

BATTER UP LESSONS

**The Negro Leagues and the Great Migration
developed by
Ms. Michelle Hamlett’s Historiography Classes 2020-2022
Eastside High School**

Learning Objective(s)	Essential Question(s)	Suggested Activities	Standards
<p>The student will be able to state the causes and outcomes of the Great Migration, the movement of over 6 million African Americans from the South to the North, Midwest, and West, and from rural to cities.</p> <p>The student will be able to correlate the facts of the Great Migration to the growth of the Negro Leagues.</p>	<p>How did the social and economic treatment of African Americans in the South lead to the Great Migration?</p> <p>How did the Great Migration bring about the growth of the Negro Leagues?</p>	<p>Discuss ways in which Jim Crow laws affected African Americans in different parts of the South.</p> <p>Analyze and/or create maps, tables, and graphs illustrating the Great Migration.</p> <p>Build a timeline matching the Great Migration and the growth of various Negro League Teams.</p> <p>Give other examples of domestic or international migration in which groups travel in search of better lives.</p>	<p>6.1.12.GeoPP.4.a: Use evidence to demonstrate the impact of population shifts and migration patterns during the Reconstruction period.</p> <p>6.1.12.EconNM.8.a: Analyze the push-pull factors that led to the Great Migration.</p> <p>6.1.12.HistoryCC.8.a: Make evidence-based inferences to explain why the Great Migration led to heightened racial tensions, restrictive laws, a rise in repressive organizations, and an increase in violence.</p> <p>6.1.12.EconNM.7.a: Assess the immediate and long-term impact of women and African Americans entering the work force in large numbers during World War I.</p>

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Research Sources

Note: At the time of this publication these websites were active.

“The Great Migration was the relocation of more than 6 million African Americans from the rural South to the cities of the North, Midwest and West from about 1916 to 1970. Driven from their homes by unsatisfactory economic opportunities and harsh segregationist laws, many Black Americans headed north, where they took advantage of the need for industrial workers that arose during the First World War. During the Great Migration, African Americans began to build a new place for themselves in public life, actively confronting racial prejudice as well as economic, political and social challenges to create a Black urban culture that would exert enormous influence in the decades to come.”

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/great-migration>

“An axiom of the U.S. national discourse is that we are—with the exception of Native Americans—a nation of immigrants. But this oft-repeated aphorism has another glaring exception: the Africans taken from their homes against their will, made to travel the deadly Middle Passage, and enslaved in America. They were not immigrants fleeing persecution or looking for “a better life;” their imaginations were not captured by the American Dream. On the contrary, better lives for the European settlers were achieved on their backs, and the freedom of the American Dream depended in large part on their lack of freedom....

So yes, Africans were migrants, but not of their own accord. However, there is a migration that they embarked on by choice—one that, strangely, is often unacknowledged when telling the American story—and that is the Great Migration.”

<https://www.communitiescount.org/blog/2019/8/14/the-great-migration>

“Arguably the most profound effect of World War I on African Americans was the acceleration of the multi-decade mass movement of black, southern rural farm laborers northward and westward to cities in search of higher wages in industrial jobs and better social and political opportunities.”

<https://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/BAIC/Historical-Essays/Temporary-Farewell/World-War-I-And-Great-Migration/>

“When millions of African-Americans fled the South in search of a better life, they remade the nation in ways that are still being felt.”

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/long-lasting-legacy-great-migration-180960118/>

“From the 1880s into the 1960s, a majority of American states enforced segregation through “Jim Crow” laws (so called after a black character in minstrel shows). From Delaware to California, and from North Dakota to Texas, many states (and cities, too) could impose legal punishments on people for consorting with members of another race. The most common types of laws forbade intermarriage and ordered business owners and public institutions to keep their black and white clientele separated.”

<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/links/misclink/examples.htm>

“For many African Americans growing up in the South in the 19th and 20th centuries, the threat of lynching was commonplace. The popular image of an angry white mob stringing a black man up to a tree is only half the story. Lynching, an act of terror meant to spread fear among blacks, served the broad social purpose of maintaining white supremacy in the economic, social and political spheres.”

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/emmett-lynching-america/>

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“The dawn of the twentieth century brought new growth to black teams across the country. With the Great Migration, many blacks moved from the South to the more industrialized areas in the North. Urban centers saw the rise of teams such as the Philadelphia Giants, the Indianapolis ABCs, the Bacharach Giants of Atlantic City, and the Chicago American Giants. “

<https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/feature/african-american-baseball/index.html>

“On one of the early trains out of the South was a sharecropper named Mallie Robinson, whose husband had left her to care for their young family under the rule of a harsh plantation owner in Cairo, Georgia. In 1920, she gathered up her five children, including a baby still in diapers, and, with her sister and brother-in-law and their children and three friends, boarded a Jim Crow train, and another, and another, and didn’t get off until they reached California.

They settled in Pasadena. When the family moved into an all-white neighborhood, a cross was burned on their front lawn. But here Mallie’s children would go to integrated schools for the full year instead of segregated classrooms in between laborious hours chopping and picking cotton. The youngest, the one she had carried in her arms on the train out of Georgia, was named Jackie, who would go on to earn four letters in athletics in a single year at UCLA. Later, in 1947, he became the first African-American to play Major League Baseball.”

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/long-lasting-legacy-great-migration-180960118/>