

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Great Migration

*Use the text to answer each question below.*

1. After the failures of **Reconstruction** and the rise of **Jim Crow laws**, many Black people in the South were left with few options besides **sharecropping**. In contrast, thanks to the Industrial Revolution and its aftermath, the North now had a vast need for factory workers. The **Great Migration** was thus a path to economic opportunity for many Black Americans. However, moving across the country was very expensive. Families typically could not afford to migrate together. Instead, young men who were able to find manufacturing jobs would often move first, then send money back home so their relatives could follow suit. Many also had to sell their possessions or borrow money from their community in order to afford the journey north. The migration process was long, difficult, and sometimes dangerous. Most Black migrants traveled by rail or bus, forcing them to endure segregated waiting rooms and train cars. There was little food or water available during the journey, and drivers and conductors were often unfriendly to Black passengers. Fares were also quite steep. During the early years of the First Great Migration, some migrants had their travel expenses covered by labor agents, who acted as recruiters for northern factories. But it wasn't long before word got out about the better jobs and living conditions outside of the South. By the 1920s, labor agents were no longer needed to source new workers, leaving Black migrants to pay their own way north.

How did some Black migrants pay for their journey north?

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| A. By selling their belongings         | B. By relying on labor agents |
| C. By using a family member's earnings | D. All of the above           |

2. Once Black migrants reached their final destinations, many had to rebuild their lives from the ground up. Public service and civil rights organizations played a crucial role in this process. One such group, the National Urban League, was founded in 1910 in New York City. It was led by sociologist George E. Haynes, the first Black person to earn a PhD from Columbia University, and White **suffragist** Ruth Standish Baldwin. Their goal was to provide Black migrants with the support they needed to succeed in their new lives in the industrial North. They helped migrants find jobs and living arrangements, offered childcare and literacy programs, and encouraged companies and the government to hire Black workers. They also conducted groundbreaking sociological research to determine which programs were most needed to acclimate Black migrants to urban life. Another key organization during this time was the NAACP. In the early 20th century, Black people in the South lived under constant threat, as hate groups attacked them with **impunity**. The Great Migration was in part motivated by this climate of terror. In response, the NAACP lobbied for legislation to outlaw racial violence. Later on, they would be instrumental in ending segregation during the **civil rights movement**. Today, both the National Urban League and the NAACP remain active in fighting for civil rights across the United States.

During the Great Migration, the National Urban League focused on { }.

- A. advocating for laws against racial violence      B. providing support to Black migrants  
C. helping to end segregation in the US      D. recruiting Southern Black people for factory jobs
3. Since the 1980s, Black migration trends within the United States have undergone a notable change. For much of the 20th century, Black Americans were leaving the South in large numbers to start new lives in the northern and western states. But in recent years, this trend has reversed. The so-called “New Great Migration” has seen hundreds of thousands of Black Americans move back to the South, resettling in cities like Atlanta, Houston, Memphis, and Orlando. Meanwhile, cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, which saw their Black populations rise dramatically during the original Great Migration, are losing Black residents. But what is behind this reversal? Economic conditions are one important element. Starting in the 1970s, deindustrialization of cities across the North and Midwest led to the loss of millions of blue-collar jobs, many of which were held by Black workers. More recently, rising costs of living in these regions have begun to price out both long-term and prospective Black residents. Social factors also play a role. Some Black migrants hope to escape the legacy of de facto segregation in northern and western cities, which developed during the Great Migration due to racist housing policy and “White flight.” Others wish to reconnect with family, explore their cultural heritage, or find religious community in the South.

Which of the following is a reason for the New Great Migration?

- A. Declining living costs in the North and Midwest      B. Deindustrialization in the North and Midwest  
C. Racial segregation in the South      D. Climate change effects in the South