

Moving Toward Change

Trace the causes and effects of the Great Migration.

USII.5.c “describing the reasons for and impact of the Great Migration;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons African Americans left the South. Circle three ways the Great Migration changed cities or the nation, so you can trace causes and effects.

A Movement That Reshaped America

- ① Between 1916 and 1970, millions of African Americans left Southern states in a movement called the Great Migration. Many families faced unfair Jim Crow laws, racial violence, and limits on voting in the South. Farming jobs also became less available as machines replaced workers and cotton pests damaged crops. These problems pushed people to consider leaving. Letters from relatives and newspaper reports described jobs and higher pay in Northern, Midwestern, and Western cities, giving families reasons to travel.
- ② Travel was often difficult, but railroads carried many migrants to cities such as Chicago, Detroit, New York, and later Los Angeles. In these places, factories, steel mills, meatpacking plants, and war-related industries needed workers. Migrants earned wages, yet they could still face job discrimination, crowded housing, and segregated neighborhoods. As African American populations grew, communities opened businesses, newspapers, churches, and clubs. The movement changed where people lived and helped shape city life in important ways.
- ③ Migration also carried Southern food, music, stories, and traditions into new regions. In Harlem, New York, writers, artists, and musicians helped create the Harlem Renaissance, a major flowering of African American culture. Growing populations gave African Americans greater influence in some city elections and strengthened organizations that fought for civil rights. The Great Migration did not end racism or inequality. However, it reshaped the nation by moving millions of people and building communities that influenced American culture, politics, and future civil rights efforts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What were two conditions in the South that pushed many African Americans to leave?

2 What pull factors made Northern, Midwestern, and Western cities appealing to migrants?

3 Describe one benefit and one challenge that migrants experienced after arriving in cities.

4 How did the Great Migration affect American culture or politics? Use one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a fictional family deciding to join the Great Migration. Include one push factor, one pull factor, and one benefit or challenge the family might experience in its new city.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons African Americans left the South. Circle three ways the Great Migration changed cities or the nation, so you can trace causes and effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were two conditions in the South that pushed many African Americans to leave?	Any two: unfair Jim Crow laws, racial violence, limits on voting, fewer farming jobs because machines replaced workers, or crop damage from cotton pests.
2	What pull factors made Northern, Midwestern, and Western cities appealing to migrants?	Reports and letters described jobs and higher pay. Cities also had industries that needed workers.
3	Describe one benefit and one challenge that migrants experienced after arriving in cities.	Benefits included wages and growing communities with businesses, newspapers, churches, and clubs. Challenges included job discrimination, crowded housing, and segregated neighborhoods.
4	How did the Great Migration affect American culture or politics? Use one detail from the passage.	It spread Southern traditions into new regions, helped create the Harlem Renaissance, increased influence in some city elections, or strengthened civil rights organizations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A family left Mississippi after farm work became scarce and unfair laws made life unsafe. They chose Detroit because factory jobs offered wages. In Detroit, they joined a growing community, but crowded segregated housing affected their daily lives.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that use details from the passage. For the open response, check for all three required parts, a push factor, a pull factor, and a realistic city benefit or challenge.