

Moving to Michigan: Migration, Immigration and Transportation

Extension Activities

These extension activities provide opportunities for the eager learner curious about topics related to migration and immigration.

Workers' Solutions

Teach students about the way in which many workers have dealt with the problems of factory life – by unionization. Start with one of **The Henry Ford's** resources: the PowerPoint Slideshow “Organizing the United Auto Workers at the Rouge” accessible at <http://www.thehenryford.org/rouge/teachers.aspx>; and continue with the case studies, “The Degradation of Work Revisited: Workers and Technology in the American Auto Industry, 1900-2000” and “An Economic ‘Frankenstein:’ ‘UAW Workers’ Response to Automation at the Ford Brook Park Plant in the 1950s,” both by Stephen Meyer and accessible at <http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Labor.htm>. To bring the issue to the present, invite both a union member and a member of management to be guest speakers in your class.

Becoming an American Today

Have students research what it takes to become an American citizen today. Learn the steps in the immigration and citizenship process, and share them with your students. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (uscis.gov) is a great resource for this information, where students can take a sample citizenship test.

Tensions Among Immigrants and Migrants

Conflicts sometimes arose among racial and ethnic groups in crowded cities. Your community or a nearby one may have its own history of racial and ethnic tensions that you can research. Visit the local library, archives or museums in that community or interview its long time residents to learn more. Create a mini exhibit that explains the history of urbanization, migration and immigration in the community, and place the exhibit in a prominent place in your school or community (library, city hall, etc.) to help others learn.

Pulls to Your Community

What have been some of the pulls that have brought immigrants and migrants to your community during its history? Take students to a local historical museum to learn about your area's economic history. While there, have students keep track of the economic activities that have taken place in the community through its history. When you return to the classroom, discuss which economic activities continue today, how those that remain have changed and what new economic activities have developed.