New Neighbors, New Oklahoma

Trace how migration changes work and community life.

OKH.C.8.6.A "Describe migrations of recent cultural and ethnic groups to Oklahoma and their impact on the social and economic transformation of the modern state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline why people moved, circle an economic change, and number the changes in community life.

Three Oklahoma Communities

1. After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Vietnamese refugees resettled in Oklahoma, including Oklahoma City. Family and community ties later drew more Vietnamese newcomers. On the city's northwest side, Vietnamese residents opened restaurants, groceries, and other small businesses, creating jobs and attracting customers from across the metro area. Their language, food, and celebrations also became part of local public life. The area's many Asian-owned businesses helped make it known as the Asian District.

2. Guymon, in the Oklahoma Panhandle, has drawn workers from Mexico and Central America, especially as meatpacking plants sought employees. Some people arrived directly from abroad, while others moved from elsewhere in the United States. Workers helped keep plants operating, and their families bought goods and services in town. As Spanish became more common, schools and clinics worked to serve residents in more than one language. Local shops and restaurants reflected the changing community.

3. In Enid, people from the Marshall Islands have joined relatives and neighbors who settled there earlier. An agreement with the United States allows Marshallese citizens to live and work in the country without a visa. New residents have filled jobs and supported local stores. Their arrival has also shaped community life: churches and public agencies have worked with Marshallese residents to connect families with information and services. These changes show that migration transforms both workplaces and everyday relationships.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Vietnamese newcomers settle in Oklahoma City, and how did they change its public life?

2. How did migration to Guymon affect both meatpacking plants and services for residents?

3. What helped Marshallese people settle in Enid, and how did their arrival affect community organizations?

4. How did the economic effects of migration differ between Oklahoma City and Guymon?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine planning a new event or service for one community in the passage. In three sentences, use a migration detail to explain how your idea could build social connections and create an economic opportunity.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline why people moved, circle an economic change, and number the changes in community life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Vietnamese newcomers settle in Oklahoma City, and how did they change its public life?	**Refugees arrived after the Vietnam War, and family and community ties drew others. Vietnamese language, food, and celebrations became part of local public life.**
2	How did migration to Guymon affect both meatpacking plants and services for residents?	**New workers helped keep meatpacking plants operating. Schools and clinics worked to serve residents in more than one language.**
3	What helped Marshallese people settle in Enid, and how did their arrival affect community organizations?	**Family and neighbor ties helped draw newcomers, and a U.S. agreement allowed them to live and work without a visa. Churches and public agencies worked with residents to connect families with services.**
4	How did the economic effects of migration differ between Oklahoma City and Guymon?	**In Oklahoma City, Vietnamese residents opened businesses that created jobs and attracted customers. In Guymon, newcomers supplied workers for meatpacking plants and bought goods and services.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Guymon has welcomed workers and families from Mexico and Central America. I propose a bilingual market day where new residents and longtime neighbors can meet while local vendors sell food and crafts. The event could build connections across languages and bring customers to small businesses.

Accept accurate links between migration and social or economic change, even when students use different wording. For Part 3, look for a new proposal with both kinds of impact explained.