



## 1915

### The Great Migration begins

Southern life in 1915 was difficult for many African Americans because of racial discrimination and crop failures caused by a Boll Weevil infestation. African American sharecroppers were out of work and had no other options in the south. After word spread about the five-dollar work day, many African Americans moved to Detroit with hopes of working for Ford.



When World War I began, an even greater demand for workers in the north brought more African Americans to Detroit. As whites also took over jobs in factories during wartime, many African Americans, especially women, were able to fill service jobs. The Great Migration increased racial tensions in northern cities because whites now had to compete for jobs.



<sup>1</sup> Florida migrants study road map

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<sup>2</sup> Group of Florida migrants on their way to Cranberry, New Jersey.

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<sup>3</sup> Florida migrant bringing her luggage out.

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## Credits:

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## Keywords/Topics:

Migration, Work/Jobs

## Questions:

1. Why did African Americans migrate to northern cities?
2. Why did World War I increase demand for workers?
3. What types of jobs awaited southern black migrants?
4. How were black migrants treated in the North?

## Links to Internet Websites:

<http://www.inmotionaame.org/migrations/landing.cfm?migration=8&bhpc=1>

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/american-labor-movement.html>

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article\\_display.cfm?HHID=443](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display.cfm?HHID=443)

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In the image shown above, two Florida migrants study a road map before traveling from North Carolina to Delaware.

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Often, migrants could only bring with them what they could pack in their car. This family has tied their belongings to the outside of their car and are ready to begin their new life in the north.

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This woman has gathered the last of her belongings before moving north. Many times migrants could only take clothes and a few household items because they could not transport furniture and other large items.