

Foundations/West Test Review

1. Explain the significance of the phrase “E Pluribus Unum”?
 - Meaning out of many one. It was to signify that although America is comprised of many states, we are one nation.
2. Why did “In God we Trust” become the national motto in 1956?
 - To show other nations that we were a nation that accepted free exercise of religion.
3. What ways did America attempt to assimilate Native Americans?
 - Dawes Act – Breaking up reservations and turning Natives into Homesteaders
 - Boarding Schools – Teaching them English, cutting their hair, and making them dress in modern clothes, teaching them American cultures.
4. What impact did the Railroad have during westward expansion?
 - Faster transportation out west
 - Cheaper transportation out west
 - Safer transportation out west
 - Connected markets which lead to expansion of economy (It connected the farms and cattle ranches out west with the markets (people buying things) in the east. It made living out west profitable.)
 - Creation of Time Zones.
5. What was the goal of the Dawes Act and how did it hope to accomplish this?
 - To attempt to assimilate Native Americans into American culture.
 - It unsuccessfully tried to break up reservations and turn Native Americans regular Homesteaders
6. How did the Homestead Act encourage Westward Expansion?
 - It gave 160 acres of free land to settlers willing to move out west on three conditions.
 - Live on it for five years
 - Build a house on it
 - And make improvements (farm it)
7. How did the United States benefit from Westward Expansion?

- The middle of the country gained in population and towns
- American influence was extended into the interior of the country
- Access to raw materials to be transported back east to big cities.

8. What is Alexis de Tocqueville's 5 qualities that he noticed about America?

- Liberty – believed in the rule of law and individual Freedom
- Populism – The people participate in Government
- Laissez-Faire – Government stays out of the economy
- Egalitarianism – Equality (by being able to own land, everyone considered themselves equals)
- Individualism – Believed individuals can rise or fall based on their level of effort

9. What impact did barbed wire have on westward expansion?

- As cattle ranchers encroached on farmers land through free-grazing, farmers began to fence on their farms. As more farmers fenced in their land it pushed free-grazing cattle ranchers further west. It is also credited with taming the west, because we tend to fence in areas that we “control”.

10. Explain people's motivations for moving westward?

- Gold rushes
- Free land (Homestead Act)
- Transcontinental Railroad (making it faster, safer, cheaper than ever before)
- Job Opportunities (farming, ranching, buffalo hunting, Mining towns)
- Freedom/Fresh start

11. What are four principles in the Constitution?

1. Popular Sovereignty – people have the power
2. Limited Government – they wanted as small a government as possible
3. Separation of powers – Three branches of govt. (Exe., Leg., Jud.)
4. Checks and Balances – Each branch has the power to check the others

12. Explain the significance of the Declaration of Independence.

- It was a break-up letter between us and Great Britain
- It told the rest of the world that America was in independent country.

13. What are major characteristics of the Great Plains and how did people adapt?

- Flat, open, few trees, little water
- Farmers had to build houses out of sod, they used the steel plow for farming, and had to use dry farming to plant crops.

14. What is the significance of the Constitution?

- It is the cornerstone of our country's government. Without it America would not exist.

15. What is the Bill of Rights?

- It is 1st ten amendments to the constitution and emblazoned individual rights as fundamental rights in the country.

Define:

Unalienable Rights – Rights that cannot be taken away

Assimilation – attempting to conform Native Americans into American culture.

Agriculture – Farming

Popular sovereignty – government based on the consent of the governed (people have the power)

Market – Place to buy and sell goods/products

Frontier – edge of civilization just before wilderness

Demographics – study of human populations (size, ethnicity, location, religion, job, etc.)

Dry Farming – Farming method of planting deep in the soil where the moisture is.

Steel Plow – New plow that allowed the farmers on the great plains to break through the tough soil.

Central Government = Federal Government = National Government