of these population and environmental changes were concentrated.

3. Back in parts of the rural South, departing workers reduced the supply of farm labor and the share of young adults in some communities. Families separated by distance stayed connected through letters, visits, and money sent home. Farms did not simply disappear: landowners increasingly used machines and fewer workers, a change that both encouraged migration and continued after people left. In Chicago, more people shared a smaller urban space; in the sending communities, fewer workers remained on the same agricultural land. These different effects show why a migration story needs both ends of the journey.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the move change population characteristics in both Chicago and parts of the rural South?

2. How did housing discrimination affect where migrants lived and the human environment they helped build in Chicago?

3. How could new housing for Chicago's growing population change the physical environment during a storm?

4. How were machines on southern farms both a cause of migration and a change that continued after workers left?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine families move from a coastal fishing village to an inland factory town. In four or five sentences, predict one population change and one physical or human environmental change in each place, and explain how the move could cause those changes.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one cause of the move and circle two changes in population. Label one environmental change in the South with S and one in Chicago with C so you can compare both ends of the journey. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the move change population characteristics in both Chicago and parts of the rural South?	**Chicago's Black population grew, while some rural southern communities had fewer farm workers and a smaller share of young adults.**
2	How did housing discrimination affect where migrants lived and the human environment they helped build in Chicago?	**Discrimination limited where many families could live, concentrating them in neighborhoods such as the South Side, where migrants and longtime residents expanded churches, newspapers, shops, and music venues.**
3	How could new housing for Chicago's growing population change the physical environment during a storm?	**Construction replaced some open ground with roofs and pavement. These surfaces absorbed less rainwater than soil, increasing storm runoff.**
4	How were machines on southern farms both a cause of migration and a change that continued after workers left?	**Machines reduced the need for farm workers, encouraging some people to leave. Landowners continued using machines and fewer workers after the departures.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the coastal village, the share of working-age adults might fall if many young workers move away. With fewer fishing crews, some docks might close. In the inland town, the number of working-age residents and children might rise as families arrive. If the town builds homes for them, some grassy land could become streets and roofs, increasing storm runoff.

For Part 3, accept plausible predictions that connect migration to a population change and an environmental change in each location. Students should distinguish these predictions from facts established by the passage.