

Migration Project

Spring 2014

This project will require you to trace your family's migration history that ultimately led you to live in California. We humans are a migratory bunch, and unless you are living in East Africa, it's doubtful that your family never moved to a new place. To better understand migration patterns in California, I would like you to retrace your family's migration history and get an understanding of how it fits into the bigger picture of California immigration.

Step 1.

Gather information on the migrations of your family. This should include both:

- Interviews with family members. Include as many generations of your family as possible; parents, grandparents... When did they come to California, how did they get here, modes of transportation, interesting things that happened on the way...
- Library research to compare and examine general migration patterns as well as filling in missing details.

Step 2.

Analyze and comment on the information. You should type up at least 2-3 pages of the migration history with your own analysis regarding macro trends. This written portion should include all of the details that cannot be expressed on a map (discussed below). This includes things like motives for migration, interesting facts, etc. Be sure to distinguish between fact and conjecture!

Step 3.

Map it. I will provide three blank maps for you to use in tracing your family's history. On the World Map, you should trace how your family got to the United States. On the U.S. map, you will trace how your family got to California if they didn't head here first. Finally on the California Map you should track internal migrations, e.g. did your family first move to Los Angeles and later come to Lancaster?

Papers and maps will be due at the beginning of class, Wednesday, April 23. You will give a brief presentation (2 min. or so) about your research.