

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

## Seward's Folly or Fortune? A 10th Grade Westward Expansion Quiz

Territorial acquisition, resource extraction, and infrastructure development—uncover the economic motivations that transformed the American map during the late 19th century.

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**1. Which 1867 land acquisition was mockingly referred to by contemporary critics as 'Seward's Icebox' before valuable resources were discovered there?**

- A. The Gadsden Purchase
- B. The Alaska Purchase
- C. The Annexation of Hawaii
- D. The Oregon Territory

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of 1862 was instrumental in the 'Closing of the Frontier' by providing legal land titles to settlers, provided they improved the land.**

- A. Dawes Act
- B. Morrill Act
- C. Homestead Act
- D. Pacific Railway Act

**3. The 'Exodusters' were African Americans who migrated from the post-Reconstruction South to Kansas in search of economic opportunity and political freedom.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. Which technological innovation was most responsible for ending the era of the 'Open Range' in the American West?**

- A. The Steel Plow
- B. Barbed Wire
- C. The Telegraph
- D. Dry Farming

**5. The \_\_\_\_\_, completed in 1853, was a strip of land in present-day Arizona and New Mexico purchased to facilitate a southern transcontinental railroad route.**

- A. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- B. Gadsden Purchase
- C. Comstock Lode
- D. Santa Fe Trail

**6. The discovery of the Comstock Lode in Nevada primarily produced massive amounts of gold, sparking the initial 1849 migration.**

- A. True

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B. False

**7. Which conflict in 1864 involved a massacre of Cheyenne and Arapaho people by U.S. volunteer militia, signaling an escalation in the Indian Wars?**

- A. Sand Creek Massacre
- B. Battle of Fallen Timbers
- C. Red River War
- D. Black Hawk War

**8. The 1862 \_\_\_\_\_ established 'land-grant' colleges to provide instruction in agriculture and the 'mechanic arts' to support western development.**

- A. Hatch Act
- B. Smith-Lever Act
- C. Morrill Act
- D. Chisholm Trail

**9. The 'Frontier Thesis,' proposed by Frederick Jackson Turner, argued that the American identity was forged by the experience of westward expansion.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. Which immigrant group provided the bulk of the labor for the Central Pacific Railroad as it built eastward from California?**

- A. Irish immigrants
- B. German immigrants
- C. Chinese immigrants
- D. Mexican immigrants