

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Dust and Iron: A 9th Grade Westward Expansion Challenge

Legislative analysis, environmental shifts, and geopolitical tension — analyze the complex mechanics of American continental growth during the 19th century.

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**1. The Gadsden Purchase (1853) was primarily motivated by which specific infrastructure goal that highlighted growing sectional tensions?**

**Answer:** A) Securing a southern route for a transcontinental railroad

The U.S. purchased this strip of land from Mexico specifically because it offered the most level terrain for a rail line connecting the South to the Pacific.

**2. The Mormon Exodus to the Salt Lake Valley was driven by a desire for religious autonomy rather than the pursuit of gold or free government land.**

**Answer:** A) True

Unlike many westward migrants, the Mormons moved to escape persecution in the East and sought a secluded location to practice their faith.

**3. Passed in 1846 during the Mexican-American War, the \_\_\_\_\_ Proviso attempted to ban slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico, sparking fierce Congressional debate.**

**Answer:** B) Wilmot

The Wilmot Proviso was a pivotal moment toward the Civil War, as it linked the issue of westward expansion directly to the expansion of slavery.

**4. Which specific challenge did the 'Exodusters' face as they migrated to Kansas in the late 1870s?**

**Answer:** C) Lack of capital and resistance from white Southern authorities

Exodusters were Black migrants fleeing the post-Reconstruction South; they often lacked the funds needed for farming equipment and faced attempts by Southerners to block their travel.

**5. The Ex Parte Crow Dog Supreme Court decision led to the Major Crimes Act, which reduced tribal sovereignty by placing certain crimes under federal jurisdiction.**

**Answer:** A) True

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This case triggered Congress to pass a law that brought significant legal matters on reservations under the control of federal courts rather than tribal tradition.

**6. The 1851 Treaty of \_\_\_\_\_ established specific tribal boundaries for Plains Indians and allowed the U.S. to build roads through their territory.**

**Answer:** A) Fort Laramie

The First Treaty of Fort Laramie was an early attempt to organize the Great Plains by defining territories for tribes to minimize conflict with settlers.

**7. In what way did the 'closing' of the frontier according to Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis impact American identity?**

**Answer:** B) It created anxiety that the U.S. would lose its source of innovation and individualism

Turner argued that the frontier provided a 'safety valve' for social tension and shaped American character; its end was seen as a transformative and worrisome milestone.

**8. The implementation of 'barbed wire' helped bring an end to the era of the open range by allowing ranchers to fence off their property.**

**Answer:** A) True

Barbed wire allowed for inexpensive fencing on the treeless plains, ending the practice of free-roaming cattle and causing 'range wars' between ranchers.

**9. The \_\_\_\_\_ Act of 1862 was passed alongside the Homestead Act to provide land grants to states for the creation of agricultural and mechanical colleges.**

**Answer:** C) Morrill

The Morrill Land-Grant Act was essential in promoting scientific farming and engineering, which were crucial for the industrialization of the West.

**10. How did the Comstock Lode in Nevada differ from the earlier California Gold Rush in terms of economic structure?**

**Answer:** C) It required heavy industrial investment and large-scale corporate mining

Extracting silver from the Comstock Lode required deep-shaft mining and expensive processing equipment, favoring large corporations over individual prospectors.