

Name: _____ Date: _____

Wrangle the Iron Horse: An Advanced 1800s Transit Quiz for College

Students analyze the geopolitical shifts of 19th-century expansion through the lens of legislative precedent and frontier demographic transitions.

1. Which piece of legislation, influenced by the 'Free Soil' ideology, allowed settlers to claim 160 acres of public land in the West during the Civil War era?

- A. The Morrill Land-Grant Act
- B. The Homestead Act of 1862
- C. The Northwest Ordinance
- D. The Gadsden Purchase Act

2. True or False: The 'Safety Valve Theory' suggested that the Western frontier acted as a release for social and economic tensions in overcrowded Eastern cities.

- A. True
- B. False

3. The ____ of 1848, which ended the Mexican-American War, granted the United States territories that would become California, Nevada, and Utah.

- A. Treaty of Ghent
- B. Treaty of Paris
- C. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- D. Adams-Onís Treaty

4. Which technological innovation was most responsible for the transition from the iconic 'Open Range' cattle drives to enclosed commercial ranching?

- A. The Steel Plow
- B. The Chisholm Trail
- C. Barbed Wire
- D. The Mechanical Reaper
- E.

5. True or False: The Exodusters were African Americans who migrated from the South to Kansas in the late 1870s to escape post-Reconstruction oppression.

- A. True
- B. False

6. The concept of ____, coined by John O'Sullivan, claimed that it was the divinely ordained mission of the U.S. to expand across the continent.

- A. Imperial Overstretch
- B. Social Darwinism

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- C. Manifest Destiny
- D. Continentalism

7. What was the primary goal of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, founded by Richard Henry Pratt in 1879?

- A. Negotiating land treaties
- B. Preserving tribal languages
- C. Cultural assimilation
- D. Granting tribal citizenship

8. True or False: The Transcontinental Railroad was built without any federal subsidies or land grants, relying entirely on private investment.

- A. True
- B. False

9. The California Gold Rush of 1849 led to the swift application for statehood, which sparked a national crisis over the balance of power between ____.

- A. Democrats and Whigs
- B. Free and slave states
- C. Miners and farmers
- D. Immigrants and locals

10. In his 'Frontier Thesis,' Frederick Jackson Turner argued that the American character was uniquely shaped by:

- A. Traditional European values
- B. The existence of open land
- C. Maritime exploration
- D. High-density urbanization