

The Great Migration North



Explain the factors that encouraged black Americans to move from the South to the North.

Describe what life was like for many **black** Americans in the North.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--8N42vDDTM&index=1&list=PLkBAW21aA79MLhqiDdkgCFfEgUa1Apk-Y>

What was the Great Migration?

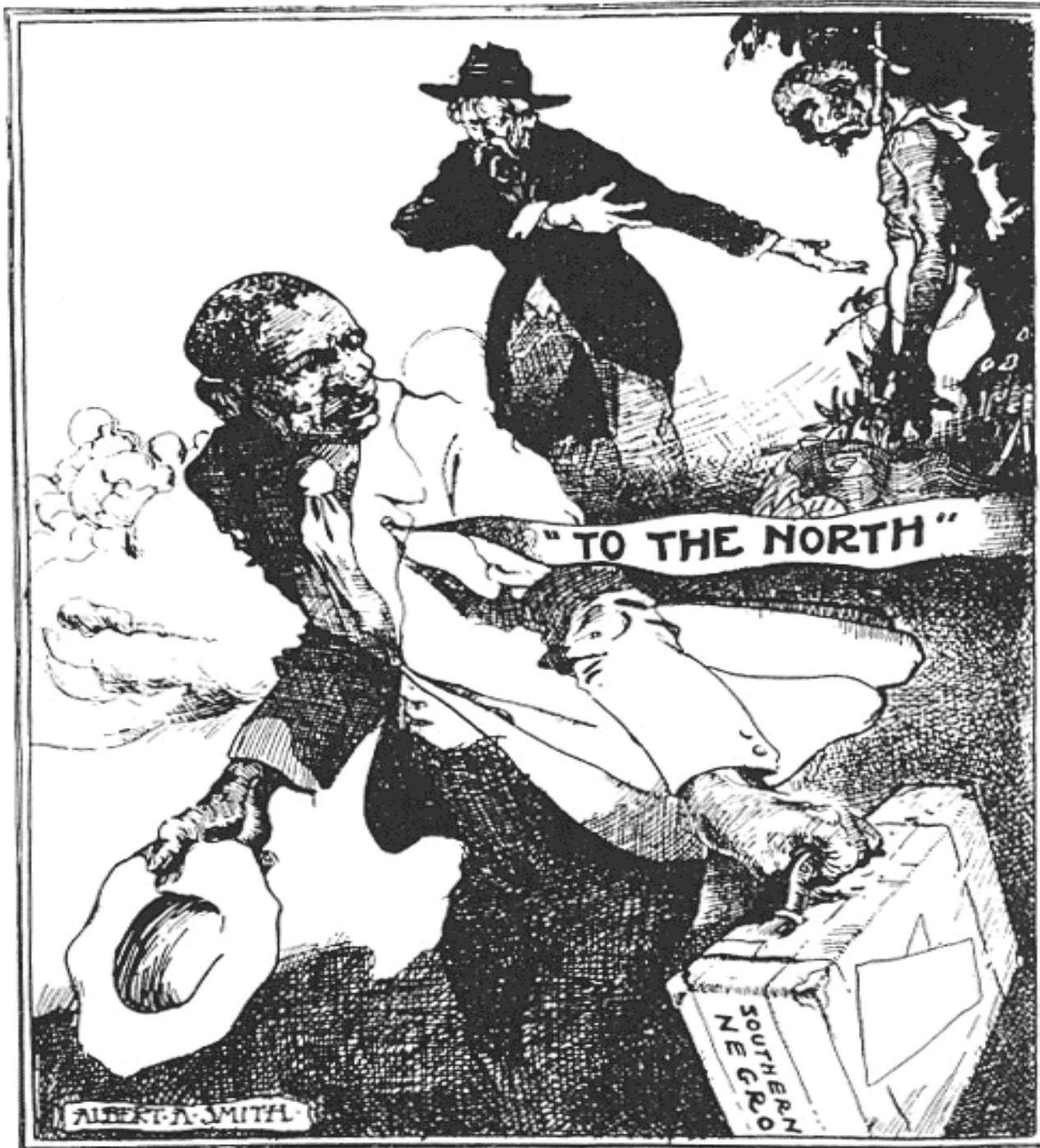


-Jim Crow laws and the KKK made life difficult for and dangerous for black Americans.

-Between 1900-1920s many southern black Americans were attracted northwards by the offers of well-paid jobs in northern factories.

-A new life away from segregation and fear was also appealing.

-Between 1910 and 1920 it is estimated that 500,000 black Americans moved to the North as there were many unskilled jobs in factories available during WW1.



This cartoon tries to explain why many black Americans moved north.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ppjmLWIKg>
c

Was life better for black Americans in the northern cities?



- ❧ Northern cities were known as the promised land.
- ❧ When Americans arrived from the south they were often poor. They looked for cheap housing which tended to be in run down areas. These poor areas became known as ghettos.
- ❧ No official segregation but races were ultimately segregated by the areas in which they lived.
- ❧ Competition for housing and jobs between white and black workers showed that segregation and discrimination also existed in the north.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z744d2p>

Why did race riots break out in northern cities?

- ❧ Competition between black and white Americans over jobs and housing strained relationships.
- ❧ The riots usually started as small arguments between individuals but then spread quickly.
- ❧ Police (mostly white) usually sided with white rioters.
- ❧ Federal (government) troops often had to be brought in to restore order.

Examples of Riots



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IZPGL1u0XI>

- ❧ East St Louis riot-1917. Two white police detectives shot by black youths. In retaliation, a white mob invaded the black area of the town. Black women and children were beaten and a number of black men were lynched while the police watched. Riot left 50 people dead.
- ❧ Chicago riot-1919 started when several black youths used a 'whites only' beach near Chicago. A row broke out and one black youth was killed. The police refused to arrest the white man. The black youths then attacked the police. The city erupted into a 5 day race riot that ended with 38 deaths and 537 serious injuries.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGrxK7zeYek>

Impact



- ⌘ During WW2 a race riot in Detroit resulted in 34 deaths, hundreds of injuries.
- ⌘ The riots showed that race problems did not only belong in the south. Federal politicians were forced to accept that prejudice, discrimination and segregation existed in the north as well.

How were black Americans helped by the move north?



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zrj-qxnb>

- ✎ Brighter future for many.
- ✎ Federal government forced to do something about the race problem.
- ✎ Growth of black culture, music and art and dance in the 1920s and 30s (Harlem Renaissance) created a sense of pride in being black.
- ✎ However life was difficult during the depression years of the 30s. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z38d7ty>
- ✎ During WW2 many more black Americans moved north. By the early 1960s over 6 million southern black people had migrated.

Why go North?



1. Read through chapter 6 on the textbook and write a short explanation of the Great Migration North.
2. Stick the picture in your jotter with the heading “pull factors” on the left hand side of the picture and “push factors” on the right.
3. Under the headings write a list of push and pull factors which explain the reasons black people migrated to the North from 1900-1950.
4. Was life better for African Americans in the North? Write reasons for both “yes” and “no”



Quick Quiz

- What is Americas immigration policy prior to 1918 often known as?
- Name 3 reasons why this policy started to change after 1918
- What is a WASP?
- What were Jim Crow Laws?
- Who were the KKK and why were they established?
- Name one Push factor and one Pull factor which caused African Americans to leave the South and go North