

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

## Answer Key: Westworld: Your 12th Grade Guide to Frontier Conflict and Law

Evaluate the legislative failures, ecological shifts, and sovereign disputes that defined 19th-century American expansionism through multifaceted historical analysis.

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**1. Which legal doctrine was utilized in the Supreme Court case *Johnson v. M'Intosh* (1823) to diminish Indigenous land sovereignty during the expansion era?**

**Answer:** A) The Doctrine of Discovery

Chief Justice John Marshall argued that European 'discovery' gave title to the government against all other European governments, which relegated Indigenous rights to mere occupancy.

**2. The Exoduster movement refers to the mass migration of African Americans from the post-Reconstruction South to Kansas in search of political and economic freedom.**

**Answer:** A) True

The Exodusters were the first general migration of Black people following the Civil War, seeking to escape the rise of Jim Crow and the collapse of Radical Reconstruction.

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of 1862 was instrumental in establishing land-grant universities, shifting the focus of Western development toward scientific agriculture and industrial education.**

**Answer:** B) Morrill Act

The Morrill Act provided states with federal land to sell or use to fund 'A&M' colleges, fundamentally linking westward expansion to higher education and modernization.

**4. How did the 'Gadsden Purchase' of 1853 differ in primary motivation from the earlier Annexation of Texas?**

**Answer:** B) It was sought to facilitate a southern transcontinental railroad route.

The \$10 million purchase of land from Mexico was specifically targeted to provide a southern route for a railroad around the Rocky Mountains.

**5. Following the Texas Revolution, \_\_\_\_\_, a Tejanos leader and politician, found himself marginalized by incoming Anglo settlers despite his instrumental role in Texas independence.**

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**Answer:** B) Juan Seguín

Juan Seguín's experience highlights the complex racial and national shifts in the West, where Mexican-descent residents who fought for independence often lost their lands and status.

**6. The 'Safety Valve Theory' suggested that the Western frontier acted as a social stabilizer by absorbing the restless and unemployed population of the urban East.**

**Answer:** A) True

Historian Frederick Jackson Turner and others argued that the West prevented domestic rebellion by providing an 'out' for the poor, though modern historians debate its actual data-driven efficacy.

**7. Which 19th-century technological advancement most directly led to the 'range wars' and the eventual end of the open-range cattle industry?**

**Answer:** C) Barbed Wire

Patented by Joseph Glidden, barbed wire allowed farmers to fence off land, preventing cattle from grazing freely and ending the era of the 'long drive'.

**8. The 1848 \_\_\_\_\_, which ended the Mexican-American War, not only ceded massive territory but also led to decades of legal battles over existing Mexican land grants in the Southwest.**

**Answer:** B) Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

While the treaty promised to respect the property rights of Mexican citizens in the newly acquired territories, the burden of proof in U.S. courts often led to the loss of their land.

**9. The Comstock Lode was a massive gold strike in Idaho that triggered the largest migration of Chinese laborers to the Pacific Northwest in the 1870s.**

**Answer:** B) False

The Comstock Lode was a massive silver strike in Nevada, not gold in Idaho, and it significantly impacted the development of Virginia City and the national economy.

**10. Which specific environmental consequence resulted from the practice of 'hydraulic mining' during the transition to corporate mining in the West?**

**Answer:** B) Massive siltation of rivers and downstream flooding.

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Hydraulic mining used high-pressure water to blast away hillsides, causing debris to clog rivers, destroy farmland downstream, and lead to some of the first environmental regulations in the U.S.