

Migration part 1 - pull and push



Name:

Date:

Push and Pull Factors in Migration

Push factors are reasons that drive people to leave their home country, such as economic hardship, political instability, or natural disasters. Pull factors are attractions that draw people to a new country, including better job opportunities, political freedom, or improved living conditions.

Example: In the 1840s and 1850s, many Irish people emigrated to the USA due to the Great Famine (push factor) and the promise of economic opportunities (pull factor).

Push Factors

Pull Factors

Availability of land · Economic opportunities · Political unrest · Higher wages · Better living conditions · Political and religious freedom · Great Famine (potato blight) · Widespread poverty · Lack of employment opportunities · Land evictions

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4 migration stories

Story 1: Escaping the Great Famine

My name is Seamus O'Reilly, and I left County Cork in 1847. The Great Famine had taken everything from us—our crops were decimated, and food was scarce. My family and I faced starvation every day. We heard whispers of opportunity in America, a land where food was plentiful and work was available. The decision was heartbreaking, but staying in Ireland meant certain death. We sold whatever little we had to pay for passage on a crowded, disease-ridden ship bound for New York. The journey was treacherous, with many falling ill, but we clung to the hope of a better life across the Atlantic.

Story 2: Seeking Religious Freedom

I am Bridget Murphy from County Kerry. By 1851, the political situation in Ireland was dire. The British government oppressed us, and as Catholics, we faced severe discrimination. My family longed for religious freedom and a place where we could practice our faith without fear. Stories of America, the land of liberty, reached us through letters from relatives who had already made the journey. We scraped together enough money for passage and boarded a ship to Boston, hoping to find a community where we could live freely and worship without persecution.

Story 3: Pursuing Economic Opportunity

My name is Patrick O'Connor, and I hailed from Dublin. In 1854, Ireland's economy was in shambles. Jobs were scarce, and wages were meager. My skills as a carpenter were wasted in a country with no demand for labor. America beckoned with promises of work and prosperity. Letters from friends who had settled in Philadelphia spoke of abundant job opportunities and higher wages. With dreams of sending money back home to support my family, I took a loan to afford the passage. The voyage was long, but each wave brought me closer to a land where my skills could be put to good use.

Story 4: Fleeing Political Unrest

I am Eamon Sullivan from County Galway. The harsh British rule and the aftermath of the failed 1848 Young Irelander Rebellion created an atmosphere of fear and repression. My involvement in the rebellion made me a target, and I feared for my life. The United States, with its democratic ideals and political freedoms, seemed like the only safe haven. With the help of sympathetic friends, I disguised myself and boarded a ship to New York. The journey was fraught with danger, but the thought of living in a free society where I could speak my mind kept me going.

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Read the text and answer the questions.

What was the main push factor for Seamus O'Reilly leaving County Cork in 1847?

- Political unrest following the Young Irelander Rebellion
- Seeking economic opportunities as a carpenter
- Lack of religious freedom as a Catholic
- The Great Famine and risk of starvation

What pull factor drew Bridget Murphy to America in 1851?

- Political freedom and democratic ideals
- Religious freedom and the ability to worship without persecution
- The promise of jobs and higher wages
- Escape from the Great Famine

Why did Patrick O'Connor decide to leave Dublin in 1854?

- Religious persecution as a Catholic
- The lack of job opportunities and economic hardship
- Political repression following a failed rebellion
- The Great Famine causing widespread starvation

What was the main reason Eamon Sullivan fled County Galway?

- Fear for his life due to involvement in the Young Irelander Rebellion
- Desire for higher wages and better job opportunities
- Religious discrimination and oppression
- Widespread starvation due to the Great Famine

What common pull factor is mentioned in all stories that drew these individuals to America?

- The opportunity to reconnect with family
- The promise of land ownership
- Hope for a better life and opportunities for a fresh start
- The availability of free education

How did Seamus O'Reilly describe the ship he and his family took to America?

- Sailor-friendly and clean
- Spacious and comfortable
- Well-equipped and luxurious
- Crowded and disease-ridden

Which historical event made Eamon Sullivan a target, causing him to flee to the United States?

- The failed 1848 Young Irelander Rebellion
- The Easter Rising of 1916
- The Partition of Ireland
- The signing of the Act of Union

What did Patrick O'Connor hope to achieve by moving to Philadelphia?

- Utilize his carpentry skills and send money back home
- Escape religious persecution
- Become a soldier and fight in the Civil War
- Find political freedom and join the government

