
Immigrants from Other Countries

Long ago, Canada was already a country of immigrants. These people came from many different places like the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany. They left their homeland for different reasons.

“Push Factors”

When circumstances from your homeland force you to leave, they are called “push factors”.



Many immigrants from Ireland, for example, came to Canada because of the potato famine in the 1840s. There were also many immigrants from the United States because those who supported the British were not allowed the same freedom as those who supported the Americans.

“Pull Factors”

When there are prospects in a new land that convince you to migrate, they are called “pull factors”.



When Wilfrid Laurier was Prime Minister of Canada from the late 1800s to the early 1900s, the Canadian government encouraged a lot of people to settle in Western Canada, since it needed people to build canals, railways, and cities. More settlers therefore arrived from the United States, England, Scotland, Ireland, and other European countries like Ukraine.

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Circle the correct answers.

1. When something causes you to leave your homeland for a new one, it is a _____ .
A. push factor B. pull factor C. prospect
2. Many immigrants came to Canada from Ireland in the 1840s because of a _____ .
A. war B. potato famine C. flood
3. Many immigrants came to Canada from the United States because they did not have the same _____ as the others.
A. freedom B. wages C. clothing
4. The Canadian government wanted more immigrants to settle in _____ Canada because it needed people to build canals, railways, and cities.
A. Eastern B. Northern C. Western
5. During the late 1800s and the early 1900s, immigrants also came from European countries like _____ .
A. Kenya B. Ukraine C. Egypt