

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 50 MINS

Why Communities Move

Students consider the push and pull factors that cause groups of people or communities to move. Then they investigate their own community's history.

GRADES

3 - 5

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography, Social Studies, World History

OVERVIEW

Students consider the push and pull factors that cause groups of people or communities to move. Then they investigate their own community's history.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/why-communities-move/>

DIRECTIONS

1. Have students discuss reasons whole groups or communities might move to another location.

Review with students some of the push factors and pull factors that cause individuals to move from one location to another. Then have students discuss possible reasons that whole groups or communities might move to another location. Provide them with the following examples:

- human-made environmental disasters that make it unsafe to stay in an area
- natural disasters that make it unsafe to stay in an area
- the loss of industries or employers in an area
- a less extreme climate
- cultural resources
- job opportunities

Have students identify which are push factors and which are pull factors. Have students add their own examples of additional push and pull factors.

2. Have small groups investigate your community's history.

Divide students into small groups. Provide groups with historical documents, newspaper articles, photographs, and other documents you gathered. Write the questions below on the board, and ask students to find the answers to the questions as they explore the materials:

- *What push factors can you find? Why did people leave the community?*
- *What pull factors can you find? Why did people move into the community?*

3. Have groups present their findings to the class.

Have students create and share brief, simple presentations that show migration to and from your community. Have students draw pictures that show these push and pull factors and explain their drawings to the class.

Informal Assessment

Check students' comprehension. Ask:

- *What is a push factor?*
- *What is a pull factor?*

Extending the Learning

Have students add captions for each push or pull factor in their drawings.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- Human Geography

Social Studies

- World History

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- explain migration in terms of push and pull factors
- describe their community's migration history

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Discussions
- Research

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Analyzing
 - Remembering
- 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

- Construction paper
- Historical documents about your community
- Markers
- Paper
- Pencils

GROUPING

- Small-group instruction

OTHER NOTES

Before starting this activity, gather historical documents, newspaper articles, photographs, and other documents that help to tell your community's migration story.

BACKGROUND & VOCABULARY

Background Information

It's important to understand why people move, or the push and pull factors that cause them to move. Push factors "push" people away from their home and include things like war. Pull factors "pull" people to a new home and include things like better opportunities. The reasons people migrate are usually economic, political, cultural, or environmental.

Prior Knowledge

["push and pull factors"]

Recommended Prior Activities

- [A Community Migration Story](#)

- [Why People Move](#)

Vocabulary

Term	Part of Speech	Definition
human migration	<i>noun</i>	the movement of people from one place 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.

For Further Exploration

Websites

- [Migration Policy Institute: Migration Information Source](#)
- [Smithsonian Institution: Migrations in History](#)
- [National Geographic: The Genographic Project](#)



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