Activity Item

This activity uses the following online tool:

- Census Flows Mapper
  flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/map.html

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to interpret and analyze data from the Census Flows Mapper data visualization tool.
- I will be able to explain how domestic migration affects domestic policy.
Part 1 – Study Migration and Immigration Data

1. Explain in your own words the difference between domestic migration and immigration, and provide one example of each.

2. Explain in your own words the difference between inbound migration and outbound migration, and provide an example of each.

3. You will now examine outbound and inbound migration information about your own county. To do this, navigate to the Census Flows Mapper by typing the URL at the start of this activity into your browser. Enter your county in the box at left, select the 2009–13 data set, choose “outbound” for the migration flow type, and select the “Total” characteristic.

   Wait a few seconds for the data to load, then use the plus and minus buttons in the upper-right corner to zoom in and out. You can click and drag the map to focus on different areas and hover your mouse over specific counties to see how many people moved to each one from your county during that time frame.

   a. What were the outbound migration patterns for your county?
b. Now change the migration flow type at left to “inbound” (again giving the tool a few seconds to load the data). What were the inbound migration patterns for your county?

4. Imagine that you are an adviser to the governor of your state and that the governor is planning the state's budget for 2014. Name any two to three counties in your state that you think should be allocated more money in the budget, using specific data from the tool to support your decision. Keep your tool selections the same as earlier, but this time change the migration flow type to “net.”

5. Now analyze a different data set for your county by selecting a time period other than 2009–13 and a characteristic in the drop-down menu other than “Total.” (Note that data for all characteristics are not available for all time periods.) Explain the inbound and outbound migration patterns for the group of people you selected.

6. What questions do you have about any of the data that you have studied in the tool?

7. Summarize what you have learned about the migration patterns in your county from 2009-13 and why you think your county saw those types of migration patterns.
Part 2 – Draw Conclusions About the Data Tool

1. Now go to www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/about.html and read the information about the American Community Survey (ACS). In your own words, explain who uses data from the ACS and Census Flows Mapper and how they use it.

2. Explain why the Census Flows Mapper data are helpful for local, state, and national decision-makers. Be sure to mention social, political, and economic uses for the data.