

Major Push/Pull Factors of Immigration

	PUSH FACTORS		PULL FACTORS
1.		1.	
2.		2.	
3.		3.	

DIRECTIONS:

Steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the text.2. Highlight Push Factors in Yellow.3. Highlight Pull Factors in Pink.4. Transfer to the Graphic Organizer above	Definitions: <p>Push Factor - are those things that encourage a person to leave their home.</p> <p>Pull Factor - something that attracts people to go and live in a particular place.</p>
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Scenario 1

Word of the discovery of gold in California spread beyond the borders of the United States. Drought and excessive flooding (depending on the region in China) had made farming a barely sustainable enterprise for many Chinese peasants. Farmers from these troubled regions of China eagerly listened to the stories about gold in California. Many, searching for a better life and prosperity, borrowed money to make the transpacific journey to California. Many hoped to return to China with enough wealth to provide for their struggling families. Chinese immigrants, who were familiar with hardship, tended to have more patience and dedication than other miners in the region. They often worked in mines that others had given up on. Persistence occasionally paid off and Chinese workers were able to capitalize on their venture.

Scenario 2

When the United States entered WWI, hundreds of thousands of soldiers were sent off to Europe. Left behind was a massive labor shortage, particularly in the industrialized cities of the Northern states. Factories in Northern cities needed workers to meet the government's demand for war supplies. With their workforce overseas, the factories began hiring workers that had once been overlooked and disregarded. African Americans from the South who had experienced racism, violence, bigotry, and poverty for most of their lives saw an opportunity for a better life in the slightly more tolerant Northern cities. Between 1910 and 1920, nearly half a million African Americans migrated from the South to Northern cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, and New York City.

Scenario 3

Instructions: Below is the story of one of the millions of immigrants who have come to the United States. When reading personal stories, push factors and pull factors may not be written as explicitly as they are in the excerpts you just read. When reading personal stories, historians often need to fill in blanks, make assumptions, and separate necessary information from unnecessary information. Making assumptions can be risky and others may tend to disagree with your assumptions. Read the story below and do your best to identify why Dominik and his family were pushed away from Poland and pulled to the United States.

My name is Dominik Zieba. I was born in Krakow, Poland in 1983 but most of my childhood I lived in a village called Czarna Tarnowska. I was born into a very poor family and we did not have much. While I was growing up in Poland, most of my family had already moved to America and my mother was applying for a visa so our entire family could come to the United States.

While we were waiting for our approval or disapproval, we did what we could to manage. By “we” I mean my parents, they broke their backs to put food on the table every day. My dad walked two miles every morning to work because we did not have a car. Some people in our village owned a car, but we did not. While the economy and the corrupted Polish government were making it difficult for low income families to find jobs and food, Poland was still a beautiful place. There was no crime in the village; me, my friends and my 11 year old sister would play in the woods, our sandbox, or just simply walk around all hours in the night and no one minded. Poland at the time was still very safe, poor but safe. We were poor, but we were not unlucky because many children and families had it a lot worse so we felt blessed by God.

When I turned nine years old our visa had finally been approved and my dad, mom, sister, and I jetted off to America. We lived in my grandma’s house for 2 years while my parents cleaned houses and offices to earn money for an apartment. Eventually we got an apartment and my family started saving for a townhouse. After we got our town house my family started saving up for a single family home. They climbed the ladder of the American Dream as they now live in a house with a fence and three cars. We went from a village in Poland where we didn’t even own a couch to me living on my own and my parents living on their own.

When I graduated high school and began to appreciate what this country had given me, I registered to vote. I took an active role in my community because I now have my own son and a family and I do not wish for me and my son, what my dad and my mom went through. I keep my eyes on the news at all times and pay attention to the current events of this world, which will no doubt affect my son. America, this land, does not give out free handouts. My parents worked their butt off and they are the proof that hard work in this country does pay off.

Write a paragraph summarizing the push and pull factors that brought Dominic to America.