

The Great Migration

High School / College



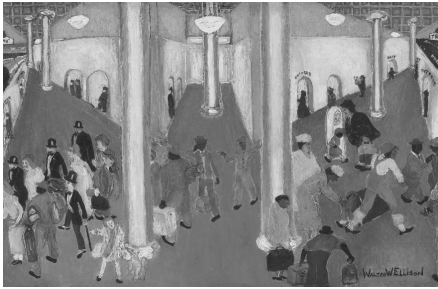
TRUMBULL
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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/2OoeYTz>

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

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

Primary Sources

1933 memorandum "Social Adjustment of Negroes in the United States" submitted to Pres. FDR by the National Urban League

<https://bit.ly/3aLU08t>

Chicago and the Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/37dA1Ph>

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>

Secondary Sources

One Way Ticket - Jacob Lawrence's Migration Series

<https://mo.ma/2Oouw9T>

The Long Lasting Legacy of the Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/2YXsAqT>

World War I and the Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/36WVI5J>

History Brief - The Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/2MMEKQM>

***Discussion Opportunity** - This video states that there was no immediate threat or danger to African Americans in the South during the Great Migration. What do your students think about this statement?

The Chicago Defender's role in the Great Migration

<https://s.si.edu/3a0fqPY>

→ **Other**
Census data on the Great Migration

<https://bit.ly/2MFIwwB>

The Negro Motorist Green Book

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



05



06



07



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Writing Prompts / Activities

01.

The Great Migration was the massive movement of millions of people from the southern United States to the North and West. What were some of the immediate effects of the migration?

What were the long term effects?

Can we still see the impact of those effects today?

02.

Many individuals wrote to the Chicago Defender asking for assistance to move North. Why did they do this?

What role did the Chicago Defender have in the Great Migration?

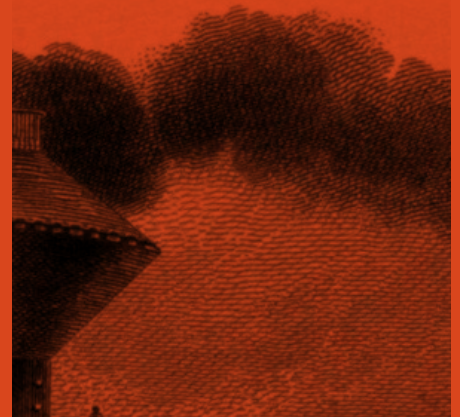
What do you think the Great Migration may have looked like without the Chicago Defender?

03.

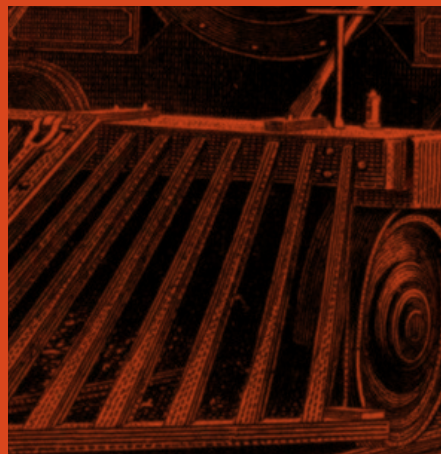
There were two main causes for the Great Migration. What were they?

In your opinion, did either cause play a bigger role during the Great Migration or were they equally important?

Use examples from the resources above to support your answer.



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**

