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Printed: November 19, 2015
8.89 Describe the push-pull effect in the movement of former slaves to the North and West, including the Exodusters, Pap Singleton, and the First Great Migration to urban centers. (C,E,G,H,TN)

**FIGURE 1.1**

**Push factor** - a reason that causes people to leave their native land

Push factors may include:

- population growth
- crop failures
- religious persecution
- wars or political turmoil

**Pull factor** - a reason that causes people to move to a new place

Pull factors may include:

- religious freedom
- political freedom
- economic opportunities (jobs)
- abundant and affordable land

Push and pull factors may also cause someone to move to migrate to different regions of a country as it did the African Americans after the Civil War. Many laws were passed to make it hard on African Americans. Many African Americans moved to the North or West for better opportunities and even though they still might be treated fairly, things were much better than in the South. This movement in the early 1900s was known as the First Great Migration.

**Push factors for leaving the South:**

**Klu Klux Klan lynchings** - African Americans were terrified by the acts of the KKK. Many African Americans were attacked in their own homes. Many were hanged, whipped or tortured. Although Congress made laws preventing the terrorism, the violence continued.

**Poll taxes and literacy test for voting** - Poll taxes were taxes African Americans were charged for voting. Many could not afford the tax which kept them from voting. African Americans were also given a reading/writing test. They must be able to read and interpret parts of the Constitution to pass the test. This test was for white people too but many were exempt because of a clause that allowed them to continue to vote if they had voted previous to this literacy law.
Segregation - The Supreme Court upheld segregation laws in Plessy v. Ferguson. This law stated that blacks and whites could have separate, but equal facilities. This meant that blacks and whites did not attend school or church together, and public places must have a section for blacks separate from white. Most of the time facilities for blacks were almost always inferior. Many of the African American schools had inferior classroom facilities and textbooks.

Sharecropping - Jobs for African Americans were not plentiful because they did not have the education or skills needed to perform them. Many African Americans turned to sharecropping. Sharecropping is when someone works on a farm and in return they are given part of the share of the value of the crops grown. Sharecroppers also lived on the farm and were supplied what they needed to grow crops. If the harvest was poor and was not enough to cover expenses then they would be in debt to the farmer. Many poor white people also worked as sharecroppers. This was a cycle that was hard to break out of for African Americans.

Exodusters
Exodusters - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcFXr6bBV3o

Another group of homesteaders that headed out west after the Civil War were African Americans after realizing they would not find opportunities in the South. Most of these people went on foot and sometimes by boat up the Mississippi River. As many as 15,000 to 20,000 African Americans were persuaded to move west. These men and women were lead by Benjamin “Pap” Singleton, a former slave from Tennessee, who encourage them to follow him west to Kansas so that they could create their own community. The people who followed “Pap” Singleton out west called themselves the Exodusters, because they believed that the west would be their promise land. (http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/program/episodes/seven/theexodust.htm)“Pap” Singleton

Pap Singleton

Benjamin "Pap" Singleton (1809–1900) was an American activist and businessman best known for his role in establishing African American settlements in Kansas . A former slave from Tennessee who escaped to freedom in 1846, he became a noted abolitionist , community leader, and spokesman for African-American civil rights. He returned to Tennessee during the Union occupation in 1862, but soon concluded that blacks would never achieve economic equality in the white-dominated South . After the end of Reconstruction, Singleton organized the movement of thousands of black colonists, known as Exodusters , to found settlements in Kansas. A prominent voice for early black nationalism , he became involved in promoting and coordinating black-owned businesses in Kansas and developed an interest in the Back-to-Africa movement .

Legends of Kansas - Read about the life of Pap Singleton

http://www.legendsofkansas.com/benjaminsingleton.html
FIGURE 1.5

“Pap” Singleton