Why People Moved

Find reasons people left home and chose new places.

4.C.2.3.C "Examine motives for human migration by identifying basic push and pull factors (e.g., pull factors: economic opportunity, religious freedom, education; push factors: instability, conflict, natural disasters)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the push factors that made people leave a place, and circle the pull factors that made a new place attractive.

Three Journeys in U.S. History

1. In the 1840s, a family in Ireland might pack a few belongings and board a ship for the United States. A disease had destroyed much of Ireland's potato crop, and many people faced hunger. Families who could no longer grow enough food had a hard choice to make. In American cities, factories and other businesses needed workers. Some travelers hoped to earn wages there.

2. People also move within a country. From about 1916 to 1970, millions of Black Americans left the South during the Great Migration. Racist laws and threats of violence made life unsafe and unfair for many families. In Northern cities, factories offered jobs with better pay than many Southern workers could earn. A family might leave Mississippi and travel to Chicago, Illinois, hoping for safer lives and steadier work.

3. In the 1930s, drought and fierce dust storms harmed farms on the Great Plains in the United States. Many families could not grow enough crops to make a living. Some headed west to California because they heard farms there needed workers. Work was often hard to find when they arrived. Still, families packed their belongings and traveled west, hoping to earn money and build a new life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What pushed many people to leave Ireland, and what pulled some toward the United States?

2. What pushed Black Americans away from the South, and what pulled them toward Northern cities?

3. What pushed some Great Plains families to leave, and what pulled them toward California?

4. Which two journeys had crop trouble as a push factor? How were the crop problems different?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a made-up story set in the United States before 2000 about someone moving between two states. In three sentences, name both states, give a reason to leave labeled as a push factor, and give a different reason to choose the new state labeled as a pull factor. Do not use the groups or events in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Why People Moved

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the push factors that made people leave a place, and circle the pull factors that made a new place attractive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What pushed many people to leave Ireland, and what pulled some toward the United States?	**Potato crop disease and hunger pushed people to leave. The hope of paid work pulled some toward U.S. cities.**
2	What pushed Black Americans away from the South, and what pulled them toward Northern cities?	**Racist laws and threats of violence pushed them away. Factory jobs with better pay pulled them toward Northern cities.**
3	What pushed some Great Plains families to leave, and what pulled them toward California?	**Drought and dust storms harmed their farms. The chance of farm work pulled them toward California.**
4	Which two journeys had crop trouble as a push factor? How were the crop problems different?	**People left Ireland and the Great Plains because of crop trouble. Disease destroyed much of Ireland's potato crop, while drought and dust storms harmed Great Plains farms.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1985, Maya moved from Vermont to Arizona. The factory where she worked closed in Vermont, a push factor. An Arizona hospital offered her a job, a pull factor.

Accept answers that identify a hardship at the starting place as a push factor and an opportunity at the destination as a pull factor. For Your Turn, accept a plausible invented story that meets the three-sentence and labeling requirements.