Push and Pull Factors Worksheet

Grade 8 – 9 geography · migration

Name: Date: Score: / 26

Why people move

Almost nobody leaves home for one reason. Migration is nearly always the result of two sets of pressures working together: what makes somewhere hard to stay in, and what makes somewhere else worth going to. Geographers call these **push** and **pull** factors.

Push factors include war, persecution, drought, crop failure, unemployment and natural disaster. Pull factors include work, safety, schools, health care and family who have already made the journey. The same person may be pushed and pulled at once, which is why asking whether someone was forced or chose to move is usually the wrong question.

The distinction that does matter is legal. A **refugee** has been forced out by danger and has protections under international law. Someone moving mainly for work does not have those protections, however difficult their circumstances. Using the words accurately is part of understanding the subject.

Part A — Vocabulary match each term to its meaning (8 marks)

1. Migration	_____	A. To arrive in a country in order to settle there
2. Emigrate	_____	B. A condition that attracts people to a destination
3. Immigrate	_____	C. To leave a country in order to settle elsewhere
4. Push factor	_____	D. A condition that makes people want to leave
5. Pull factor	_____	E. Protection granted by a country to someone fleeing danger
6. Refugee	_____	F. Moving from one place to another to live
7. Asylum	_____	G. A community living far from the homeland it came from
8. Diaspora	_____	H. Someone forced to flee their country to escape danger

Part B — Fill in the blanks (6 marks)

1. To leave your country to settle elsewhere is to _____.

2. To arrive in a country to settle there is to _____.

3. Conditions that make people want to leave are _____ factors.

4. Conditions that attract people to a place are _____ factors.

5. Someone forced to flee danger in their own country is a _____.

6. Moving within one country, from countryside to city, is called _____ migration.

Part C — Push or pull? (8 marks)

Factor	Push or pull
Civil war in the home region	
Well-paid work available	
Crops failing after years of drought	
Relatives already settled in the city	
Persecution for religion or politics	
Good schools and hospitals	
An earthquake destroying homes	
Peace and a stable government	

Part D — Think it through (4 marks)

1. A family leaves a region after three failed harvests and moves to a city where an uncle has found work. Identify one push factor and one pull factor in that sentence.

2. Explain why it matters, legally, whether someone is described as a refugee or as someone moving for work.

Push and Pull Factors Worksheet — Answer Key

Grade 8 – 9 geography · migration



Part A — Vocabulary

1. **Migration** → F
2. **Emigrate** → C
3. **Immigrate** → A
4. **Push factor** → D
5. **Pull factor** → B
6. **Refugee** → H
7. **Asylum** → E
8. **Diaspora** → G

Part B — Fill in the blanks

1. **emigrate**
2. **immigrate**
3. **push**
4. **pull**
5. **refugee**
6. **internal**

Part C — Push or pull?

1. Civil war in the home region → **Push**
2. Well-paid work available → **Pull**
3. Crops failing after years of drought → **Push**
4. Relatives already settled in the city → **Pull**
5. Persecution for religion or politics → **Push**
6. Good schools and hospitals → **Pull**
7. An earthquake destroying homes → **Push**
8. Peace and a stable government → **Pull**

> **The test:** does the condition describe the place being left, or the place being gone to? Push is about the origin, pull about the destination.

Part D — Think it through

1. **Push: three failed harvests. Pull: an uncle with work in the city.**
   Most real migration looks like this — both at once. The failed harvests made staying hard; the uncle made one particular city the place to go rather than any other.
2. **A refugee has protections under international law that someone moving for work does not.**
   Countries that have signed the refugee conventions agree not to return someone to a place where they face danger. The label therefore decides what a government may lawfully do, which is why it is argued over.