



Why do people migrate?

People migrate for many different reasons. These reasons can be classified as economic, social, political or environmental:

economic migration - moving to find work or follow a particular career path

social migration - moving somewhere for a better quality of life or to be closer to family or friends

political migration - moving to escape political persecution or war

environmental causes of migration include natural disasters such as flooding

Some people choose to migrate, eg someone who moves to another country to enhance their career opportunities. Some people are forced to migrate, eg someone who moves due to war or famine.

A refugee is someone who has left their home and does not have a new home to go to. Often refugees do not carry many possessions with them and do not have a clear idea of where they may finally settle.

Push and pull factors

Push factors are the reasons why people leave an area. They include:

lack of services

lack of safety

high crime

crop failure

drought

flooding

poverty

war

Pull factors are the reasons why people move to a particular area. They include:

higher employment

more wealth

better services

good climate

safer, less crime

political stability

more fertile land

lower risk from natural hazards

Migration usually happens as a result of a combination of these push and pull factors.

The number of migrants a country receives is influenced by the country's migration policy. Countries such as the UK operate a points based system. People are awarded points depending on their skills, previous income, and age. This system gives some people visas to allow them entry into the UK for work - especially where there is a shortage of labour in that sector.

Migration laws are complex, and change in different countries, even within the EU.

(Source : http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/migration/migration_trends_rev4.shtml)