

Name _____

Date _____

Migrations of the Romani People

Read the text below.

The Romani are a people and culture mostly native to central Europe. There are many sub-groups of Romani people including, Roma, Sinti, Kale, and Manush. Sometimes, Romani people are called Gypsies, although this is not the preferred term.

The origins of the Romani people were a mystery until the 18th century. In 1763, a Hungarian theology student named Stefan Valyi met three Indian students whose speech patterns were similar to Gypsies he knew in Hungary. Valyi published a paper on his findings, which prompted other scholars to analyze the Romani language. They traced it back to Sanskrit, an ancient language spoken in India. Historians now agree that Romani culture originated in northwest India.

Early Migrations

The Romani began to leave India about 1,000 years ago. They probably left to escape the invasion of Afghan general Mahmud of Ghazni early in the 11th century. Mahmud's troops likely pushed the Romani out of northern India and into the area that is now Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran.

The Romani did not have a strong tradition of written or oral history, so scholars studied their language to piece together the path of their migration. (The Romani borrowed words from people they met in their travels.) In Iran, they split into two groups. One group went south, through Syria to northern Africa and Greece. The other group went north through Armenia before arriving in what is today Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia. Many Romani stayed in these Balkan countries, while others migrated farther west into Europe.

In addition to language, Romani migration patterns can be documented in the written accounts of people who met them on their travels. Europe's earliest record of the Romani may be in the writings of a monk at Mount Athos, Greece, in 1100. German officials wrote about encountering Romani near Hamburg in 1417. People wrote about the Romani in Barcelona, Spain, in 1425. By the early 1500s, Romani were living in Sweden, England, and Scotland.

Modern Migrations

Europeans who first encountered the Romani people greeted them warmly. Aristocrats who met Romani in the 15th century gave them letters of protection to travel from one country to another.

Romani adapted to the surrounding culture wherever they went. For instance, most Romanis adopted the dominant religion of the area. Today, many Romanis in the Middle East and Iran are Muslim. In South America, most are Catholic. In North America and Western Europe, they are Protestant.

Name _____ Date _____

Migrations of the Romani People, continued

Romani kept many of their traditions, however. Performing arts and metalworking were skills suitable to migration. Sculpture, jewelry-making, and practical metal arts continue to be a strong component of Romani culture. Romani are often recognized as excellent musicians and dancers. For example, flamenco, a song and dance style still popular today, originated from Romani in the Andalucia region of southern Spain.

The early goodwill toward Romani migrants eventually disappeared. Europeans began to resent Romani who refused to fully integrate into society. Romani were blamed for begging, thievery, kidnapping, prostitution, and witchcraft.

Beginning in the Middle Ages, many European countries enslaved the Romani people. In 1445, Vlad Dracul—the man who would become the basis for Dracula—captured more than 10,000 Bulgarian Romani and sent them to Romania as slaves.

In the 1700s, Portugal became the first country to deport Romani slaves to work in colonies in India, Brazil, and Africa. The French sent Romani servants to plantations in the Caribbean. The Spanish shipped Romani to colonies in North and South America. In North America, many were brought over as indentured servants. Most of these Romani were single people seeking a wealthier, more independent lifestyle in the New World.

The greatest number of Romani who came to the United States and Canada arrived in the 19th century. These immigrants fled famine, conflict, and political oppression in Russia and the Balkans.

During World War II, Romanis were victims of the Holocaust. Nazis isolated Romanis and forced them to wear identification patches—either black or green triangles. They were rounded up in concentration camps and executed. About 1.5 million Romani died during the time they call *O Porraimos*, or The Great Devouring.

In 2010, the French government began to break up camps of Romani people living in the French countryside. Under the program, hundreds of Romani holding Romanian passports are deported back to Romania—accused of illegal immigration into France. Currently, the deportation is a voluntary program, but it has stirred up a lot of anger between the French and Romanian governments.

Today, there are an estimated 12 to 15 million Romani. They live on every continent except Antarctica, some maintaining nomadic lifestyles and some in settled communities. The largest concentration of Romani is in southeastern Europe and Russia.

Sources

Crowe, David, and Kolsti, John. *The Gypsies of Eastern Europe*. Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe, Inc, 1991.

McDowell, Bart. *Gypsies, Wanderers of the World*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1970.

Lewy, Guenter. *The Nazi Persecution of the Gypsies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Sharp, Ann Wallace. *Indigenous Peoples of the World: The Gypsies*. New York: Lucent Books, 2002.

World Book Encyclopedia. 2009.



education

www.education.nationalgeographic.com

Name _____ Date _____

The Second Great Migration

Read the text below.

About 4.3 million African Americans migrated out of the southern United States between 1940 and 1970, an exodus known as the Second Great Migration. The first Great Migration occurred when African Americans moved north in the first decades of the 1900s. These migrations followed an earlier movement north after the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, a period known as Reconstruction.

As Reconstruction ended near the end of the 19th century, many states in the South enforced Jim Crow laws. Called “separate but equal,” Jim Crow laws separated white people from black people—but the facilities were not equal.

African Americans were forced to attend inferior schools, sit in the balconies of movie theaters and in the backs of buses, and were refused service in many hotels and restaurants. People who complained about the laws were often harassed, beaten, or even killed. Across the South, an African American was hanged or burned alive—lynched—approximately every four days from 1889 to 1929.

African Americans went north to escape Jim Crow. They also sought better job opportunities. In the North, people were needed to work in factories during and after World War II. These jobs offered better wages and working conditions than were available in the South.

Three major rail lines defined the Second Great Migration. Where a person lived in the South usually determined where they ended up in the North. People from Arkansas and Alabama took the Illinois Central Railroad to Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; and Detroit, Michigan. People from Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia rode the Seaboard Air Line up the East Coast to Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Newark, New Jersey; and New York City, New York. People who lived in Texas or Louisiana took the Union Pacific rail line to Los Angeles and Oakland, California.

The Second Great Migration altered American industry and culture. Agricultural technology was forced to develop rapidly in the South as more African American farmworkers migrated north. By the 1950s, mechanical cotton pickers had almost entirely replaced human labor.

As more African Americans worked in factories, they joined trade unions. Industrial trade unions represent all workers in a factory or industry. Contracts between employers and workers reached through collective bargaining helped guarantee equal wages for white and black workers. This increased African Americans’ political, social, and economic influence.

Most African American children attended better schools than they had in the South. Just four years after arriving in the North, many did as well as Northern-born black children—and better than Southern children. Studies of the educational success of these pupils helped disprove the “separate but equal” idea and inform the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. This legal decision ended public school segregation on the basis of race.



education

www.education.nationalgeographic.com

Name _____

Date _____

The Second Great Migration, continued

The Second Great Migration radically altered the demographics of the United States. Many Northern whites did not welcome African Americans as neighbors and co-workers. Many resisted renting or selling houses to blacks, afraid that black people moving in would lower a home's property value.

Many white neighbors moved from neighborhoods and cities that welcomed black migrants. The phenomenon of white people moving at once from cities and into suburbs is known as "white flight."

African American migrants established thriving, independent communities. The vacant houses and disused land left behind by white flight drove down property values. This made it easier for lower-income black families to afford a home.

African American culture began to have an urban, rather than rural, identity. Prior to the Second Great Migration, most African Americans lived and worked in the agricultural industry. By 1970, more than 80 percent of the African American population lived in cities.

Increased job opportunities helped create a large African American middle class. Urban, industrial jobs were higher-paying and held more potential for promotion than agricultural labor. Cities that developed large African American populations saw a rise in black-owned businesses and black professionals, such as lawyers and doctors.

Many influential African Americans come from families that participated in the Great Migrations. Singers such as Aretha Franklin and Michael Jackson, writers such as Toni Morrison and August Wilson, sports legends such as Jesse Owens and Joe Louis, political figures such as Michelle Obama and Condoleezza Rice....These are just some of the people whose parents and grandparents migrated from the South to find a better life in northern cities.

© 2012 National Geographic Society

Sources

Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Random House, 2010.

World Book Encyclopedia. 2009.



education

www.education.nationalgeographic.com

Name _____

Date _____

Afghan Migration After the Soviet Invasion

Read the text below.

On December 25, 1979, the 40th Army of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) arrived at Afghanistan's Kabul Airport. Soviet leaders said the government of Afghanistan invited them to assist in a crisis. Most world leaders recognized the massive troop movement as an invasion.

Afghanistan had recently undergone a communist revolution. The left-leaning government was supported by the Soviet Union, while the rebel mujahideen militias were supported by the United States. The Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan lasted from 1979 until 1988.

Internal conflict and the Soviet invasion started waves of migration. Most Afghans fled to the neighboring nations of Pakistan and Iran. The invasion also caused massive internal migration within the country's own borders.

Afghans left their homeland in four waves of migration.

First Wave

The first wave occurred during the 1979 Soviet invasion. Some refugees left Afghanistan for their own safety. Conflict between Afghan soldiers, Soviet soldiers, and the mujahideen created an unstable environment in which to work or raise a family.

Others left in response to a call for *hijra*. *Hijra* is an Arabic word meaning "flight" or "migration." A spiritual call for *hijra* required an Afghan to leave his or her country because it had been taken over by people who were not followers of Islam. (Nearly all Afghans are followers of Islam.) The new government of Afghanistan and its Soviet supporters separated church and state.

Many Afghans moved to different parts of the country to escape conscription. Conscription is being forced to enlist in the military. Thousands of people moved from rural areas to urban areas. (In cities, young men could more easily avoid conscription.) During the first wave of migration, the population of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, increased from about 600,000 to more than 2 million.

At the peak of the first wave, about 6 million Afghans were forced to migrate. About 3.5 million went to Pakistan, 2 million fled to Iran, and the rest went to other countries.

Second Wave

The second wave of Afghan migration started when the Soviet military withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989. This time, Afghans who supported the Soviet Union were forced to leave. Some government officials, including the deposed president, immigrated to Russia. Many others settled in India.

At the same time, refugees who had fled the Soviet invasion returned home. About 2 to 3 million people returned to Afghanistan after the Soviets left.

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

education

www.education.nationalgeographic.com

Name _____

Date _____

Afghan Migration After the Soviet Invasion, continued

A civil war that erupted after the Soviet withdrawal created new refugees. At the end of the second wave, 5 million Afghans left the country and another 800,000 moved somewhere else within its borders.

Third Wave

The third wave started with the end of the civil war and the takeover of the Taliban in 1994. The Taliban is an extremely conservative Islamic group. Many members of the Taliban are former mujahideen rebels who fought against the Soviets.

The Taliban based their government on a restricted reading of sharia, or Islamic law. They outlawed many forms of food and music, persecuted non-Islamic religions, and restricted women's rights.

Women, the educated, religious minorities, and political moderates fled Taliban persecution. Many refugees fled to the United States, Canada, Australia, and other Western nations that offered stable democracies and a broad range of human rights.

Fourth Wave

The fourth wave started after the fall of the Taliban in 2002. The Northern Alliance, a group of Afghan rebels supported by the United States and other Western nations, forced the Taliban out of power. The U.S. and allied countries worked with the Northern Alliance to bomb Taliban-controlled areas in Afghanistan.

Many Afghans, including former Taliban leaders, tried to flee to Pakistan and Iran. However, those borders were officially closed to new Afghan refugees. Many recent Afghan refugees have fled across their northern border to Turkmenistan.

The end of Taliban rule brought many civic leaders back to Afghanistan. Refugees who fled political repression returned to high-ranking political and business positions in the new government. The president of Afghanistan as of 2012, Hamid Karzai, returned from Pakistan during this time.

Most migrants in this fourth wave are internal, however. For the first time since 1979, internal migration has flowed away from cities and into rural areas. This migration has occurred for several reasons: to escape bombings from U.S. and NATO forces, which focus on urban areas; to avoid conscription by Taliban forces; and to flee to camps for internal refugees.

About 6 million people have migrated out of Afghanistan since 1979, settling in South and Central Asia, Europe, and the U.S.

Afghans make up the largest refugee population in the world. One in four of Afghanistan's 26 million citizens is or has been a refugee at some point in their life.

Sources

Newland, Kathleen, and Patrick, Erin. "A Nation Displaced: The world's largest refugee population." Migration Policy Institute (2001). Accessed September 16, 2011. <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/displaced.php>

Runion, Meredith L. *The History of Afghanistan*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2007.



education

www.education.nationalgeographic.com

Migration of the “Boat People”

Name _____

Date _____

In 1954, the nation of Vietnam was divided into two distinct zones along the 17th parallel. A communist party governed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and a more democratic party governed the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam). The Vietnam War started in 1957, when the communist Viet Cong rebelled against the South Vietnamese government.

The Vietnam War became a proxy war of the Cold War. The United States supported the government of South Vietnam, and sent in the first American ground troops in 1965. Ten years later, South Vietnam's capital, Saigon, fell to North Vietnamese forces. The fall of Saigon (later renamed Ho Chi Minh City) triggered waves of migration out of Vietnam.

Political oppression, poverty, and continued war were the main reasons Vietnamese fled their country. The desire to leave was especially great for Vietnamese who had fought for the South, worked with the United States, or held positions in the South Vietnamese government.

Political oppression came in the form of “re-education” camps. South Vietnamese leaders were often sentenced to attend these camps. Re-education camps were political prisons where inmates were indoctrinated to the ideology of their new government. One million Vietnamese were sent to re-education camps. Torture was not unusual, and thousands of Vietnamese tried to escape.

Political and economic oppression were imposed on Vietnam's ethnic minorities. In 1978, the government created laws that targeted people of Chinese descent living in Vietnam. The new laws made it possible for the government to seize Chinese-owned businesses. Vietnamese citizens with Chinese ancestry worked to leave their country to seek greater economic and social freedom.

Finally, although the nation reunified, war continued. In 1979, Vietnam took up arms against the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, which had been invading Vietnamese villages along the border. Thousands of rural Vietnamese fled the conflict.

Few Vietnamese could cross their borders to neighboring countries. Vietnam is bordered by only three countries: Cambodia, China, and Laos. Vietnam was at war with Cambodia—and Cambodia was supported by China. Laos had a communist government that was similar to, and supported by, the government of Vietnam.

The only real option for Vietnamese people determined to flee was the South China Sea. By 1978, more than 500,000 Vietnamese tried to leave their country in small, unseaworthy boats. Some boats were so small they carried a single family. Others held hundreds of refugees. These Vietnamese migrants were named “boat people” because of their method of escape.

Because the boats were leaky, unseaworthy, and overcrowded, boat people were not able to travel far. Many navigated the Gulf of Thailand (to the southwest) and the South China Sea (to the east) to four destinations: Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Hong Kong. Some boat people made it as far as Japan and Australia. The journeys were extremely dangerous. Many people had no knowledge of sailing. The boats often sank in fierce storms or were blown off course. Many boats ran out of

Migration of the “Boat People”

food and water. The boats, filled with inexperienced sailors and loaded with refugees' valuable possessions, became targets for pirates. Thai pirates would raid the boats and frequently sink them, keeping the booty and killing all on board. Scholars estimate anywhere from 10 to 50 percent of refugees did not survive the trip.

Many Vietnamese spent years in refugee camps in Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The camps drew tens of thousands of boat people, too many to hold. The last camp, Galang Refugee Camp in Indonesia, did not close until 1996.

Many nations were wary of accepting boat people. Refugees were poor, and many governments worried that refugees could not contribute to the economy. They feared the refugees would tax the education and health care systems of their new countries.

In 1979, the plight of the boat people made international news when the United Nations called a conference to address the situation. The U.N. persuaded the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and France to allow more Vietnamese refugees into their countries. The Vietnamese government was urged to make social and political improvements so its citizens wouldn't feel pressured to leave.

In the United States, Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980, allowing Vietnamese refugees to come directly to America if they had family in the U.S. About 725,000 Vietnamese settled in the U.S. after the war. By 2000, there were more than a million people of Vietnamese ancestry living in the United States—11 percent of all Asian Americans. Most Vietnamese refugees settled in California, Illinois, New Jersey, and New York.

Sources

Barr, Roger. *The Vietnam War*. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1991.

Dolan, Edward F. *America After Vietnam: Legacies of a Hated War*. New York: Franklin Watts, 1989.

Gavin, Philip. *The Fall of Vietnam*. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Lucent Books, 2003.

Greenberg, Keith. *Vietnam: The Boat People Search for a Home*. Woodbridge, Connecticut: Blackbirch Press, 1997.
Isserman, Maurice. *The Vietnam War: America at War*. New York: Facts on File, 1992.

Sonneborn, Liz. *Vietnamese Americans: The New Immigrants*. New York: Infobase Publishing, 2007.

Migration of Jews to Palestine in the 20th Century

Name

Date

The Jewish people historically defined themselves as the Jewish Diaspora, a group of people living in exile. Their traditional homeland was Palestine, a geographic region on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Jewish leaders trace the source of the Jewish Diaspora to the Roman occupation of Palestine (then called Judea) in the first century C.E. Fleeing the occupation, most Jews immigrated to Europe.

Over time, Jews began to slowly immigrate back to Palestine. Beginning in the 1200s, Jewish people were expelled from England, France, and Central Europe. Most resettled in Russia and Eastern Europe, mainly Poland. A small population, however, immigrated to Palestine. In 1492, when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella expelled all Jewish people living in Spain, some refugees settled in Palestine.

At the turn of the 20th century, European Jews were migrating to Palestine in large numbers, fleeing religious persecution. In Russia, Jewish people were segregated into an area along the country's western border, called the Pale of Settlement. In 1881, Russians began mass killings of Jews. These mass killings, called pogroms, compelled many Jews to flee Russia and settle in Palestine.

Prejudice against Jews, called anti-Semitism, was very strong in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and France. In 1894, a French army officer named Alfred Dreyfus was falsely accused of treason against the French government. Dreyfus, who was Jewish, was imprisoned for five years and tried again even after new information proved his innocence. The incident, called The Dreyfus Affair, exposed widespread anti-Semitism in Western Europe.

The Dreyfus Affair convinced Theodor Herzl, an Austrian Jewish journalist, that Jewish people needed to have their own homeland to be free of religious persecution. He organized the First Zionist Congress in 1897 and is credited with starting the Zionist movement. Zionism holds that an independent Jewish state is the only way for Jewish people to escape anti-Semitism.

By the mid-1900s, anti-Semitism had developed into a powerful political force in Europe. In the early 1930s, more than 100,000 Jewish refugees came to Palestine from Nazi Germany and Poland. Zionism gained popularity.

Zionists always considered Palestine to be the site of their independent Jewish state. It is the historical homeland of the Jewish people. Many sites identified in the Hebrew holy book, the Torah, remained cities and towns in early 20th century Palestine. Many scholars say the Iron Age kingdoms of Israel and Judah, with their capital in Jerusalem, were Jewish kingdoms. By the time of the Roman occupation, Judea was a largely Jewish settlement.

In the early 1900s, Palestine was controlled by the Ottoman Empire. It was a sparsely populated territory, mostly inhabited by Arabs. Arabs are an indigenous culture throughout North Africa and the Middle East. Most Arabs in Palestine are Muslim or

Christian (Jews native to Arab areas are known as Mizrahi Jews).

Arabs opposed Zionism, which they associated with the migration of European Jews to Palestine. They did this for many different reasons. Some were concerned that the mass migration of the Jews to Palestine would take away their own Arab or Ottoman identities and rights. Many were afraid they would lose their property and be displaced by the Jewish immigrants. Others opposed Jewish migration because of anti-Semitic beliefs.

After World War I, the Ottoman Empire dissolved and Palestine became part of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom supported Zionism and allowed Jews to immigrate to Palestine. The native Arab Palestinians did not support this.

Palestinian Arabs resisted the migration of Jews to Palestine. Political and physical conflict between Arabs and Zionists continued throughout World War II, as more Jews migrated to Palestine in order to escape death and persecution during the Holocaust in Europe.

In 1947, the United Nations split Palestine up into Arab and Jewish areas. The nation of Israel was created on May 14, 1948. The next day, the countries surrounding Israel declared war on the new nation. Israel has been in an almost permanent state of internal conflict ever since. Many Palestinians have been displaced and moved to refugee camps. Conflict between Jews, who identify as Israeli, and Arabs, who identify as Palestinian, broke out again in 1956, 1967, 1987, 2000, 2002, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2018. Today, Israel is a land of immigrants. About 7.6 million people live in Israel, almost 80 percent of them Jewish. Most are Ashkenazi Jews, who migrated from Europe. Sephardic Jews migrated from the Iberian Peninsula. Bukharan Jews migrated from Central Asia.

Israel continues to welcome Jewish immigrants. The nation's Law of Return grants full Israeli citizenship to all Jewish people. More than 100,000 Jews from sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, have immigrated to Israel since 1980.

Sources:

Brenner, Michael. *A Short History of the Jews*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010.

Cohn-Sherbok, Dan, and Dawoud El-Alami. *The Palestine-Israeli Conflict: A Beginner's Guide*. London: Oneworld Publications, 2015.

Morris, Benny. *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881–1999*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc, 1999.

Shapira, Anita. *Israel: A History*. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2012.