

RESOURCE LIBRARY
ACTIVITY : 30 MINS

Why People Move

Students take a migration poll, discuss places they might like to move and why people might move to their area, and discuss what they think *migration* means.

GRADES

3 - 5

SUBJECTS

Geography, Human Geography

OVERVIEW

Students take a migration poll, discuss places they might like to move and why people might move to their area, and discuss what they think *migration* means.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:

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

DIRECTIONS

1. Take a student migration poll.

Poll students and tally the results. Ask:

- *Who has ever lived somewhere else?*
- *Who has lived in a different city or town?*
- *Who has lived in a different state?*
- *Who has lived in a different country?*

Then invite volunteers to share their experiences. Ask:

- *Why did your family move?*

- *How did you feel during your move to a new home? How did you feel after?*

2. Have students discuss a new place they might like to move.

Ask students to think about a place anywhere in the world they might like to move, either now or when they are older. Give students some time to silently brainstorm a list of reasons why they would like to move there. Then invite volunteers to share their location and answer the following questions:

- *Where would you like to move?*
- *Why did you choose that location?*
- *Are there any bad things about moving to this place? What would you miss about where you are now?*

Draw a simple T-Chart on the board and record the pros and cons as students describe the new place.

3. Have students discuss why people might move to your area.

Ask students to think about reasons people might want to move to your town, city, or state. Possible answers could be related to the weather and climate, job opportunities, natural resources, the economy, culture, and more. Ask students which of these they considered when they thought about the new place they might like to move to.

4. Introduce the term *migration* and brainstorm questions about human migration.

Ask students what they think *migration* means. Students' answers may relate to the migration of birds, butterflies, or other animals. Explain to students that *human migration* is the movement of people from one place in the world to another. Ask: *What questions do you have about human migration?* Record students' questions on the board.

OBJECTIVES

Subjects & Disciplines

Geography

- Human Geography

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- explain the pros and cons of moving to a new place
- explain why people might move to their area
- define vocabulary term

Teaching Approach

- Learning-for-use

Teaching Methods

- Brainstorming
- Discussions

Skills Summary

This activity targets the following skills:

- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Remembering
- Geographic Skills
 - Asking Geographic Questions

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

- Markers
- 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. It's important to understand why people move.

Prior Knowledge

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Recommended Prior Activities

- [A Community Migration Story](#)
- [Why Communities Move](#)

Vocabulary

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

For Further Exploration

Websites

- [Migration Policy Institute: Migration Information Source](#)
- [National Geographic: The Genographic Project](#)



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