

Why People Moved

Tracing push factors, pull factors, and immigration policies

USII.3.d "explaining the events, factors, and motivations that caused individuals and groups to migrate to the United States towards the end of the 19th century;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline factors that pushed people from home, circle factors that pulled them toward the United States, and number each event or law that changed migration.

Choices, Pressures, and Barriers

- ① During the late 1800s, factories, mines, and railroads expanded across the United States. Owners needed many workers, and some jobs paid more than jobs in rural Europe. Steamships made Atlantic travel faster and less costly than earlier sailing trips. Letters from relatives described wages and work, even though the jobs could be dangerous. These pull factors led many people to leave their homes and seek a chance to earn money in American industrial cities there.
- ② Many immigrants also faced push factors at home. In parts of southern and eastern Europe, farms were too small to support growing families, and factory jobs were scarce. Some Jewish people fled persecution, including violent attacks called pogroms, and unfair laws. In Ireland, earlier famine had damaged communities, and poverty continued to drive emigration. A person might leave because of hardship but choose the United States because relatives there could offer a place to stay or help find work.
- ③ Chinese workers had come to the West for mining, railroad building, and other jobs. After the railroad was completed, economic trouble and racism increased hostility toward Chinese communities. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 stopped most Chinese laborers from immigrating, though some merchants, students, diplomats, and family members could still enter under rules. This law shows that migration was shaped not only by jobs and danger at home, but also by United States policies that welcomed or blocked different groups.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did industrial growth and steamships each make moving to the United States more appealing or possible?

2 What pressures pushed some Jewish people to leave parts of Europe?

3 Why could a letter from a relative affect a person's decision to migrate? Use two details from the passage.

4 How did the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 change migration from China to the United States?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly 4 sentences comparing why a European immigrant and a Chinese migrant might have moved toward the United States. Include one push factor, one pull factor, and the effect of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline factors that pushed people from home, circle factors that pulled them toward the United States, and number each event or law that changed migration. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did industrial growth and steamships each make moving to the United States more appealing or possible?	Industrial growth created jobs that often paid more than rural European jobs. Steamships made Atlantic travel faster and less costly.
2	What pressures pushed some Jewish people to leave parts of Europe?	They faced persecution, violent attacks called pogroms, and unfair laws.
3	Why could a letter from a relative affect a person's decision to migrate? Use two details from the passage.	A relative's letter could describe wages and work. Relatives in the United States could also offer a place to stay or help the newcomer find work.
4	How did the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 change migration from China to the United States?	It stopped most Chinese laborers from immigrating, although some merchants, students, diplomats, and family members could still enter under rules.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Jewish immigrant from eastern Europe might leave because persecution and unfair laws made life unsafe. The person could choose the United States because industrial jobs paid wages and relatives might help. A Chinese worker might come west for railroad, mining, or other work. Unlike the European immigrant, the Chinese worker faced the Chinese Exclusion Act, which stopped most Chinese laborers from entering after 1882.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly connect conditions at home, opportunities in the United States, or government policies to migration decisions. For Part 3, check for exactly four sentences and accurate use of all three required elements.