

**A | Meaning from Context.** Read and listen to the information about migration. Notice the words in **blue**. These are words you will hear and use in Lesson A.



A scientist studies DNA and other genetic material.

The first **migrations** in human history were probably voluntary. People chose to leave their birthplace in search of food, water, or living space. Other migrations have been involuntary, which means that people were forced to travel. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, for instance, European slave traders kidnapped an **immense** number of African natives and transported them against their will to the Americas. There, the Africans **encountered** a world unlike anything they had ever seen in their native lands. They were forced to work in terrible conditions, and many died young.

The practice of slavery **declined** in the 18th and 19th centuries. **Subsequently**, it was made illegal, and the descendants<sup>1</sup> of those early African slaves became free. Africans were **absorbed** into the cultures of the Americas, and today they are described, for example, as African Americans, Afro-Caribbeans, or Afro-Latin Americans.

In recent years, DNA<sup>2</sup> researchers believe that they have **linked** the DNA of all humans on our planet with the DNA of African natives. Scientists **assume** that the entire world was populated as a result of a migration that began in Africa around 70,000 years ago. The **implications** of this idea would have shocked the European slave traders. They probably would have found it **incredible** to think that people all over the world were, in a sense, related to one another.

<sup>1</sup>Someone's descendants are the people in later generations who are related to them.

<sup>2</sup>DNA is a substance that carries information in the cells of the body. It is responsible for characteristics being passed on from parents to their children.

**B |** Write each word in **blue** from exercise **A** next to its definition.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (n.) unstated conclusions based on given facts
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (adv.) later or afterwards
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.) very unusual, surprising, or difficult to believe
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.) met someone unexpectedly
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (n.) large-scale movements of people or animals
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (adj.) extremely large or great amounts
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.) became less in quantity, importance, or strength
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.) take something into a larger group and make it part of the group
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.) connected physically or logically
10. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.) to believe something to be true, although it is not a proven fact

**A | Using a Dictionary.** Complete the paragraph with the correct form of a word from the box. Use your dictionary to help you.

absorb

assume

implication

migrate

subsequently

Early modern humans (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to Britain around 30,000 years ago. (2) \_\_\_\_\_, however, most left just 3000 years later. Britain became very cold when an ice age began, and early modern humans left to find warmer areas. Humans returned to Britain when temperatures became warm again. Until recently, scientists (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that people returned slowly and in small numbers. Now, however, scientists believe that humans actually returned very quickly and in large numbers. Scientists developed this theory by using **carbon dating**. Carbon dating is a process used to tell exactly how old an object is by measuring the amount of carbon-14 it contains. Carbon-14 is a natural material that living things (4) \_\_\_\_\_ until they die. In Britain, scientists discovered the bones of a large number of animals such as horses and hares. The bones had marks on them showing that the animals had been killed and cut up by humans with tools. Scientists used carbon dating and found that the animals were killed very soon after the ice age ended. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ was clear to the scientists: A large number of humans had followed the animals back to Britain soon after the temperature warmed.



Early modern humans hunt during the ice age.

**Say the words**