

PUSH AND PULL

WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE REASONS why immigrants chose to come to America, they often use the terms *push* and *pull*. To illustrate this, imagine you and a friend are trying to move a stubborn dog. The dog is sitting down and no matter how much you call to him, he simply won't move. Let's say your friend puts a leash on the dog and begins to pull him forward. At the same, you push the dog from behind. Unless the dog has super-strength, he won't be able to resist moving.

In a similar way, many immigrants felt like they had no choice in leaving their countries and traveling to America. Something was pushing them out of their country at the time something else was pulling them toward America. Famine, for example, pushed the Irish immigrants out of Ireland while the promise of jobs and an abundance of food pulled them to America.



Irish family being evicted from their home during the potato famine

~Now pretend that you and your family are considering moving to America during the early 20th century. Make a list of all the push and pull factors that might influence your decision.



~Now, name some push and pull factors in your own life!
