

Migration GIS Lesson, Ben Bohmfalk

Objective: Students will use technology to map and analyze patterns of human migration.

Standards:

1. create and interpret maps
2. understand human settlement and distribution patterns, including migration (push/pull factors, etc)

Introduction: Warm-up Question: Describe the migration patterns in the Americas today.

Procedure:

1. Give students an overview of the lesson. The central question is “What migration patterns exist in the Americas today, and what are the reasons behind these patterns?”
2. Query the data set to create a GIS map layers for each of the following attributes:
 - a. net in-migration (most recent year available)
 - b. net out-migration (same year)
 - c. GNIPPP Per capita or annual income per capita
 - d. Crime rate
 - e. Top Destinations of emigrants from each country
 - f. Top source countries of immigrants to each country
 - g. One other criterion of the student’s choice, chosen as a potential explanation of migration trends (hypothesis).
3. Compare the maps, selecting and deselecting layers to answer the following questions:
 - a. What migration patterns exist in the Americas today?
 - b. What correlation, if any, do you see between income and migration patterns?
 - c. Another question.
4. Students choose (or are assigned) one country in the American to research and prepare a Migration Info Sheet using GIS software. Students will present their findings at a simulated Conference of the Americas. The central questions of the conference will be
 - a. “What challenges and opportunities are presented by migration in the Americas today?”
 - b. “What general policy guidelines can the nations of the Americas agree upon to address these challenges and opportunities?”
5. Students’ Migration Info Sheet should include the following:
 - a. A student-created map that clearly shows important migration-related information about the country
 - b. A graph of the ethnicity, by percentage, of the country’s population (most recent year available)

- c. An explanation of the push and pull factors that influence migration patterns in this country
 - d. A graph showing the top destination countries of emigrants from this country (most recent year available)
 - e. Top source countries of immigrants to this country (most recent year available)
 - f. Basic immigration policies today. Try to identify which two of the following most accurately describes the country's current official approach to the migration patterns it is experiencing:
 - i. Restrictive immigration policies (trying to keep immigrants out)
 - ii. Open immigration policies (inviting people in)
 - iii. Restrictive emigration policies (trying to make people stay)
 - iv. Open emigration policies (allowing people to leave freely)
6. Hold the simulated conference. Begin by asking the first central question. Allow each student to present his/her findings and fact sheet, and to state their response to the question from his/her country's perspective. The discussion should allow each student to present his/her country's information and perspective, and also allow questions and discussion among the students. Conclude the conference by drafting a policy statement and taking a vote to see which countries support it. Sample policy statements are provided below.
- a. Essential questions for discussion:
 - i. "What challenges and opportunities are presented by migration in the Americas today?"
 - ii. "What general policy guidelines can the nations of the Americas agree upon to address these challenges and opportunities?"
 - b. Potential policy statements (sample):
 - i. The nations of the Americas will adopt more open immigration policies.
 - ii. The nations of the Americas will adopt more closed immigration policies.
 - iii. The more developed nations of the Americas will provide economic assistance to the less developed nations to reduce immigration.
 - iv. The nations with high rates of emigration will attempt to prevent their citizens from emigrating.