

The Great Migration

Grades 4-8



TRUMBULL
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

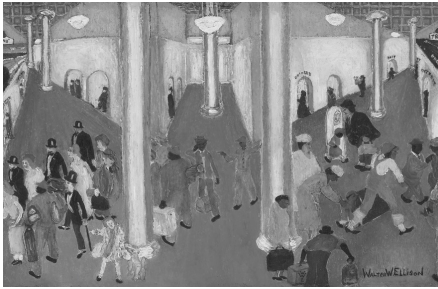
Voices Oral
History Project



Introduction

In this packets students will explore topics and themes relating to the Great Migration. The Great Migration was the relocation of more than 6 million African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North and West from 1916 to 1970. Many left seeking better job opportunities in the North where industry was booming at the beginning of World War I.

They were also escaping Jim Crow laws in the South that allowed for racial harassment and discrimination against African Americans, as well as legalized segregation.



01



02

- i. **Cover:** More than 6,000 black male and female workers were employed at the Bethlehem-Fairfield shipyards, where liberty ships, including the SS Frederick Douglass, were rushed to completion, 1943 **Baltimore Magazine**

01. Train Station, 1935. **Walter Ellison**
 02. African American family from the rural South arriving in Chicago, 1920 **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**
 03. Members of the Harlem Branch of the Communist Party USA in the 1930s **Daily Worker; People's World Archives**



03

Voice Interviews / Primary & Secondary Sources

Voice Interviews

Eugene Dawson discussing growing up in Georgia

<https://bit.ly/3cVhrPe>

Dr. Robert Stringer on growing up in Alabama (discusses lynchings)

<https://bit.ly/3q20bM0>

Mattie Battle discusses segregation in Alabama

<https://bit.ly/20oeYTz>

Mattie Battle describes what brought her family to Warren from the South

<https://bit.ly/3p3BHAS>

Primary Sources

Letters from African Americans looking to travel north

<https://bit.ly/3ae7BX1>

***To Access the Letters:** Go to [Read About > Networks and Media > Letters of Negro Migrants](#)

An Indignant Heart: A Black Worker's Journal Ch. 2 North to Detroit Pg. 27-36

<https://bit.ly/36XgHp3>

Digital Public Library of America: The Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/3p0sf0T>

Secondary Sources

The Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/3p2wzgc>

History Brief - The Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/3cS8CWt>

***Discussion opportunity** - This video states that there was no immediate danger or threat to African Americans in the South. After learning about Jim Crow laws and life in the South of African Americans what do your students think about this statement?

The Newberry Digital Collections for the Classroom - Chicago and the Great Migration, read Introduction and Travel During Jim Crow

<https://bit.ly/3p2Ye0C>

The Long-Lasting Legacy of the Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/3aQws2n>

→ **Other**
Jim Crow Laws

<https://bit.ly/3rwNIAr>

Map of migration patterns of African Americans from 1900-1923

<https://bit.ly/3a277Dx>

The Chicago Defender's role in the Great Migration

<https://s.si.edu/3jylv8c>

The Negro Motorist Green Book

<https://bit.ly/3rBub1A>



05



06



07



08



Writing Prompts / Activities

01.

Why did African Americans leave the South to travel north?

What did they hope to find in the North and what were some obstacles they faced to get there?

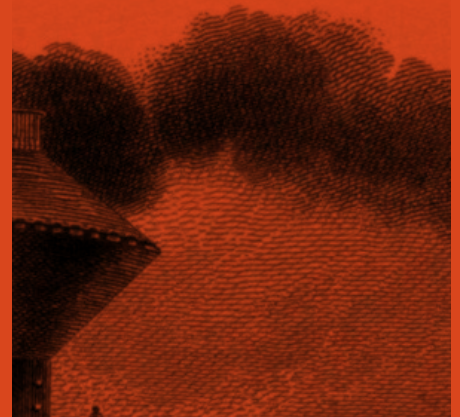
02.

What are Jim Crow laws? What effect did they have on the Great Migration?

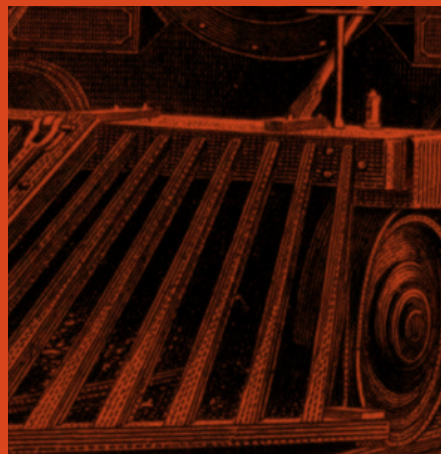
03.

In Motion: The African American Migration Experience lesson plans

<https://bit.ly/3tAP3rT>



05. People on the Move: Beauty and Struggle, 2016-2017 **Jacob Lawrence's "Migration Series"**
06. Women in Penn Station, New York, 1942 **Marjory Collins**
07. Heading North, 1940 **Jack Delano/MPI; Getty Images**
08. The Jim Crow laws and rampant violence caused six million African Americans to leave the South for cities in the North **Western Reserve; PBS Learning Media - Ken Burns in the Classroom Collection**



- i. Railroad: Locomotive, 1870 is a photograph **Granger**

