

Name: _____ Date: _____

Covered Wagons and Iron Horses: 3rd Grade Frontier Journey Quiz

This mid-unit assessment connects transportation changes to daily life on the plains, analyzing how families adapted to new Western landscapes and tools.

1. Families traveling west often moved in groups called 'wagon trains' for safety. Which of these was a common reason they chose to travel together?

- A. They wanted to race other families to get the best land.
- B. To help each other cross difficult rivers and fix broken wheels.
- C. To have enough people to build a city during the trip.
- D. There were no maps, so they had to follow one giant wagon.

2. Because there were very few trees on the wide-open Great Plains, many pioneer families built their first homes out of blocks of _____.

- A. Brick
- B. Stone
- C. Sod (Grass and dirt)
- D. Ice

3. The 'Pony Express' was a mail service where riders switched to fresh horses at different stations to deliver letters quickly across the West.

- A. True
- B. False

4. How did the invention of 'Barbed Wire' change the life of a cowboy living on the open range?

- A. It made it easier for cowboys to decorate their horses.
- B. It helped cowboys catch wild buffalo more quickly.
- C. It allowed farmers to fence in land, which ended the time of 'open' cattle herding.
- D. It was used as a special tool to build new railroad tracks.

5. Before settlers arrived, many Plains Indian Tribes relied on the _____ for food, clothing, and shelter materials.

- A. Bison (Buffalo)
- B. Whale
- C. Chicken
- D. Elephant

6. Most pioneers brought all of their heavy furniture from their old homes and kept it inside their wagons during the whole trip.

- A. True
- B. False

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7. What was the main purpose of the 'Telegraph' lines that were built alongside the new railroads?

- A. To hang clothes to dry in the wind.
- B. To send electric messages across long distances instantly.
- C. To help keep the train tracks from moving.
- D. To provide light for the travelers at night.

8. The 'Golden Spike' was a famous symbol used to celebrate the completion of the _____.

- A. Panama Canal
- B. White House
- C. First bridge over the Mississippi
- D. Transcontinental Railroad

9. Many African American pioneers, called 'Exodusters,' moved west to Kansas to find freedom and start their own farms.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Why did many pioneer children help their parents collect 'buffalo chips' (dried buffalo droppings) on the trail?

- A. They were used as toys for games.
- B. They were used as fuel for cooking fires when wood was scarce.
- C. They were traded for gold in California.
- D. They were used to waterproof the wagon covers.