

The American Yawp

Chapter 17 – Conquering the West

Quiz

1. The Homestead Act granted official title to 160 acre plots of land after how many years of settlement?
 - a. One year
 - b. Two years
 - c. Five years
 - d. Seven years
2. What economic opportunity drew the most migrants to the West?
 - a. Railroad work
 - b. Gold mining
 - c. Military work as Indian fighters
 - d. Access to land for agriculture
3. The Dakota Uprising of 1862 began with what event?
 - a. Civil War Era reforms to western Indian policy
 - b. The death of five white settlers at the hands of four young Santee men
 - c. A Sioux ambush at Redwood Ferry
 - d. Governor Alexander Ramsay's new use of the militia to disarm Sioux hunters
4. How did President Lincoln respond to the Sioux Uprising?
 - a. Attempted to commute the sentences of captured Indians in order to maintain peace
 - b. Ordered the execution of 303 by hanging
 - c. Demanded the surrender of Sioux territory in Minnesota
 - d. Create a new alliance with Taoyateduta (known to Americans as Little Crow) in order to eliminate future conflicts
5. What did the United States demand from the Comanche leading to the Red River War?
 - a. They had no demands. The official policy of the U.S. government was to call for the extinction of the Comanche
 - b. The Comanche were instructed to worship the Christian God and renounce their traditional spiritual practices
 - c. The United States demanded that the Comanche settle on government reservations
 - d. The Red River War did not involve the Comanche
6. How was the transcontinental railroad funded?
 - a. Wealthy private business owners
 - b. Public stock offerings
 - c. Grants and loans from the federal government
 - d. Bonds soiled to foreign investors
7. What was the purpose of Western cattle drives?

- a. To avoid the cold of winter on the Great Plains and the heat of summer in Texas
 - b. To bring cattle to eastern markets, mostly through railroad hubs
 - c. To minimize the destruction of fields that resulted from over-grazing
 - d. To avoid hostile Indian bands
8. Most practices and objects associated with American cowboys were modified from _____ ranchers.
- a. Mexican
 - b. Native American
 - c. African
 - d. British-Canadian
9. Which city served as the most important railroad hub, connecting the East and the West?
- a. St. Louis
 - b. Chicago
 - c. Cincinnati
 - d. Memphis
10. Which group received more land from the government?
- a. Homesteading families
 - b. Railroad companies
 - c. Both received nearly equal an equal amount
 - d. Neither group received land from the government
11. What was the purpose of the Dawes General Allotment Act?
- a. Splintered vast Native American reservations into individual family homesteads
 - b. Determined the amount of land that would be given to each major railroad company
 - c. Modified the original Homestead Act to increase land available to private settlers
 - d. All of the above
12. The Paiute prophet Wovoka promised that which of the following would occur if Indians obeyed his instructions and participated in the ceremony that came to be called the Ghost Dance
- a. Dead relatives would return to Earth
 - b. Drought would end and the buffalo would return
 - c. Anglo settlers would disappear in an apocalyptic disaster
 - d. All of the above
13. Approximately what percent of early rodeo contestants were women?
- a. There are no indications of women participating in rodeos prior to 1928
 - b. 1%
 - c. 5%
 - d. 10%
14. What explains the popularity of Wild West shows?
- a. Tapped into anxieties about men losing their masculinity in the “softer” world of factory and office work

- b. Most Americans believed that Native cultures were disappearing, if not already gone, and felt a sense of urgency to see their dances and hear their songs
 - c. The Old West seemed an uncomplicated place where the struggle between right and wrong was clear, unlike modern America which seemed increasingly morally complicated.
 - d. All of the above
15. What was Frederick Jackson Turner's "Frontier Thesis?"
- a. An argument that European socialism had created an opportunity for the United States to create an international empire
 - b. American culture was forged by the struggle between civilized settlers and savage frontier life, giving it a democratic and hardworking spirit
 - c. The belief that Manifest Destiny was an immoral reading of scripture
 - d. All of the above