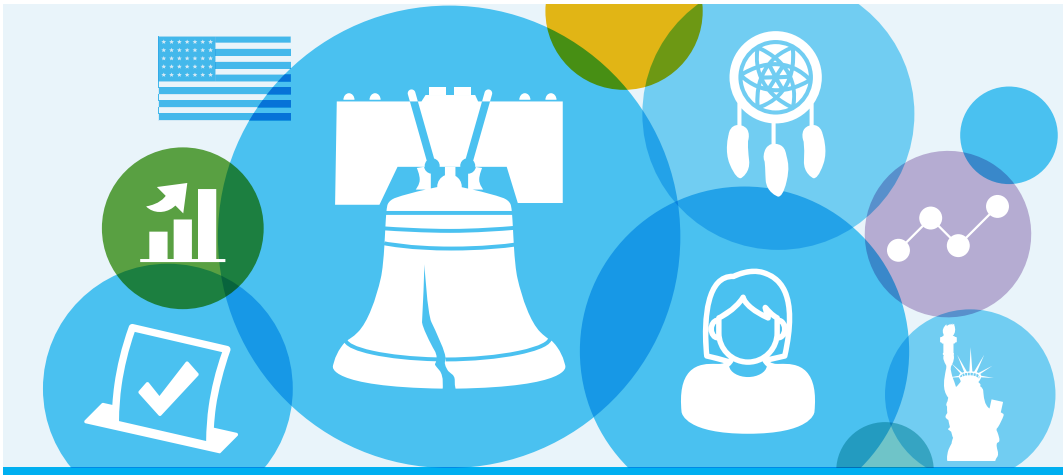


STUDENT VERSION

EXPLORING THE GREAT MIGRATION – 1910-1970

Activity Items

The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Data Visualization of the Great Migration, 1910–1970
- Item 2: Collapsed Reason for Move, 1999–2015
- Item 3: Top State-to-State Migration Flows, 2010–2011

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to read and interpret a data visualization depicting percentage-point changes in the black population in cities during two major waves of migration.
- I will be able to make correlations between symbols on a graphic and percentage-point increases and decreases of the black population.
- I will be able to use data from a graphic to draw conclusions about migration patterns of the black population during two major waves of migration, connecting those patterns to the larger issues of the period and comparing them with more recent migration data.

NAME:_____ DATE:_____

Warmup: Why do people move? Brainstorm as many possible reasons as you can. When you're done, review your list. Do you think these reasons are constant across history? Why or why not?

The Great Migration generally refers to the movement of about 6 million black people from the South to urban centers in other parts of the country between 1910 and 1970. **Item 1: Data Visualization of the Great Migration, 1910–1970** compares the early migration (1910–1940) — sometimes referred to as the First Great Migration — with the later migration (1940–1970) — also known as the Second Great Migration.

In the early 20th century, strict legislation limited immigration to the United States, which resulted in a workforce shortage in many industrial centers in the Northeast and Midwest that relied on European immigrants for labor. These cities became common destinations for black migrants from the South. Cities that experienced substantial changes in racial composition between 1910 and 1940, before World War II, include Chicago, Detroit, New York City, and Philadelphia. During and after World War II, black migrants flooded many of the cities that were destinations before the war, following friends and relatives who had already made the journey. Poor economic conditions in the Jim Crow South spurred more migration from 1940 to 1970 than from 1910 to 1940, resulting in larger black populations in many cities across the Northeast, Midwest, and West.

1. Look closely at **Item 1: Data Visualization of the Great Migration, 1910–1970**. What do the circles represent? What do the sizes of the circles represent? What do warm-colored circles (yellow and orange) represent? What do cool-colored circles (blue and purple) represent?

2. Record at least three different observations about **Item 1: Data Visualization of the Great Migration, 1910–1970**.

3. Focus on the First Great Migration part of the data visualization to answer the following questions: Which area of the country saw the largest decrease in its black population from 1910 to 1940, and which area saw the largest increase in its black population in the same period? How do you know?

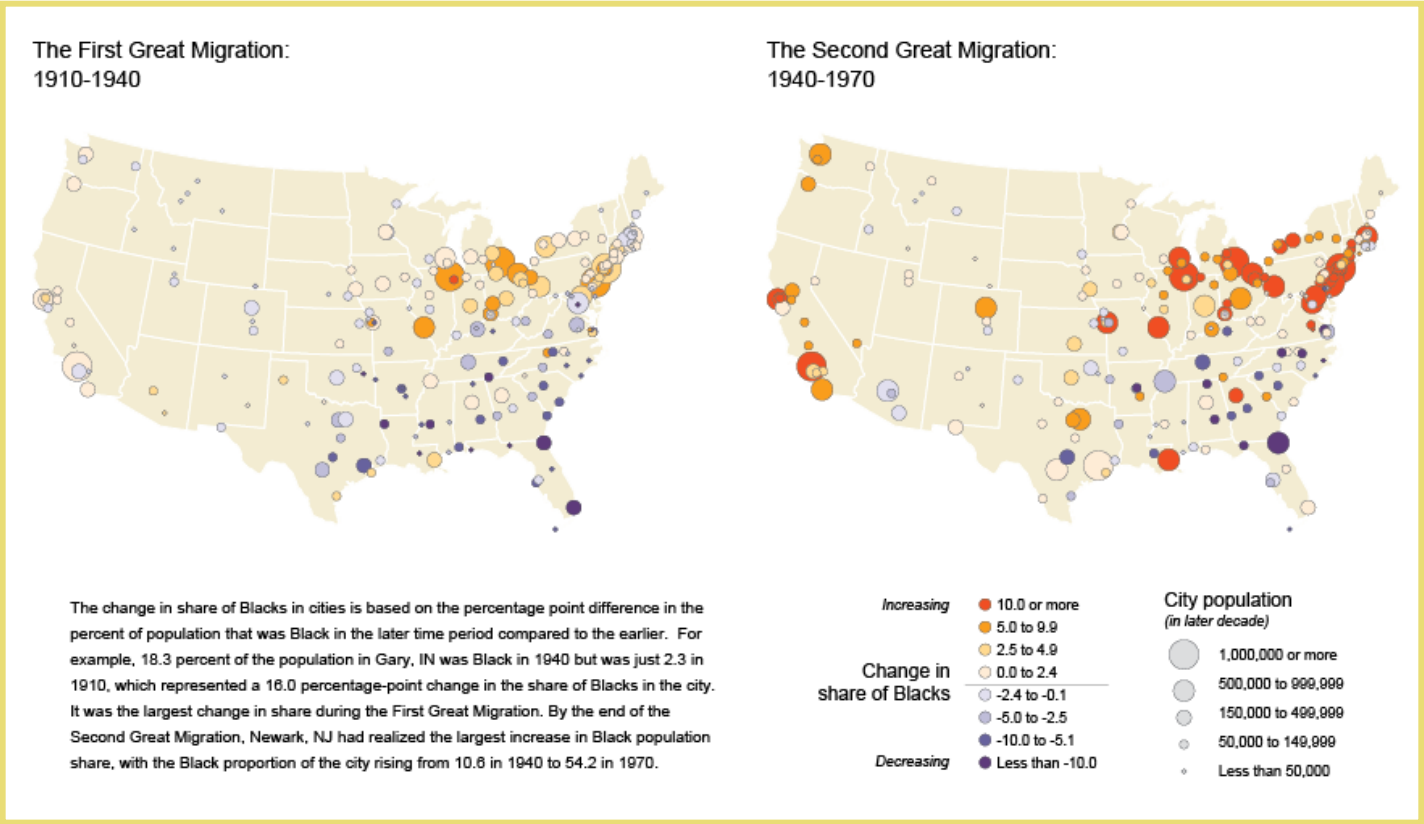
4. What were some of the factors that may have affected black migrants' decisions to move between 1910 and 1940? What role did World War I play during the First Great Migration?

5. Now, looking back at the data visualization, compare the First Great Migration with the Second Great Migration. Observe the patterns of migration during these two periods. What similarities and differences do you notice?

6. Look at **Item 2: Collapsed Reason for Move, 1999–2015, and Item 3: Top State-to-State Migration Flows, 2010–2011**. Record your observations about the more recent migration data for the entire U.S. population.

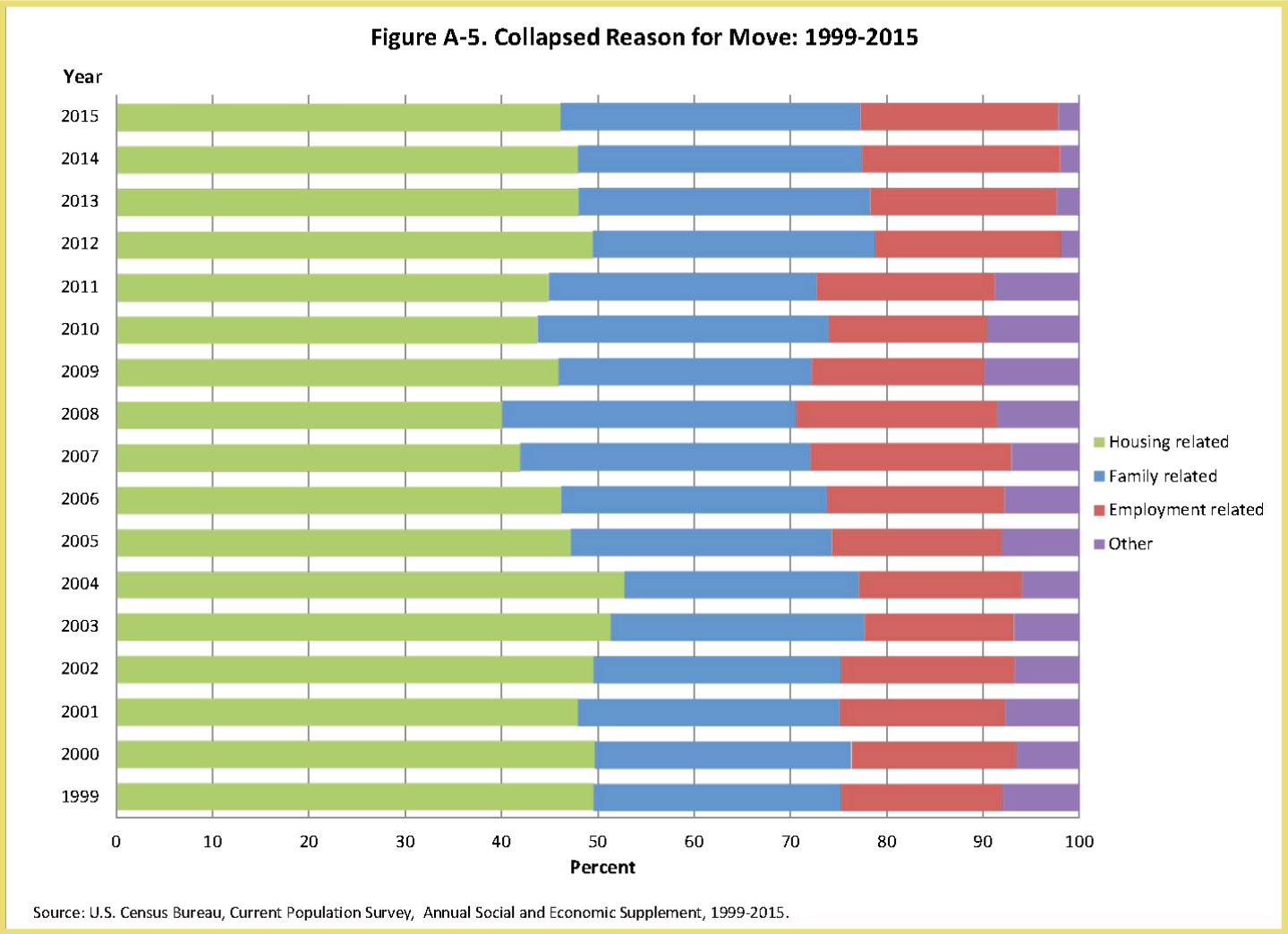
7. Now compare **Items 2 and 3**, which pertain to U.S. population movement in general, with **Item 1**, which is about black population movement. Describe any overall patterns, similarities, or differences that you notice.

Item 1: Data Visualization of the Great Migration, 1910–1970



www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2012/comm/great-migration_020.html

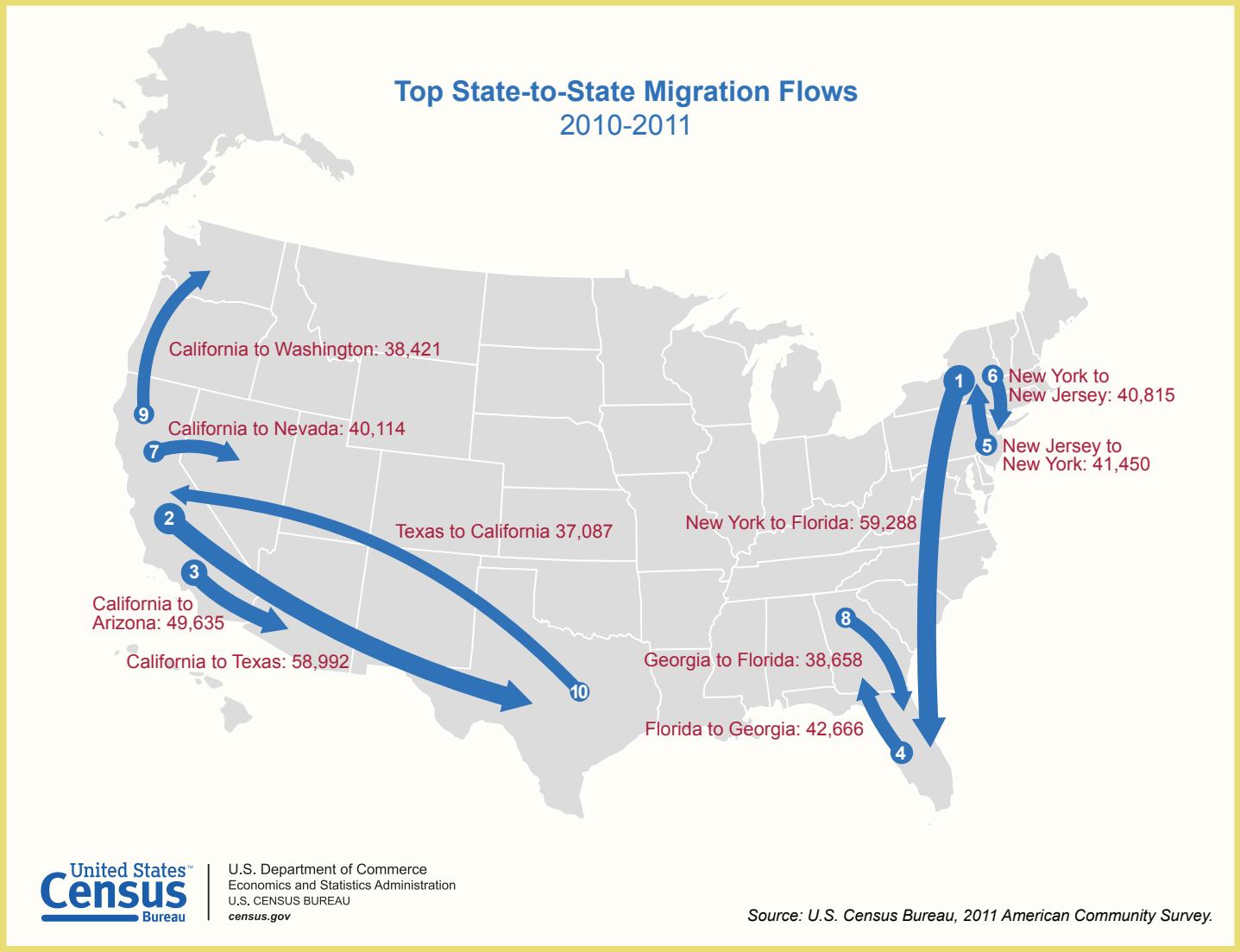
Item 2: Collapsed Reason for Move, 1999–2015



www.census.gov/library/visualizations/time-series/demo/historic.html

To view the graph electronically, click on the link above, scroll down to Table A-5, and click on the small image of the graph. To see the complete set of data (the graph shows only some of the data), download an Excel spreadsheet by clicking on the "XLS" link.

Item 3: Top State-to-State Migration Flows, 2010–2011



www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/pdf/us_migration_map_v6.pdf