Why People Move

Trace migration causes and their effects on communities.

WG.C.2.3 "Explain the push and pull theory of migration and its impact on human capital and demographic transitions, including the consequences of major voluntary and involuntary migrations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each push factor, circle each pull factor, and number the effects on human capital or population age to trace what changes when people move.

Two Journeys, Many Effects

1. A family leaving Syria during the civil war and a nurse moving from the Philippines for a job in Canada may take the same kind of trip, but their choices differ. Push factors are conditions that drive people from a place, while pull factors attract them elsewhere. Violence can make departure necessary for safety, an involuntary migration. Higher pay can draw a worker who decides to move, a voluntary migration, even if limited options at home shape that decision. Both journeys move human capital, the skills, knowledge, and health people bring to a community.

2. Since 2011, millions of Syrians have fled fighting and persecution, many crossing into neighboring countries. Safety is a powerful pull, but war is the push that makes staying dangerous. Refugees can bring professional skills, yet language barriers or rules about work and credentials may prevent them from using those skills immediately. Communities receiving large numbers of refugees may need more classrooms, housing, and health services. Syria, meanwhile, loses some trained workers and families. For refugees, interrupted schooling can also limit future human capital. These effects differ across people and places, so no single outcome describes every journey.

3. Nurses who leave the Philippines for higher wages abroad send money home, which can support education and health care. Employers abroad gain trained workers, while some communities in the Philippines face shortages if staff leave faster than they are replaced. Migration also changes a population's age structure: when working-age adults leave, their home community may have a larger share of children and older people. Their arrival can increase the working-age share elsewhere. Demographic transition describes long-term changes from high birth and death rates toward lower rates. Migration can affect that process through population age, health services, and family choices, but it does not determine a country's stage by itself.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why is the Syrian family's departure described as involuntary, and what pull factor may guide where they go?

2. How can Syrian refugees bring human capital to a receiving community but be unable to use it right away?

3. How can a nurse's voluntary move create both a benefit and a cost for communities in the Philippines?

4. If many working-age adults leave a community, how might its age structure change? Why does that change not prove the community has entered a new stage of demographic transition?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a migration between two fictional places. In one paragraph, identify whether it is voluntary or involuntary, explain a push factor and a pull factor, and predict effects on human capital and population age in both places. Explain why those effects alone do not establish a new stage of demographic transition.

ANSWER KEY

Why People Move

HIGH SCHOOL · WG.C.2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each push factor, circle each pull factor, and number the effects on human capital or population age to trace what changes when people move. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the Syrian family's departure described as involuntary, and what pull factor may guide where they go?	**War makes staying dangerous, so the family must leave for safety. Safety in another country is a pull factor.**
2	How can Syrian refugees bring human capital to a receiving community but be unable to use it right away?	**They may bring professional skills, but language barriers or work and credential rules may prevent them from using those skills immediately.**
3	How can a nurse's voluntary move create both a benefit and a cost for communities in the Philippines?	**Money sent home can support education and health care, but communities may face staffing shortages if nurses leave faster than they are replaced.**
4	If many working-age adults leave a community, how might its age structure change? Why does that change not prove the community has entered a new stage of demographic transition?	**Children and older people may make up a larger share of the remaining population. Age structure alone does not establish a new stage, which concerns long-term changes in birth and death rates.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After repeated crop failures, young farmers in fictional Westmere choose to move to Eastport for steady factory jobs. This is voluntary migration: lost farm income pushes them away, while available jobs pull them toward Eastport. Westmere loses farming skills and may have a larger share of older residents, while Eastport gains workers and may have a larger working-age share. Those shifts could affect services and family choices, but they do not by themselves show that birth and death rates have changed enough to mark a new stage of demographic transition.

Accept other passage-supported push and pull explanations. For the open task, look for a consistent voluntary or involuntary scenario, effects in both places, and a distinction between changes in age structure and long-term changes in birth and death rates.