

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

## Answer Key: Pioneers, Perils, and Perseverance: 5th Grade History Quiz

Evaluate complex territorial disputes and economic motivations using a mixed-format assessment designed to challenge high-level historical reasoning skills.

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**1. The Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Based on geographical analysis, how did this treaty fundamentally alter the economic future of the United States?**

**Answer:** B) It provided deep-water ports on the Pacific Coast, opening trade with Asia.

The acquisition of California provided vital ports like San Francisco, which allowed the United States to become a major commercial power in the Pacific Ocean.

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a diplomatic agreement with Great Britain in 1846 that averted war by establishing the 49th parallel as the boundary between U.S. and British North America.**

**Answer:** B) Oregon Treaty

The Oregon Treaty settled the competing claims of the U.S. and Britain in the Pacific Northwest without resorting to armed conflict.

**3. True or False: The 'Exodusters' were African Americans who migrated to Kansas after the Civil War to escape the Jim Crow South and claim land under the Homestead Act.**

**Answer:** A) True

The Exoduster movement was a significant migration of Black Southerners seeking freedom and land ownership in the West during the late 1870s.

**4. Beyond the search for gold, why did many Chinese immigrants face unique 'scaffolding' of discrimination, such as the Foreign Miners' Tax of 1852?**

**Answer:** B) They were seen as economic competitors by white miners and local governments.

Nativism and economic fear led to discriminatory laws designed to push Chinese immigrants out of the profitable mining industry.

**5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of 1853 was a small but critical land purchase from Mexico intended to provide a flat southern route for a transcontinental railroad.**

**Answer:** C) Gadsden Purchase

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The Gadsden Purchase added land in present-day Arizona and New Mexico specifically to facilitate railway expansion below the Rocky Mountains.

**6. True or False: The introduction of the horse by Europeans had little impact on the hunting methods or territorial power of Great Plains tribes like the Comanche.**

**Answer:** B) False

The horse revolutionized Plains Indian culture, allowing groups like the Comanche and Sioux to hunt buffalo more effectively and dominate larger territories.

**7. Examine the environmental impact of the expansion. What was the primary consequence of the 'Great Plow-Up' on the American Great Plains?**

**Answer:** B) It removed prairie grasses, eventually contributing to massive soil erosion.

Removing deep-rooted native grasses for farming left the topsoil vulnerable, a factor that led to the Dust Bowl in later decades.

**8. Chief Joseph of the \_\_\_\_ tribe famously stated, 'I will fight no more forever,' after a grueling 1,170-mile retreat toward Canada to avoid reservation life.**

**Answer:** B) Nez Perce

Chief Joseph led the Nez Perce in a brilliant but tragic military retreat, showcasing the resistance of indigenous peoples to forced relocation.

**9. How did the invention of 'Barbed Wire' by Joseph Glidden in 1874 represent a turning point for the West?**

**Answer:** B) It ended the 'Open Range' era, leading to the decline of long-distance cattle drives.

Barbed wire allowed farmers to fence off their land, which blocked the paths used by cowboys for cattle drives and effectively ended the open-range system.

**10. True or False: The Mormon Migration to the Salt Lake Valley was primarily motivated by the desire to find gold and silver in the Utah mountains.**

**Answer:** B) False

The Mormons moved west primarily to escape religious persecution in the East and Midwest and to establish a community where they could practice their faith freely.