

Delta State University

NEH Landmarks Workshop

The Most Southern Place on Earth

Subject/Topic/Unit: Migration

Grade Level: 11th and 12th

Objectives:

Students will understand the following:

1. The three major migratory patterns that African Americans used to get to the North, Midwest, and West
2. Students will learn reasons why African Americans left the South (Push and Pull Factors)
3. What impact the “Blues” played in the migrants life--especially in Chicago, Illinois

Procedures:

1. Students will be given an overview of migration and an explanation of how it can affect individuals lives
2. Brainstorming will take place to see if they were migrants
3. Students will interview parents or someone in their community to find the reasons why they migrated
4. Organize the students into groups to compare their findings and share similar finds
5. Show students how to conduct effective interviews and what to include

Introduction

1. Discuss changes in technology and the society that was significant in setting the stage for the “Great Migration” to the North
2. Compare and contrast the rural south lifestyle to that of the North (city)
3. What were attitudes of whites in the North and South toward African Americans during the time

4. Using Chicago as a major focus for African American migration, explain the role “Blues” played in their lives

Culmination

Students will discuss and debate whether migration was a good thing and did migration improve the lives of African Americans.

Materials/ Resources

Books:

- Lemann, Nicholas (1992). *The Promise Land: The Great Migration and How It Changed America*.
- Gregory, James N. (2007). *The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migration of Black and White Southerners Transformed America*.
- Cooper, Michael (1995). *Bound for the Promise Land: The Great Migration (Migration of the Negro Series)*.

Film:

- *The Promise Land* (Parts 1, 2, 3)

Music:

Play selective Blues songs

Evaluation:

Students will write a three page essay stating their approval or disapproval of African American migration.