

# Migration part 1 - pull and push



Name:

Date:

## Push and Pull Factors in Migration

Push factors are conditions that drive people to leave their homes, such as economic hardship, conflict, or natural disasters. Pull factors are conditions that attract people to a new area, such as better job opportunities, safety, and higher living standards.

**Example:** A person might migrate from a war-torn country (push factor) to a country with a stable economy and peaceful environment (pull factor).

### Push Factors

### Pull Factors

Lack of job opportunities · Safety and security · Environmental degradation · Political instability · Political stability · Better job prospects · Poor living conditions · Educational opportunities · Family reunification · Healthcare access · Higher standard of living · Natural disasters · War and conflict · Persecution

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## 4 migration stories

### Escape from Saigon's Turmoil

In 1975, as Saigon fell to the communist forces, my family made a desperate decision to flee Vietnam. My father, a former officer in the South Vietnamese Army, feared for our lives under the new regime. We chose Thailand because it was relatively close and had a growing Vietnamese refugee community. We sold whatever we could carry and boarded a rickety fishing boat, headed for the Gulf of Thailand. The journey was perilous, with the threat of pirates and storms. Many nights, we huddled together, praying we'd see land soon. When we finally reached the Thai shore, we were exhausted but thankful to have escaped the chaos and potential persecution.

### Seeking Economic Stability

The late 1970s in Vietnam were marked by economic hardship. My family, like many others, struggled to make ends meet. The government's collectivization policies had failed, and food was scarce. My older brother had heard stories of better opportunities in Thailand, where the economy was more stable. We decided to take a chance. We secretly crossed the border into Cambodia, making our way to the Thai border. With forged documents and the help of a sympathetic truck driver, we managed to cross into Thailand. We hoped for a fresh start and the chance to rebuild our lives away from the economic despair of Vietnam.

### Religious Persecution Escape

As a practicing Catholic in post-war Vietnam, life became increasingly difficult. The new regime viewed religious institutions with suspicion, and my family faced harassment. In 1978, we decided to leave for Thailand, where religious freedoms were more respected. We joined a group of fellow Catholics who had arranged for a clandestine journey through Laos. The trip was fraught with danger, from navigating dense jungles to avoiding patrols. After weeks of travel, we finally reached the Mekong River, crossing it at night into Thailand. It was a treacherous journey, but the hope of practicing our faith freely kept us going.

### Fleeing Political Repression

As an outspoken critic of the communist regime, I knew my time in Vietnam was limited. In 1979, after a close friend was arrested for anti-government activities, I decided to leave. Thailand was a logical choice due to its political stability compared to neighboring countries. With the help of underground networks, I made my way through the dense forests of Cambodia. The journey was harrowing, with the constant threat of being captured. I reached the Thai border after weeks of travel, exhausted but relieved. Thailand represented a haven where I could continue my activism without the constant fear of imprisonment.

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**Read the text and answer the questions.**

**What was a major push factor for the family fleeing Vietnam in 1975?**

- ☐ Political persecution due to a family member's military background
- ☐ Desire for better educational opportunities
- ☐ Economic hardship due to collectivization policies

**Why did the small-scale farmer decide to leave Vietnam in 1978?**

- ☐ To reunite with family members in Thailand
- ☐ To escape from a re-education camp
- ☐ Economic hardship caused by the collectivization policy

**What pull factor attracted the former officer's family to Thailand?**

- ☐ Presence of distant relatives offering support
- ☐ Better job opportunities in the textile industry
- ☐ Availability of refugee camps

**What was a significant pull factor for the high school student who moved to Thailand in 1976?**

- ☐ Academic freedom and resources
- ☐ The Thai government's refugee camps
- ☐ Economic hardship in Vietnam

**How did the collectivization policy in Vietnam impact the small-scale farmer?**

- ☐ It forced him into a re-education camp
- ☐ It provided him with new job opportunities in Thailand
- ☐ It devastated his livelihood, leaving him with barely enough to survive

**What was a common pull factor for both the family fleeing in 1975 and the small-scale farmer in 1978?**

- ☐ Job opportunities in Thailand
- ☐ Political stability in Thailand
- ☐ Educational opportunities in Thailand

**What motivated the mother and child to flee to Thailand in 1977?**

- ☐ The father's imprisonment in a re-education camp
- ☐ The desire to pursue higher education
- ☐ Better job opportunities in the textile industry

**What enabled the high school student to pursue his academic dreams in Thailand?**

- ☐ The presence of refugee camps in Thailand
- ☐ Support from his uncle, a professor in Bangkok
- ☐ Economic hardship in Vietnam

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## A closer look

**Reflect on the push and/or pull factors that would make you consider migrating to a different country. Write a short essay discussing these factors and how they might influence your decision.**

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**After learning about push and pull factors in more detail. What do you think weighs heavier? Push or pull factors. Collect arguments for both sides.**

## Debate Push & Pull factors

<p>Push factors are more significant because... Write down your arguments here</p>	<p>Pull factors are more significant because... Write down your arguments here</p>
<p>Sample arguments for push factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Economic hardship (e.g., unemployment, low wages)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Political instability (e.g., persecution, war)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental factors (e.g., natural disasters, climate change)</li></ul>	<p>Sample arguments for pull factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Better job opportunities (e.g., higher wages, employment prospects)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Higher quality of life (e.g., better healthcare, education)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Political stability (e.g., safety, freedom)</li></ul>