

WORLD WAR I AND BEYOND

Geography and History

African American artist Jacob Lawrence completed his Migration Series in 1941, when he was just 23 years old. The paintings show various aspects of the Great Migration. Lawrence was born and reared in the North. He lived in New York City when he made these paintings. This painting, Number 17 in the series, depicts sharecroppers suffering in the South. Review the Focus on Geography feature in the textbook, examining the routes of migration on the map and the factors that caused the migration.

◆ *Study the painting. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

The Great Migration

Jacob Lawrence Migration Series #17: ©The Phillips Collection

Questions to Think About

1. How does Lawrence portray suffering and oppression in this painting?
2. Whom does the white man represent?
3. How does this painting illustrate a reason for the Great Migration?
4. **Draw Inferences** Since Lawrence had never been to the South when he made his Migration Series paintings, what do you think inspired them?