Test Bank for Our History A Survey of United States History Volume Two From 1865 1st Gillon

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Chapter 2: The Western Frontier, 1862-1900

Multiple Choice

1. Why did Wovoka of the Paiute Indian tribe in western Nevada call on Indians to dance late in 1888?
A) He believed it was a good preparation for life with your Americans.
B) He thought it was an effective way of counteracting the cold.
C) He wanted his tribe to find ways to comfort themselves.
D) He was convinced that it would hasten the day of salvation.

Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

2. By the end of the 19th century, the American West had taken on some of the characteristics of
A) Western Europe.
B) the industrial East.
C) the American South.
D) European colonies.

Ans: B
Difficulty: Easy

3. New migrants in search of new farmland in 1872 would have most likely established a homestead in which of the following states?
A) Indiana
B) Oregon
C) Nebraska
D) Missouri

Ans: C
Difficulty: Difficult

4. Beyond the American West, European migrants settled all of the following frontiers in the 1880s, EXCEPT:
A) the Canadian Great Plains.
B) New Zealand.
C) Argentina.
D) Mexico.

Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

5. An American farmer from the state of Michigan would have most likely westward to the state of
A) North Dakota.

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B) Kansas.
C) Oklahoma.
D) Texas.

Ans: A
Difficulty: Difficult

6. Why did railroad companies encourage migration in the American West in the late nineteenth century?
A) They needed the workers living close by.
B) It drove up land prices for real estate speculation.
C) They sought protection from native tribes.
D) They wanted state governments to establish quickly.

Ans: B
Difficulty: Medium

7. Which of the following states was established last?
A) Kansas
B) New Mexico
C) Nebraska
D) Colorado

Ans: B
Difficulty: Easy

8. Why did the Central Pacific Railroad hire a predominantly Chinese labor force for the construction of the transpacific railroad?
A) Chinese workers were familiar with railroad construction.
B) Chinese workers served as strikebreakers in California.
C) Company officials thought them cheap and docile.
D) At the time, most of California's workers were Chinese.

Ans: C
Difficulty: Medium

9. Which of the following Plains Indian tribes could be described as "sophisticated farmers"?
A) Cherokee
B) Creek
C) Nez Percé
D) Pueblo

Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

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10. Why did the Department of Indian Affairs decide to divide Indian lands into small tribal territories, or reservations, in 1851?
A) They did so at the request of the tribes.
B) They feared open warfare between tribes and settlers.
C) They followed the model the English it practiced in Canada.
D) They did so in order to deliver social services more effectively.

Ans: B
Difficulty: Medium

11. The war against Indians west of the Mississippi in the latter nineteenth century included all of the following, EXCEPT:
A) slaying warriors.
B) destroying villages.
C) issuing poisoned buffalo.
D) burning food supplies.

Ans: C
Difficulty: Difficult

12. Why did Indian resistance in the American West beyond the Mississippi fail in the latter nineteenth century?
A) They had poor fighting skills.
B) They lacked a sense of mission.
C) The U.S. army destroyed their resources.
D) The majority of Indian warriors were poor and ignorant.

Ans: C
Difficulty: Medium

13. What was the Comstock Lode?
A) a particularly fertile stretch in California's Central Valley
B) a new logging technique in the Pacific Northwest
C) a route for cattle herding from Texas to Kansas
D) a seam of gold and silver on in the Nevada mountains

Ans: D
Difficulty: Easy

14. What was the significance of the refrigerated train car?
A) It made passenger travel a whole lot more comfortable in the South.
B) It reduced the loss of cattle from disease and heat exhaustion.
C) It allowed cattle ranchers to ship beef to eastern cities.
D) It allowed Americans to consume beef slaughtered in Europe.

Ans: C

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Difficulty: Medium

15. What caused a drop in crop prices in the 1880s?
A) worldwide overproduction
B) declining demand in the United States
C) alternative food sources
D) industrial growth in the Northeast

Ans: A
Difficulty: Medium

16. In what industry did Frederick Weyerhaeuser make his fortune at the turn of the century?
A) ranching
B) wheat
C) lumber
D) gold

Ans: C
Difficulty: Difficult

17. What was a principal job of a local newspaper editor in a small town in the American West in the late nineteenth century?
A) promote education in the citizenry
B) offer a balanced view of political conflicts
C) promote the communities to future settlers
D) connect local farmers with the global marketplace

Ans: C
Difficulty: Difficult

18. Why was the life of married women in the Plains in the late nineteenth century especially difficult?
A) Their work revolved around the family, which isolated them at home.
B) They had to work the fields under the command of their husbands.
C) They had to balance childcare at home with employment outside the home.
D) They had to organize and manage the busy social lives of Plains families.

Ans: A
Difficulty: Medium

19. In Los Angeles in the latter nineteenth century, 30% of Anglos were employed in unskilled and low-paying jobs. What percentage of Mexicans worked in those jobs?
A) ten percent
B) thirty percent
C) fifty percent
D) seventy-five percent

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Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

20. The first "Westerns" appeared in the form of
A) stage shows.
B) radio plays.
C) dime novels.
D) sitcoms.

Ans: C
Difficulty: Medium

21. Choose the correct chronological line-up in the following list of events in the middle to late nineteenth century West.
A) Treaty of Fort Laramie – Sand Creek Massacre – Wounded Knee Massacre – Battle of Little Bighorn
B) Treaty of Fort Laramie – Sand Creek Massacre – Battle of Little Bighorn – Wounded Knee Massacre
C) Battle of Little Bighorn – Wounded Knee Massacre – Treaty of Fort Laramie – Sand Creek Massacre
D) Wounded Knee Massacre – Treaty of Fort Laramie – Battle of Little Bighorn – Sand Creek Massacre

Ans: B
Difficulty: Difficult

22. How did late nineteenth century writers depict Hispanics in western novels?
A) as docile peasants
B) as intelligent supervillains
C) as asexual Eunuchs
D) as spoiled immature elites

Ans: B
Difficulty: Medium

23. How did *californio* ranchers lose their land in the 1850s?
A) as a result of government corruption
B) in wildfires
C) through litigation
D) because of theft

Ans: C
Difficulty: Medium

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24. How did late nineteenth century western towns curb the violence that came with large numbers of young single men in the western industries?
A) They made sure everyone had a gun for protection.
B) They armed local businesses heavily to secure their property.
C) They called in the Union army to establish order.
D) They barred the carrying of hand guns within city limits.

Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

25. Which of the following best characterizes the book "The School Days of an Indian Girl" from 1900?
A) a principal's guidebook for pupils
B) a white woman's romantic Indian novel
C) an investigatory report of the Bureau of Indian Affairs
D) a memoir of a former Indian boarding school student

Ans: D
Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the Blank

26. In 1879, following brutal murders and repression in the South, African Americans known as the _____ left their homes in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas to establish freer lives in Kansas.

Ans: Exodusters; Easy

27. To promote western development, Congress passed the _____ in 1873 which allowed a homesteader, rancher or speculator to claim an additional 160 acres if they planted trees on forty of the acres.

Ans: Timber Culture Act; Difficult

28. In 1862, Congress passed the _____, which pledged the nation to build a train link between East and West.

Ans: Pacific Railroad Act; Medium

29. "The White man knows how to make everything," said Sioux _____ leader, "but he does not know how to distribute it."

Ans: Sitting Bull; Easy

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30. If the Battle at _____ in June 1876 was a disaster for the U.S. army, it also sealed the fate of the Indians.

Ans: Little Bighorn; Medium

31. The government advocated Native American assimilation by allowing reformers to take Indian children as young as five from their families and put them in _____.

Ans: boarding schools; Easy

32. Depending on large reservoirs and elaborate flumes delivering massive volumes of water at high pressure, _____ devastated streambeds and created the mountains of rubble.

Ans: hydraulic mining; Easy

33. In 1872, Congress set aside the first major reservation of federal land when it created _____ to be a "pleasuring ground for the people" in perpetuity.

Ans: Yellowstone National Park; Medium

34. Western towns offered an impressive slate of entertainment. _____ were usually held in saloons and very popular, such as the one between John Hardy and John Shannessy in 1867.

Ans: Boxing matches; Difficult

35. Buffalo Bill Cody brought Americans the perfect frontierswoman in the person of _____. Her remarkable marksmanship set her apart from effete eastern ladies.

Ans: Annie Oakley; Difficult

Short Answer

36. What made the story of Simms Bill, migrant to Kansas, historically significant?

Ans: Responses may vary but should mention the fact that Simms Bill was a former slave born in Missouri who hoped to escape the violence and oppression of his birthplace. By moving to Kansas, changing his name to Bill Simms, enrolling in night classes and raising a family with a former slave from Georgia, he fulfilled his dream of providing a better life for his children. Two off his daughters later attended Ottawa University.

37. How did the federal government promote settlement in the West, and what benefits and disadvantages were associated with this approach?

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Ans: Responses may vary but should mention the Homestead Act of 1862, the Timber Culture Act of 1873 and the Desert Land Act of 1877. All of these laws promised landownership in the West for a minimal fee provided that settlers a.) cultivated the land, b.) planted trees or c.) began irrigation. However, nearly ninety-five percent of claims were estimated to be fraudulent and manipulated by Railroad Corporation to secure access to lands through front men.

38. What were the consequences of the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864?

Ans: Responses may vary but should mention that Colonel John Chivington's unprovoked slaughter of Black Kettle's people steered a wave of counterattacks on ranchers, stagecoaches and telegraph wires, as well as an ambush on Captain William Fetterman and his seventy-nine soldiers in Wyoming in 1865. In response, the Interior Department formed a peace delegation that negotiated the Treaty of Medicine Lodge Creek in 1867.

39. What concept of freedom did the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887 promote?

Ans: Responses may vary but should discuss the original motivation of Massachusetts and Henry Dawes to promote individual landownership and pulverize collectively owned and governed tribal lands. Anglo-Americans imagined this individual landownership to form the foundation of individual freedom and citizenship.

40. Contrast the experience of western miners in the 1880s with that of placer mining pioneers of the early 1850s.

Ans: Responses may vary but should point out that placers and early prospectors used simple processes to wash dirt in streams to pan out grains of gold from silt and pebbles. By contrast, miners by the 1880s worked for large corporations that invested heavily in machinery and extracted metals and ores systematically in open hydraulic minds and in underground mines where working conditions were abysmal and dangerous.

41. What role did boosters play in the shaping of the West, and what contradiction did their messages contain?

Ans: Responses may vary but should point out that boosters sought to attract migrants by promoting the unique environments and virtues of life in the West. At the same time, planners and developers did the best to re-create the style and architecture of existing cities in the East.

42. How did Anglos erode the political influence of Hispanics in the American West?

Ans: Responses may vary but should talk about the ways in which Anglo settlers created new majorities, challenged traditional Mexican land titles and forced native Hispanic and new Hispanic populations to the margins. As an example, responses may discuss the case of Santa Barbara which saw residents with Spanish last names become a minority in less than a generation.

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Essay

43. How did the federal government shape the formation of the American West in the wake of the Civil War?

Ans: Responses will vary but should include:
Native Americans

- Military intervention
  - battles against Plains Indians
- Diplomatic intervention
  - peace and land treaties
- Reform measures
  - promotion of boarding schools
  - Dawes General Allotment Act

Economic Development

- Subsidies for railroad corporations
- Infrastructure: railroads and the Army Corps of Engineers
- Homestead, Desert Land and Timber Culture Acts

Racial and Imperial politics

- Chinese exclusion act and anti-Chinese discriminatory policies
- Marginalization of Hispanics in the American West

44. Discuss the ways in which the geographic, political and economic realities of the American West stood in contrast to the mythology of rugged individualism.

Ans: Responses will vary but should include:

- Geographic:
  - the large proportion of urban populations in the West
  - the reliance on others in capricious and harsh western climates
- Economic:
  - the centrality of wage labor and big corporations
  - the importance of families in farming regions
- Political:
  - the dependence on federal troops in the conquest of land

45. What price did Native American populations pay for Anglo-American expansion in the West between 1862 and 1900?

Ans: Responses will vary but should include:

- Loss of lands
- Loss of tribal governance
- Loss of nomadic hunting economies
- Loss of the diverse and ancient cultures and traditions
- Destruction of Indian identity
- Loss of life through military campaigns and disease

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