

## Westward Expansion DBQ

*Directions:* Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document on a separate sheet of paper.

### Document 1

As soon as the railroad demonstrated its practicality... far-thinking men realized that it would be the tool Americans used to pry open the continent and extract wealth from mines, factories, and fields...

In mid-1862, President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act authorizing the Central Pacific Railroad to build east from Sacramento and the Union Pacific Railroad to build west from Omaha. On May 10, 1869, the two companies met at Promontory Summit, Utah, completing the nation's first Pacific Railroad...

-from "Rails to the Pacific," California State Railroad Museum

1. What tool made it possible to tap the riches of the American West?

2. How was the transcontinental railroad funded?

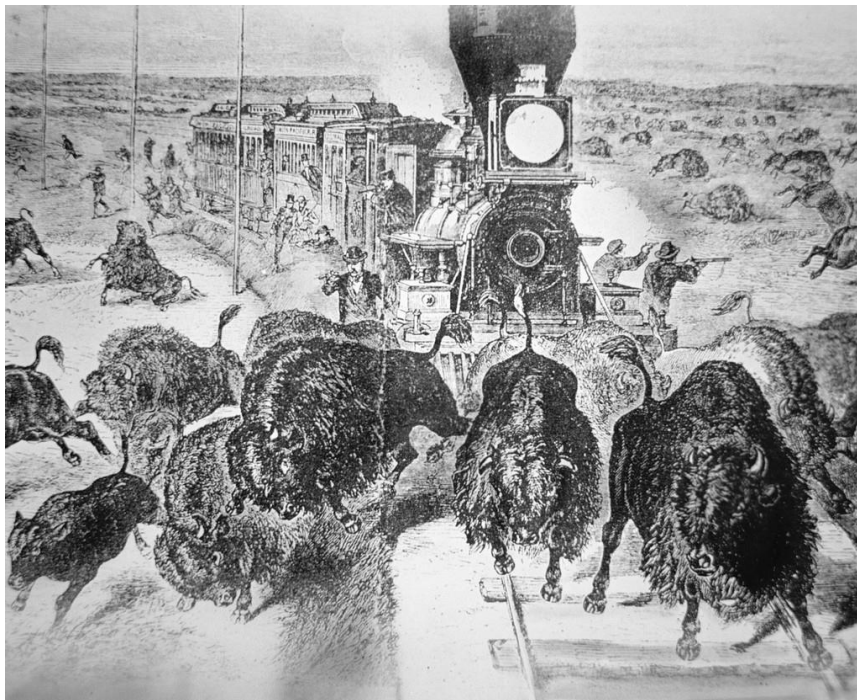
### Document 2

On arriving at Rich Bar... many went a few miles farther down the river. The next morning, two men turned over a large stone, beneath which they found quite a sizable piece of gold. They washed a small panfull of the dirt, and obtained from it [gold worth] two hundred and fifty-six dollars. Encouraged by this success, they commenced staking off the legal amount of ground allowed to each person for mining... before the night the entire bar was "claimed... The largest amount [of gold] ever taken from one panfull of dirt was fifteen hundred dollars. In a little more than a week after its discovery, five hundred men had settled upon the Bar for the summer.

3. Why were people drawn to settle in Rich Bar?

4. How long did it take for 500 men to settle at Rich bar?

### Document 3



-newspaper illustration of a Great Plains hunt, 1871

5. Why are the buffalo in the document running?

6. What are the men in the picture doing?

7. Predict what will happen to those who rely on the buffalo herds for food if the actions in the picture continue.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Document 4

I wasn't nineteen years old when I come up the trail... The average age of cowboys then... was twenty-three or -four...

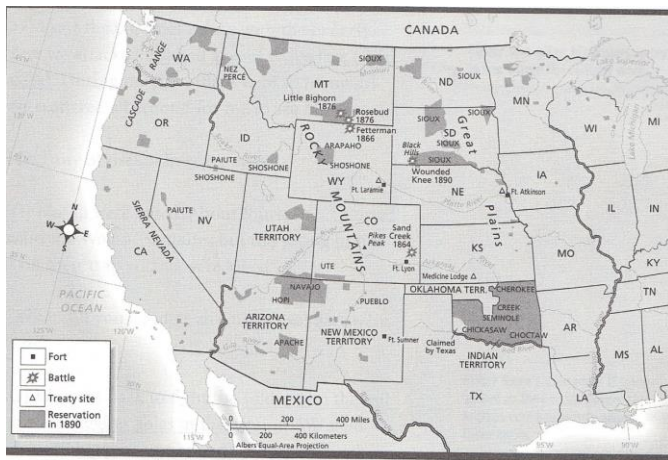
Look at the chances they took and the kind of riding they done... over rough country. Even in the daytime those deep coulees\* could open up all at once... before you had a chance to see where you were going, and at night it was something awful if you'd stop to think about it, which none of them ever did. If a storm come and the cattle started running- you'd hear that low rumbling noise along the ground... then you'd jump for your horse and get out there in the lead, trying to head them and get them into a [circular course] before they scattered... It was riding a dead run in the dark...

-taken from "Up the Trail in '79" from *We Pointed Them North: Recollections of a Cowpuncher*, by E.C. Abbott and Helena Huntington Smith

\* coulee= ravine or ditch

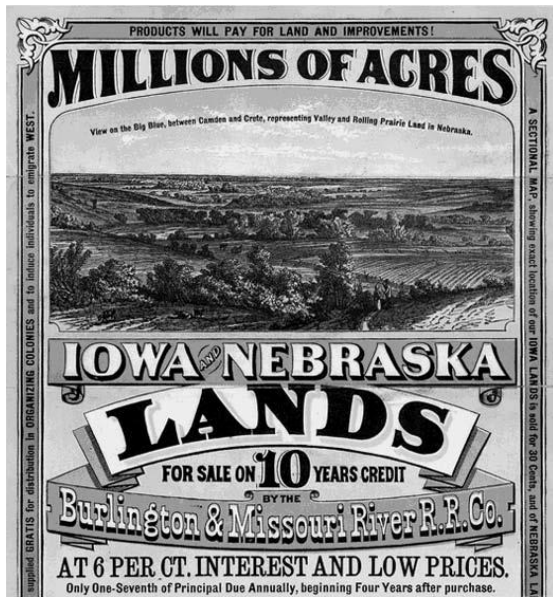
- 8. What was something that was challenging about being a cowboy
- 9. How old was the average cowboy?

### Document 5—Interactions between White Settlers & Native Americans, Mid-1800s



- 10. Which state or territory had the largest concentration of Native American reservations in 1890?
- 11. Why were Native Americans forced onto reservations?
- 12. How would the land rush on April 22, 1889 impact the Natives?

### Document 6



- 13. How much land does this poster advertise as being for sale?
- 14. Why would this poster encourage people to buy land from this company?

- Poster created by the Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co., mid-1800s

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Document 7

*“I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. . .He who led the young men is dead. It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food; no one knows where they are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me my chiefs. I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight now more forever.”*

***Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce upon his surrender to the US government troops,  
September 1877***

15. Based on this statement, provide *two* reasons Chief Joseph finally decided to surrender to the United States’ government troops.

### Document 8--The Homestead Act May 20, 1862

Be it enacted, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled to enter one quarter-section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a pre-emption claim. . . . Provided, that any person owning or residing on land may, under the provision of the act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres.

16. What was the purpose of the Homestead Act?

17. How much land could be attained, and what did you have to do to get this land?

18. What groups of people could now buy land, that otherwise would have never been able to own land?

19. Predict what might happen between the Homesteaders and the Natives that were living on the nearby lands.

### Document 9—Summary of US Government’s policy towards Native Americans

Federal Indian policy during the period from 1870 to 1900 marked a departure from earlier policies that were dominated by removal, treaties, reservations, and even war. The new policy focused specifically on breaking up reservations by granting land allotments to individual Native Americans. Very sincere individuals reasoned that if a person adopted white clothing and ways, and was responsible for his own farm, he would gradually drop his Indian-ness...It would then no longer be necessary for the government to oversee Indian welfare in the paternalistic [fatherly] way it had been obligated to do, or provide meager annuities [payments] that seemed to keep the Indian in a subservient and poverty-stricken position.

*From [www.ourdocuments.gov](http://www.ourdocuments.gov)*

20. How did the government’s policy towards Native Americans change from 1870-1900 compared to how it had been during the time of the Trail of Tears?

21. Why do you think the government believed that if Natives “adopted white clothing and ways” that the Natives and Americans would have a better relationship?

22. How do you expect the Native Americans to respond to this new American policy?

***Final Task: Having reviewed the documents, and given your knowledge of the relationship between American settlers, the American government, and Native Americans, what policy (or policies) would you have created to have formed a better, lasting relationship between these groups? Write a three paragraph essay explaining your policy. Be sure to use AT LEAST three documents to support your proposal.***