



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 8.11.2**

*The Migration of
African Americans* } Title

Specific Objective: Identify factors in the movement of former slaves to the cities in the North and to the West and their differing experiences in those regions.

Read the summary below to answer the questions on the next page.

1.

Reasons African Americans Left the South Push Factors

- African Americans in the South were now free but had no land or money.
- In 1866, a secret group called The **Ku Klux Klan** began violently attacking African Americans in the South.
- **Sharecropping** (a system in which workers farmed land for landowners) made it difficult for poor white and black families to survive.
- White Southerners restricted the rights of African Americans by instituting literacy tests and poll taxes that kept blacks from voting.
- In the 1890s, **Jim Crow laws** made segregation official in a number of areas of Southern life.

NOTE: Economists refer to "push factors" driving people away from an area.

2.

Reasons African Americans Moved to the North

- The North was experiencing a boom in industry, and jobs were plentiful.
- The North was not as segregated as the South.
- As African Americans settled in the North and found jobs, they sent for their extended families and friends.

3.

Reasons African Americans Moved to the West National Law

- **The Homestead Act** of 1862 offered 160 acres of free land on the Plains to anyone who would farm it and live on it for five years.
- There were jobs on ranches, in mining towns, and in rapidly growing western towns and cities.
- Railroads made it easier to move west.
- Many people went west in the hope of finding gold.

Pull Factors

NOTE: Economists refer to "pull factors" drawing people toward an area.

4.

Differing Experiences of African Americans

- African Americans who migrated north often faced discrimination and segregation, as well as some violence directed against them.
- Some African Americans in the West were forced to borrow money and work for the lender to pay off the debt.
- Others, like the Exodusters (named after the flight of the Hebrews from slavery in the Old Testament), who moved west as part of the Homestead Act, were relieved

REVIEW


**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 8.11.3**
**(African Americans
after the Civil War } Title**

Specific Objective: Understand the effects of the Freedmen's Bureau and the restrictions placed on the rights and opportunities of freedmen, including racial segregation and "Jim Crow" laws.

Read the summary below to answer the questions on the next page.

1. **Freedmen's Bureau of 1865 set up to help African Americans.** National Law
 - Established schools and hospitals and distributed clothes, food, and fuel for African Americans.
 - Helped African Americans gain economic independence by teaching them skills to find jobs and vote.
2. **Black codes passed to limit rights of African Americans.** State / Local Law
 - Required written proof of employment or a person could be forced to work on a plantation.
 - Barred African Americans from meeting in unsupervised groups.
3. **Contract System kept African Americans bound to the land.** State / Local Law
 - African Americans returned to work on plantations, not as enslaved people, but as wage earners.
 - Laws punished workers for breaking contracts, even if workers were being mistreated.
 - Workers could not leave plantations without permission.
4. **Sharecropping kept African Americans in poverty.** Economic system to replace slavery.
 - A worker rented a plot of land, promised a share of his crops to the landowner.
 - The landowner sold food and clothing to the sharecropper on credit.
 - Often the sharecropper ended the season owing money to the landowner.
 - Sharecroppers wanted to grow food for their families; landowners forced them to grow cash crops.
5. **Voting Laws and Poll Taxes kept African Americans from voting.** State / Local Law
 - Reading test required in order to vote.
 - People charged a **poll tax**—a fee for registering or voting that African Americans could not pay.
 - To allow poor whites to vote, grandfather clause said if you or your ancestor had been eligible to vote before 1867, you didn't have to pass a test or pay a tax.
6. **Jim Crow laws made segregation official in the South.** State / Local Law
 - Supreme Court decision in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) ruled that segregation was lawful provided that blacks and whites had access to equal facilities. — — — — — → Can things be separate but equal?
 - End result of Jim Crow and Plessy v. Ferguson was that whites and blacks had separate schools, separate public facilities, and separate entrances to stores and public building.

Topics / The Great Migration, 1910-1917 / Great Migration / Great Migration (Overview)

The Great Migration was the mass exodus of more than 1 million African Americans from below the Mason-Dixon Line to the North between 1916 and 1930. This migration produced a massive demographic shift, resulting in significant economic, social, and political changes for the United States. The highest rates of migration occurred from 1916 to 1918, when approximately 400,000 African Americans moved to the North. Between 1910 and 1930, the African American population in the North increased by 20%; however, most African Americans did not leave the South. Many moved from rural areas to Southern cities and many others did not move at all.

Toward the Promised Land

The first African Americans to move North were predominantly young, unskilled men. Many of these men went with the intention of settling in the North and sending for their families when they could save enough money. Others planned to earn some money and then return to the South. Another surge in migration, beginning in 1920, brought more black intellectuals and professionals to the North. By the end of the 1920s, Harlem and Chicago became centers for the black intelligentsia and black culture. Most migrants settled in cities like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Detroit because of cheaper, easier transportation via train, as well as numerous job opportunities. Many African American women had already traveled north before World War I to work as domestic servants.

Push Factors

Numerous forces compelled African Americans to leave the South during this period. The Jim Crow South was particularly violent and oppressive for African Americans, contributing to a lack of job opportunities. Because of segregation and the systems of sharecropping and tenant farming in the largely agricultural South, African Americans had few chances to advance in the jobs they did have and barely any chance to break into more prestigious careers reserved for whites. Moreover, this period witnessed many changes in Southern agriculture, among them increased use of machinery to replace human labor.

Environmental factors contributed to a fiscal downturn in the farming economy. The boll weevil—a beetle that feeds on cotton—infested and destroyed cotton fields throughout the South during the 1910s and 1920s, causing many people to lose their source of income. Ultimately, the South was forced to diversify its agriculture, ending its dependence on cotton as the primary crop. Another significant environmental factor that affected the Southern economy was the Mississippi River flood of 1927, which destroyed many homes and plantations. As a result of substantial rainfall in the summer months of 1926, the Mississippi River overflowed, flooding more than 270,000 square miles in the states of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Pull Factors

By contrast, more jobs became available in the North during this period, and Northern industries actively recruited southern labor. By 1914, many European countries, although not the United States, were involved in World War I. Many Europeans living in the United States returned to their homelands to contribute to the war effort. European

immigration to the United States also slowed considerably. The Selective Service Act of 1917 created even more job opportunities for unskilled laborers in the North. This law, passed the year the United States entered World War I, required that all men 21 to 30 years old register for service in the U.S. military. Ultimately, 4.8 million men served in World War I (more than half were drafted), leaving many jobs open.

By 1917, Congress also began passing legislation to halt immigration. The United States's exclusionary stance on immigration culminated in the Immigration Act of 1924, which limited the number of immigrants from any country to 2% of the total number of people from that country already in the United States.

The dwindling number of immigrants and loss of many men to the military encouraged northern businesses to recruit African Americans in the South as cheap sources of labor. Northern agents went south and offered African American men jobs and train fare to Northern cities. Also, black newspapers advertised jobs and published articles about opportunities for African Americans in the North. Ministers often read letters in their churches from African Americans who found better opportunities in the North. So many African Americans headed to the North that many companies eventually stopped recruiting because they did not need to.

New Challenges

The Great Migration had significant and longlasting implications for the North and for African Americans. The abrupt arrival of thousands of African Americans in Northern cities produced a new kind of discrimination in the North, as whites attempted to segregate neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and leisure spaces. To keep African Americans out of all-white neighborhoods, whites used violence or collaborated with realtors to create racially restrictive housing covenants. Moreover, it was nearly impossible for African Americans to secure mortgages in order to purchase homes in black neighborhoods owing to a practice called "redlining," in which neighborhoods deemed least desirable and too risky for mortgages were circled in red on city maps. These neighborhoods tended to be older, inner-city neighborhoods, populated mostly by African Americans and ethnic whites.

Laurie Lahey

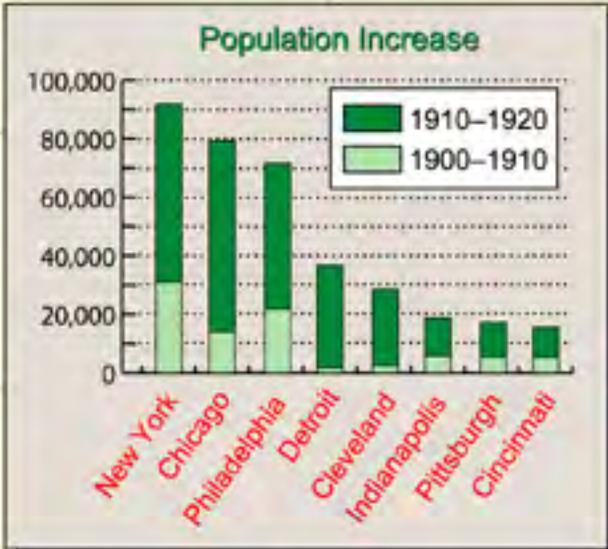
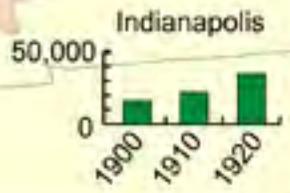
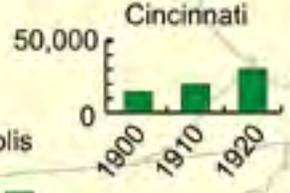
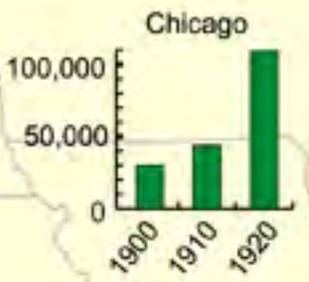
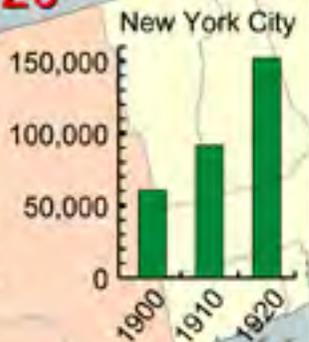
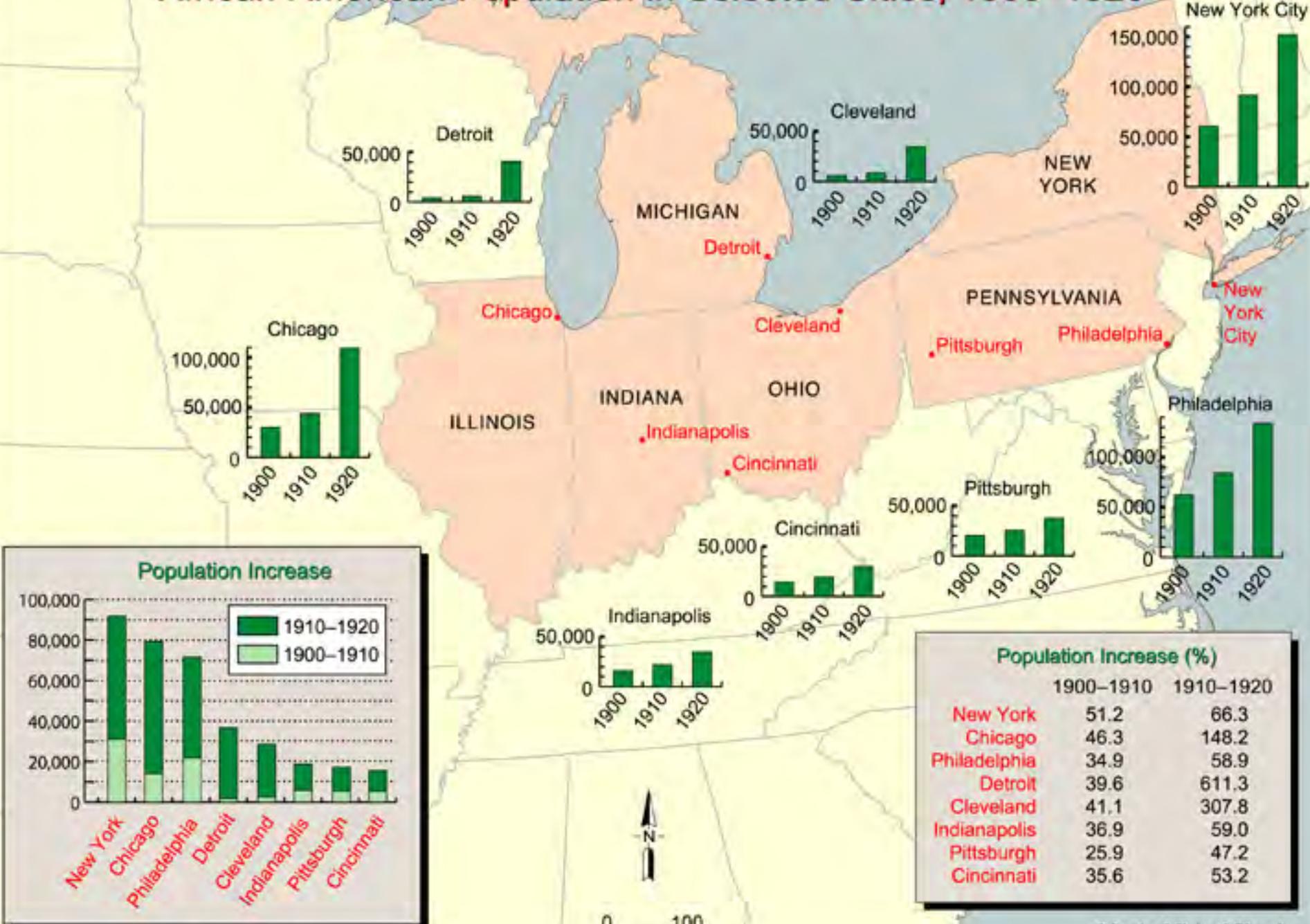
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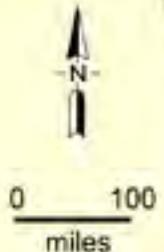
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African-American Population in Selected Cities, 1900–1920



Population Increase (%)

	1900-1910	1910-1920
New York	51.2	66.3
Chicago	46.3	148.2
Philadelphia	34.9	58.9
Detroit	39.6	611.3
Cleveland	41.1	307.8
Indianapolis	36.9	59.0
Pittsburgh	25.9	47.2
Cincinnati	35.6	53.2



The Great Migration, 1916–1930

