

Migration

The first people in North America were said to have come by land, but some say they could have come by sea.



The Land Bridge Theory

One theory suggests that sea levels during the Pleistocene ice age exposed a land bridge 2000 kilometres wide between Asia and Alaska. The first to arrive across this land bridge were probably hunters following their main food sources such as the mammoth, the giant bison, and the saiga antelope.

Evidence also suggests that some of these first people migrated down the west coast of North America when massive ice sheets blocked their path on land.

The Water Travel Theory

There are also water travel theories that say that people used boats to journey across the ocean from Asia to North America. There is evidence that people had the technology to build boats for such ocean voyages.

The Push Factors and the Pull Factors

We can use two terms – “push factors” and “pull factors” – to explain why migration occurs. Push factors force people to leave one place for another whereas pull factors encourage people to move to a new place.

Migration

Fill in the blanks to complete this passage on how the first people came to North America.

There are two main theories explaining how the 1. _____ migrated to North America from 2. _____. The 3. _____ Theory suggests that during the Pleistocene ice age, the 4. _____ were lowered to such an extent that a 5. _____ was exposed between Alaska and Asia, making land travel possible. When some of the first people reached Alaska, their paths were blocked by massive 6. _____. So they decided to travel down the 7. _____ of North America.

The 8. _____ Theory, on the other hand, suggests that people in the olden days already had the 9. _____ to build 10. _____ for ocean voyages. Some of these people actually journeyed across the ocean from Asia to North America by boat and then settled in the new continent.



Asia

ice sheets

sea levels

technology

first people

Land Bridge

west coast

Water Travel

land bridge

boats

Migration



Read the following and decide whether the people migrated because of push factors or pull factors. Write "push factor" or "pull factor".

Push factors force people to move from one place to another, while pull factors encourage people to move to a new place from an old one.

1. A group of people chased after a saiga antelope but soon lost sight of it. They pushed ahead in the hope of tracking it down. Then the weather turned bad and they had to stay put. When it was all clear, the people continued their hunting trip and they soon discovered that the new land abounded with animals such as bison and mammoths, which were great food sources for them. So, they decided to settle in the new land.

2. Living was no longer easy as there were more and more people and food became scarce. So, a man decided to find new opportunities. Together with his family and some friends, he made a boat and started to sail across the ocean. After a long voyage that lasted for weeks, they finally reached the shore. Without realizing it, they were the first people to settle in North America.

3. A man had always wanted to find new opportunities so one day, he decided to explore the faraway land. With a few like-minded friends, he set off on a long journey. After months of travelling, the group came to what is known as America today and started their new lives on a new land.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Migration

Imagine that you are one of the first people that arrived in North America from Asia. Write an account of why and how you came to this new land.



Why

Think of push and pull factors.



How

Think of the land bridge theory and the water travel theory.
