Name:_____ Date:_____

From Ancient Footsteps to Global Journeys: The Story of Human Migration

Reading Passage

Around 70,000 years ago, small bands of *Homo sapiens* began walking out of northeast Africa. They did not carry maps, compasses, or passports. Instead, they followed animal herds, shifting coastlines, and freshwater sources. Over tens of thousands of years, these early nomadic groups crossed natural land bridges like Beringia: which once connected Siberia and Alaska: eventually populating nearly every habitable corner of the planet. For our ancient ancestors, migration was not an administrative choice; it was an instinctive strategy for survival dictated by harsh ice ages, droughts, and the search for fertile ground.

Fast-forward to the twenty-first century, and human movement looks strikingly different, yet deeply familiar. Today, over 280 million people live in a country other than the one where they were born. Modern migration is no longer shaped primarily by wandering mammoths or glacial ice sheets. Instead, sociologists categorize contemporary movement through "push" and "pull" factors. Push factors drive people away from their homelands, including armed conflict, political persecution, economic instability, or extreme climate shocks. Pull factors draw individuals toward new regions, such as higher wages, quality education, family reunification, and stable civil rights.

Unlike early wanderers who encountered open landscapes, today's migrants must navigate an intricate system of sovereign nation-states, legal visas, biometric identification, and international borders. Geographic distances that once took generations to cross on foot can now be traversed in hours by airplane. Furthermore, modern telecommunications and digital banking allow migrants to stay intimately tethered to their communities of origin: sending remittances home and video-calling relatives across oceans in real time.

While national laws and technologies have transformed the logistics of relocation, the fundamental impulse behind migration remains unchanged. From prehistoric hunter-gatherers seeking edible plants to contemporary engineers or laborers seeking opportunity across borders, humans remain a fundamentally migratory species, constantly moving in search of safety, dignity, and a better future.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 1: Text Retrieval

1. According to the text, where did the first *Homo sapiens* migration begin about 70,000 years ago?

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2. Which natural signs helped early humans choose where to travel?

A. Animal herds and freshwater sources

B. Airports and train stations

C. Passports and legal visas

D. Digital banking and video calls

3. State whether the claim is **True** or **False**: An early human group needed a passport before moving to a new region. Use one phrase from the text to explain your answer.

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4. Match each term with its definition. Write the correct letter beside each term.

Term	Definition
1. Push factor: ____	A. A reason that attracts people to a new place
2. Pull factor: ____	B. Money sent to family in another place
3. Remittance: ____	C. A reason that drives people away from home
4. Persecution: ____	D. Unfair treatment because of a person's beliefs or identity

Part 2: Interpretation and Inference

5. Which meaning best fits **instinctive** in the phrase "an instinctive strategy for survival"?

A. Planned through political debate

B. Automatic and driven by basic nature

C. Required by international treaties

D. Learned in formal schools

6. A migrant wants to stay close to family far away. Find and quote **one phrase** that shows how modern technology or money helps.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

7. Compare two journeys: one made by a prehistoric traveler and one made by a migrant today. Give **two differences** from the text.

8. The author says humans are a "fundamentally migratory species." What message does this give us about why people move?

Part 3: Critical Evaluation and Reflection

9. Imagine a person must leave home to find safety. Do borders, passports, and visas help this person, make the journey harder, or both? Explain your view using the passage.

10. If migration has always been part of human history, what is one fair way your community could welcome newcomers today? Connect your idea to the passage.

LIVEWORKSHEETS