Mapping Moving Communities

Trace changing patterns of Black migration and settlement in the United States.

WG.4.2 "Develop maps of human migration and settlement patterns at different times in history and compare them to the present."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline places where people lived and circle places they moved to. Number the time periods in order so you can use the passage to make maps of change over time.

The Great Migration and Its Legacy

1 In 1910, nearly nine in ten Black Americans lived in the South, many in rural communities. In Mississippi and Alabama, farming families faced low pay and laws that enforced racial segregation. A map of that year would show a large concentration of Black residents across the southeastern United States, not just in one city. Settlement dots would be dense across the South. This starting pattern matters when you map migration: a route only makes sense when you know where people lived before they moved. Later maps can show how far communities spread from this region.

2 From about 1916 through 1970, millions of Black Americans left the South in the Great Migration. Factory and railroad jobs attracted people to northern and midwestern cities, while segregation and violence pushed many away from southern homes. Some travelers left Mississippi for Chicago, Illinois; others traveled from Alabama toward Detroit, Michigan. New York City also became a destination in the Northeast. In a later wave, migrants moved from the South to Los Angeles, California, on the West Coast. By 1970, a settlement map would show substantial Black communities in the South, Midwest, Northeast, and West.

3 Since the late twentieth century, the South has again attracted many Black Americans, including people moving from other U.S. regions. During the 2000s and 2010s, metropolitan areas such as Atlanta, Georgia, and Houston, Texas, grew as destinations. Job opportunities and family connections are among the reasons people move. A present-day settlement map would still show major Black communities in cities such as Chicago and Los Angeles, alongside large and growing communities in southern metropolitan areas. An arrow pointing toward the South does not mean everyone moved back. Maps show broad patterns, not the path of every person.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. On a 1910 settlement map, which region would have the largest cluster of dots for Black residents? What detail in the passage supports your choice?

2. For a map of the Great Migration, name one route to the Midwest and one route to the West Coast. Give the starting place and destination for each arrow.

3. How would the settlement dots on a 1970 map differ from those on a 1910 map?

4. On a present-day map, which southern destinations would you emphasize for recent growth? Which two cities outside the South would you keep on the map?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In three panels, sketch simple U.S. outlines labeled 1910, 1970, and Today. Add labeled dots for settlement and arrows for migration using the passage, then write one sentence comparing settlement in 1910 and today.

ANSWER KEY

Mapping Moving Communities

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline places where people lived and circle places they moved to. Number the time periods in order so you can use the passage to make maps of change over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	On a 1910 settlement map, which region would have the largest cluster of dots for Black residents? What detail in the passage supports your choice?	**The South would have the largest cluster because nearly nine in ten Black Americans lived there in 1910.**
2	For a map of the Great Migration, name one route to the Midwest and one route to the West Coast. Give the starting place and destination for each arrow.	**Draw an arrow from Mississippi to Chicago, Illinois, and another from the South to Los Angeles, California.**
3	How would the settlement dots on a 1970 map differ from those on a 1910 map?	**The 1910 dots would be concentrated in the South. The 1970 dots would also show substantial communities in the Midwest, Northeast, and West.**
4	On a present-day map, which southern destinations would you emphasize for recent growth? Which two cities outside the South would you keep on the map?	**Emphasize Atlanta and Houston for recent growth. Keep Chicago and Los Angeles as places with major Black communities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1910 panel: dots across the South, including Mississippi and Alabama. 1970 panel: dots in the South, Chicago, and Los Angeles, with arrows from Mississippi to Chicago and from the South to Los Angeles. Today panel: dots in Atlanta, Houston, Chicago, and Los Angeles, with an arrow from another U.S. region toward Atlanta. Comparison sentence: In 1910, Black settlement was concentrated in the South, while today major communities are spread across several regions, including the South.

Accept different supported routes and dots if their locations and time periods are accurate. Sketches need not have precise borders, but arrows must point toward the stated destinations.