

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Sovereignty and Soil: A High School Inquiry into Shifting Borders

Analyze the legal doctrines and cultural frictions that reshaped North American identity while navigating the complexities of 19-century land-use policy.

1. Which legal doctrine, utilized during the 1823 Supreme Court case *Johnson v. M'Intosh*, established that Native Americans had a right of 'occupancy' but lacked full title to their lands?

Answer: B) The Doctrine of Discovery

The Doctrine of Discovery was used by the Marshall Court to argue that European 'discovery' gave sovereign power to the US government over indigenous land titles.

2. The ____ War (1832) remains a significant example of resistance in the Old Northwest, as a leader of the Sauk and Fox tribes attempted to reclaim ancestral lands in Illinois.

Answer: C) Black Hawk

The Black Hawk War was a brief conflict that highlighted the resistance of indigenous leaders to the policy of removal in the Mississippi Valley.

3. The concept of 'Manifest Destiny' was a formal government policy explicitly outlined in the U.S. Constitution to mandate westward expansion.

Answer: B) False

Manifest Destiny was a cultural and ideological belief popularized by journalist John O'Sullivan, not a formal constitutional mandate.

4. How did the introduction of 'dry farming' techniques and the 'steel plow' specifically impact the ecological landscape of the Great Plains during late-19th-century expansion?

Answer: C) They disrupted the topsoil, setting the stage for future dust bowl conditions.

Technological advancements like the steel plow allowed settlers to break the thick prairie sod, which destroyed native ecosystems and eventually led to severe soil erosion.

5. The ____ of 1848 not only ended the Mexican-American War but also forced the U.S. to address the citizenship status of thousands of Mexicans living in the newly acquired territories.

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Answer: D) Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceded 55% of Mexico's territory to the US and promised protection of property rights for residents, a promise often unfulfilled.

6. The 'Exodusters' were African Americans who migrated to Kansas in the late 1870s to escape the oppressive conditions of the post-Reconstruction South.

Answer: A) True

The Exoduster movement was a significant internal migration where Black families sought economic autonomy and safety by settling in the Midwest.

7. What was the significance of the 'Comstock Lode' (1859) in the context of Western development and federal policy?

Answer: A) It was the first major discovery of silver in the US, accelerating Nevada's statehood.

The Comstock Lode was a massive silver strike that drew industrial investment and thousands of people to the Virginia City area, forcing rapid political organization.

8. The _____ was a syncretic religious movement in the late 1880s that prophesied an end to white expansion and a return of the buffalo, causing alarm among U.S. officials.

Answer: B) Ghost Dance

The Ghost Dance movement, spread by the prophet Wovoka, was a peaceful spiritual practice that was tragically misinterpreted by the military as a call to war.

9. The 'Frontier Thesis,' presented by Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893, argued that the American identity was forged not by European heritage, but by the struggle of settling the frontier.

Answer: A) True

Turner's thesis significantly influenced American historiography by suggesting that the rugged frontier environment promoted democracy and individualism.

10. Which 19th-century group often found themselves in 'range wars' against cattle barons due to the use of barbed wire and competing claims for grazing land?

Answer: C) Sheep ranchers and homesteaders

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As open-range cattle ranching declined, homesteaders using barbed wire and sheep ranchers clashed with traditional cattlemen over land access and water.