

Geography HL3 - Migration - The Movement of People



What is Migration?

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. People may move within the same country (internal migration) or to a different country (international migration). People migrate for many reasons, often divided into **push factors** and **pull factors**. Migration can happen temporarily or permanently and can have wide effects on individuals and communities.

What are Pull Factors?

Pull factors attract people to a new place. These often include better job opportunities, safer living conditions, good education, healthcare, and a higher quality of life. For example, many skilled workers move to **Canada** or **Germany** because there are more jobs and stable communities. Students from countries such as **India** or **China** move to the **UK** or **USA** for high-quality universities. Big cities like **Tokyo**, **London**, or **New York** attract people because of more jobs, entertainment, healthcare, and modern housing. Some people are also drawn to places with political stability and freedom of speech.

What are Push Factors?

Push factors are reasons that make people want to leave their home area. Common push factors include lack of jobs, war, natural disasters, poor living conditions, and political problems. For instance, the war in **Syria** forced millions of people to flee to **Turkey**, **Lebanon**, and **Jordan** to find safety. Severe droughts in **East Africa** have forced families to leave their villages to find water and food. After the **2010 earthquake in Haiti**, many people migrated to the **United States** and the **Dominican Republic**. Political issues, such as persecution or lack of freedom, also push people to leave countries like **Venezuela** or **Afghanistan**.

Internal vs. International Migration

- **Internal migration** happens within one country. For example, a family moving from a village to a city.
- **International migration** happens between countries. For example, someone moving from India to Australia.

Both types involve push and pull factors.

What are the Impacts of Migration?

Migration can have positive and negative effects on both people and places. Positive impacts include access to better jobs, education, and healthcare, as well as new skills and ideas being brought to the new community. Migrants may also send money home, helping their families. Negative impacts include feelings of homesickness, stress from adjusting to a new culture, and challenges for countries that receive many migrants, such as overcrowded schools or housing shortages. Both internal and international migration change communities and can affect economies, cultures, and social life.

Questions on *Migration - the movement of people*



- 1. What is migration?**
- 2. What is the difference between internal migration and international migration?**
- 3. What are pull factors? Give two examples.**
- 4. What are push factors? Give two examples.**
- 5. Why might students from India or China move to countries like the UK or USA?**
- 6. Give an example of a push factor caused by natural disasters.**
- 7. How did the war in Syria affect migration?**
- 8. Why do big cities like Tokyo, London, or New York attract people?**
- 9. Name two positive impacts of migration on migrants**
- 10. Name two negative impacts of migration on migrants.**
- 11. How can migration affect the country or community that receives many migrants?**
- 12. If a family moves from a village to a city within their own country, which type of migration is this, and what might be some push and pull factors in this situation?**

The industrial revolution and the emergence of the class system

The Industrial Revolution in Britain, which began in the late 1700s, changed the country in dramatic ways. Before this time, most people lived in the countryside and worked on farms owned by wealthy landowners. A person's place in society was mostly decided by birth: if you were born into a rich family, you stayed rich; if you were born a farm laborer, you usually stayed a laborer. But when factories, machines, and new inventions spread across Britain, this older system started to break apart. Out of these changes came the modern idea of social class—groups of people defined by the kind of work they did, how much money they earned, and the opportunities they had.

One of the biggest changes was the rise of the **working class**. These were people who left the countryside and moved to growing cities like Manchester and Birmingham to work in factories. Their jobs were very different from farm work. Instead of working outdoors with natural daylight, factory workers spent long hours—sometimes 12 to 14 hours a day—inside loud, crowded buildings. Conditions were often unsafe. For example, in textile mills, workers had to stand close to fast-moving machines with open gears, belts, and needles that could easily catch clothing or hair. Children as young as eight or nine worked in coal mines, crawling through narrow tunnels where the air was dusty and explosions sometimes happened. In many factories, there were no safety guards on machines, so injuries like crushed fingers were common.

Because so many people shared these difficult experiences, workers began to realize they had something important in common. This is known as **working-class consciousness**—the understanding that they were part of a group with shared problems and shared goals. Workers started talking to each other about unfair wages, long hours, and unsafe conditions. They formed early trade unions and organized strikes to demand improvements. For example, groups of textile workers joined together to protest long workdays, and coal miners organized to demand better pay. Although these efforts were risky—workers could be fired for joining a union—they helped people see that they were stronger when they acted together.

At the same time, a new **middle class** grew. These were factory owners, shopkeepers, engineers, and professionals. They made money not from farming but from business and industry. Many middle-class families valued education, hard work, and saving money. They lived more comfortably than factory workers and could afford larger homes, nicer clothes, and schooling for their children. This group became the basis of what we now call the “middle class.”

The **upper class** also changed. While old aristocratic families still held titles and owned large estates, some factory owners became just as rich. Wealthy industrialists bought grand houses and sometimes married into noble families, blending old and new forms of wealth.

By the mid-1800s, people in Britain commonly talked about society as being divided into three classes: **working**, **middle**, and **upper**. These ideas—based on work, money, and lifestyle—form the basis of how we understand social class today. The Industrial Revolution didn't just change machines and cities; it changed how people saw themselves and each other.

1. What three **classes** is Britain usually divided into?
2. Define “**upper class**”
3. Define “**middle class**”
4. Define “**working class**”
5. Before the industrial revolution, how did most people in Britain live and work?
6. How did life and work change during the industrial revolution?
7. What problems did working class people face in industrial cities?
8. What is a Trade Union?
9. How did Trade Unions help working class people improve their living conditions?
10. What would Trade unions do if their demands were not met?