

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

## Wrangle the Frontier: Your 5th Grade Westward Expansion Challenge

Synthesize historical perspectives and analyze the complex consequences of the Great Plains migration in this rigorous inquiry-based assessment.

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**1. The concept of 'Manifest Destiny' was a powerful ideology in the 1840s. Which statement best synthesizes how this belief influenced US government policy?**

- A. It led to a policy of isolationism to protect eastern borders.
- B. It provided a moral justification for territorial acquisition across the continent.
- C. It encouraged the government to sell all western lands back to European powers.
- D. It forced the government to ban railroads from crossing indigenous territories.

**2. The 'Exodusters' were African Americans who migrated to Kansas after the Civil War to escape the Jim Crow South and seek economic opportunity through the Homestead Act.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. In the mid-1800s, many Chinese immigrants traveled to the American West primarily to work on the \_\_\_\_\_ and in mining camps, facing significant discrimination despite their essential labor.**

- A. Textile factories
- B. Erie Canal
- C. Transcontinental Railroad
- D. Southern plantations

**4. Which of these technological innovations most directly caused the end of the 'Open Range' era for cowboys and cattle drives?**

- A. The Cotton Gin
- B. Barbed Wire
- C. The Steamboat
- D. The Telegraph

**5. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a religious movement among Native American tribes in the late 1800s that hoped to see the return of the buffalo and the disappearance of white settlers, which the US government viewed as a threat.**

- A. Great Awakening
- B. Ghost Dance
- C. Potlatch Ceremony
- D. Trail of Tears

**6. The Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which resulted in the United States acquiring a vast territory known as the Mexican Cession.**

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- A. True
- B. False

**7. How did the disappearance of the American Buffalo (Bison) affect the Plains Indians' way of life?**

- A. It forced them to move to coastal cities for fishing jobs.
- B. It had no impact as they primarily ate corn and squash.
- C. It destroyed their primary source of food, clothing, and shelter, forcing reservation dependency.
- D. It encouraged them to start raising sheep and cattle exclusively.

**8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of 1848-1855 saw over 300,000 people rush to the West Coast, sparking rapid statehood for California but also leading to the devastation of local Indigenous populations.**

- A. Dust Bowl
- B. Oregon Migration
- C. California Gold Rush
- D. Industrial Revolution

**9. The Gadsden Purchase was an agreement where the US bought a strip of land from Mexico primarily to provide a flat southern route for a transcontinental railroad.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. Analyzing the 'Frontier Thesis' by Frederick Jackson Turner, what was his main argument about the impact of the West on the American identity?**

- A. He argued that the West made Americans more like Europeans.
- B. He suggested that the frontier experience fostered democracy and individualism.
- C. He claimed that the West was too dangerous to ever be settled successfully.
- D. He believed the frontier prevented the growth of the American economy.