

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 50 MINS

Introduction to Human Migration

Students discuss types of migration and people who migrate. Then they brainstorm reasons for migrating.

GRADES

6 - 8

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography

OVERVIEW

Students discuss types of migration and people who migrate. Then they brainstorm reasons for migrating.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-human-migration/>

DIRECTIONS

1. Build background about human migration and types of migration.

Explain to students that *human migration* is the movement of people from one place in the world to another. Ask: *What are some different types of human movements?* Then tell students that people move for many reasons, and that types of human migration include:

- internal migration: moving within a state, country, or continent
- external migration: moving to a different state, country, or continent
- emigration: leaving one country to move to another
- immigration: moving into a new country
- return migration: moving back to where you came from
- seasonal migration: moving with each season or in response to labor or climate conditions

2. Discuss people who migrate.

Tell students that people who migrate fall into several categories:

- An *emigrant* is a person who is leaving one country to live in another.
- An *immigrant* is a person who is entering a country from another to make a new home.
- A *refugee* is a person who has moved to a new country because of a problem in their former home.

Have students provide specific examples of each to demonstrate understanding of the differences between the three terms.

3. Brainstorm reasons for migrating.

Ask: *Why do people move? What forces do you think drive human migration?* Then explain to students that people move for many reasons and that those reasons are called push factors and pull factors. Tell students that push factors include leaving a place because of a problem, such as a food shortage, war, or flood. Tell students that pull factors include moving to a place because of something good, such as a nicer climate, more job opportunities, or a better food supply. Ask: *What effect does a region's economy, climate, politics, and culture have on migration to and from the area?* Have students brainstorm additional reasons for migrating, such as displacement by a natural disaster, lack of natural resources, the state of an economy, and more.

Informal Assessment

Check students' comprehension. Make sure they understand the difference between emigrants, immigrants, and refugees.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- Human Geography

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- list and explain main types of migration
- describe categories of people who migrate
- list reasons for migrating

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Brainstorming
- Discussions

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Remembering
 - Understanding
- Geographic Skills
 - Acquiring Geographic Information

National Standards, Principles, and Practices

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM STANDARDS

- Theme 3:

People, Places, and Environments

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARDS

- Standard 9:

The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface

Preparation

What You'll Need

MATERIALS YOU PROVIDE

- Paper
- Pencils
- Pens

PHYSICAL SPACE

- Classroom

GROUPING

- Large-group instruction

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

Human migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another. Human patterns of movement reflect the conditions of a changing world and impact the cultural landscapes of both the places people leave and the places they settle.

Prior Knowledge

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Recommended Prior Activities

- [Cultural Diversity in the United States](#)
- [Global Patterns of Human Migration](#)
- [Human Migration Then and Now](#)

Vocabulary

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
emigrant	<i>noun</i>	person who moves from their existing country or region to a new country or region.
emigration	<i>noun</i>	process of leaving one country or region to live in another.
external migration	<i>noun</i>	the movement of people to another nation or country.
human migration	<i>noun</i>	the movement of people from one place to another.
immigrant	<i>noun</i>	person who moves to a new country or region.
immigration	<i>noun</i>	process of moving to a new country or region with the intention of staying and living there.
internal migration	<i>noun</i>	the movement of people from one area in a country or nation to another.
pull factor	<i>noun</i>	force that draws people to immigrate to a place.
push factor	<i>noun</i>	force that drives people away from a place.
refugee	<i>noun</i>	person who flees their home, usually due to natural disaster or political upheaval.
return migration	<i>noun</i>	the return of immigrants to their home country.
seasonal migration	<i>noun</i>	movement of animals or other organisms determined by the changing weather or seasons, or in response to labor or climate conditions. For animals, seasonal migration usually refers to movement to a warmer climate during the winter and a cooler climate during the summer. For humans, seasonal migration may happen because of drivers such as crop and livestock management or tourism.

For Further Exploration

Websites

- [Library of Congress: Immigration](#)
- [PBS: The New Americans](#)
- [Smithsonian Institution: Migrations in History](#)
- [National Geographic: The Genographic Project](#)



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