

Name:

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Class:

## Westward Expansion Document-Based Question (DBQ)

**Directions:** Complete the documents 1-8. Use the documents and your responses to each document to write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from at least *three* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details.

Include additional outside information when you can.

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### Historical Context:

During the 1800s, the federal government promoted westward expansion in a variety of ways. This expansion changed the shape and character of the country.

**Task:** Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you:

- Identify and explain reasons settlers moved west after the Civil War
- Describe in detail the impact westward expansion had on the United States

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## PART I: CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

**Directions:** Analyze and read each document to complete the questions below. Use complete sentences. If the question asks, “according to the document,” your answer should come directly from the document. Be careful not to add other information that you may know about that question if it isn’t given in the document.

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### Document 1

#### Santana, Chief of the Kiowas

“A long time ago this land belonged to our fathers; but when I go up to the river I see camps of soldiers here on its bank. These soldiers cut down my timber; they kill my buffalo; and when I see that, my heart feels like bursting; I feel sorry.”

Source: Santana, Chief of the Kiowas, 1867. *U.S. Bureau of Ethnography Annual Report*, 17th, 1895-96.

1. According to the document, what is being done that is damaging to the Native Americans?

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## Document 2

### **S.G. Colley, U.S. Indian Agent, Report, Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War**

**Source:** S.G. Colley, U.S. Indian Agent, *Report, Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War*, 38<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2nd Session, 1865.

“[F]rom the time that Major Wynkoop left this post to go out to rescue white prisoners, until the arrival of Colonel Chivington here, which took place on the 28th of November last, no depredations (attacks) of any kind had been committed by the Indians within two hundred miles of this post; that upon Colonel Chivington’s arrival herewith (with this) a large body of troops he was informed where these Indians were encamped (had set up their camp, settled). . . . [T]hat notwithstanding his knowledge of the facts as above set forth, he is informed that Colonel Chivington did, on the morning of the 29th of November last, surprise and attack said camp of friendly Indians and massacre a large number of them, (mostly women and children,) and did allow the troops of his command to mangle and mutilate them in the most horrible manner.

**2. According to this report, what types of atrocities (crimes) are being committed by the U.S. military?**

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### Document 3

#### **Chief Luther Standing Bear, *My People, the Sioux***

Source: Chief Luther Standing Bear, *My People, the Sioux* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1929).

“It did not occur to me at the time that I was going away to learn the ways of the white man. My idea was that I was leaving the reservation and going to stay away long enough to do some brave deed, and then come home again alive. If I could just do that, then I knew my father would be so proud of me.”

**3. According to the document, what did the Native Americans feel was occurring?**

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## Document 4

On arriving at Rich Bar... many went a few miles farther down the river. The next morning, two men turned over a large stone, beneath which they found quite a sizable piece of gold. They washed a small panfull of the dirt, and obtained from it [gold worth] two hundred and fifty-six dollars. Encouraged by this success, they commenced staking off the legal amount of ground allowed to each person for mining... before the night the entire bar was "claimed... The largest amount [of gold] ever taken from one panfull of dirt was fifteen hundred dollars. In a little more than a week after its discovery, five hundred men had settled upon the Bar for the summer.

- Mrs. Louise Amelia Knapp Smith Clappe  
from a letter, September 20, 1851

4a. How long did it take for 500 men to settle at Rich Bar?

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4b. Why were people drawn to settle in Rich Bar?

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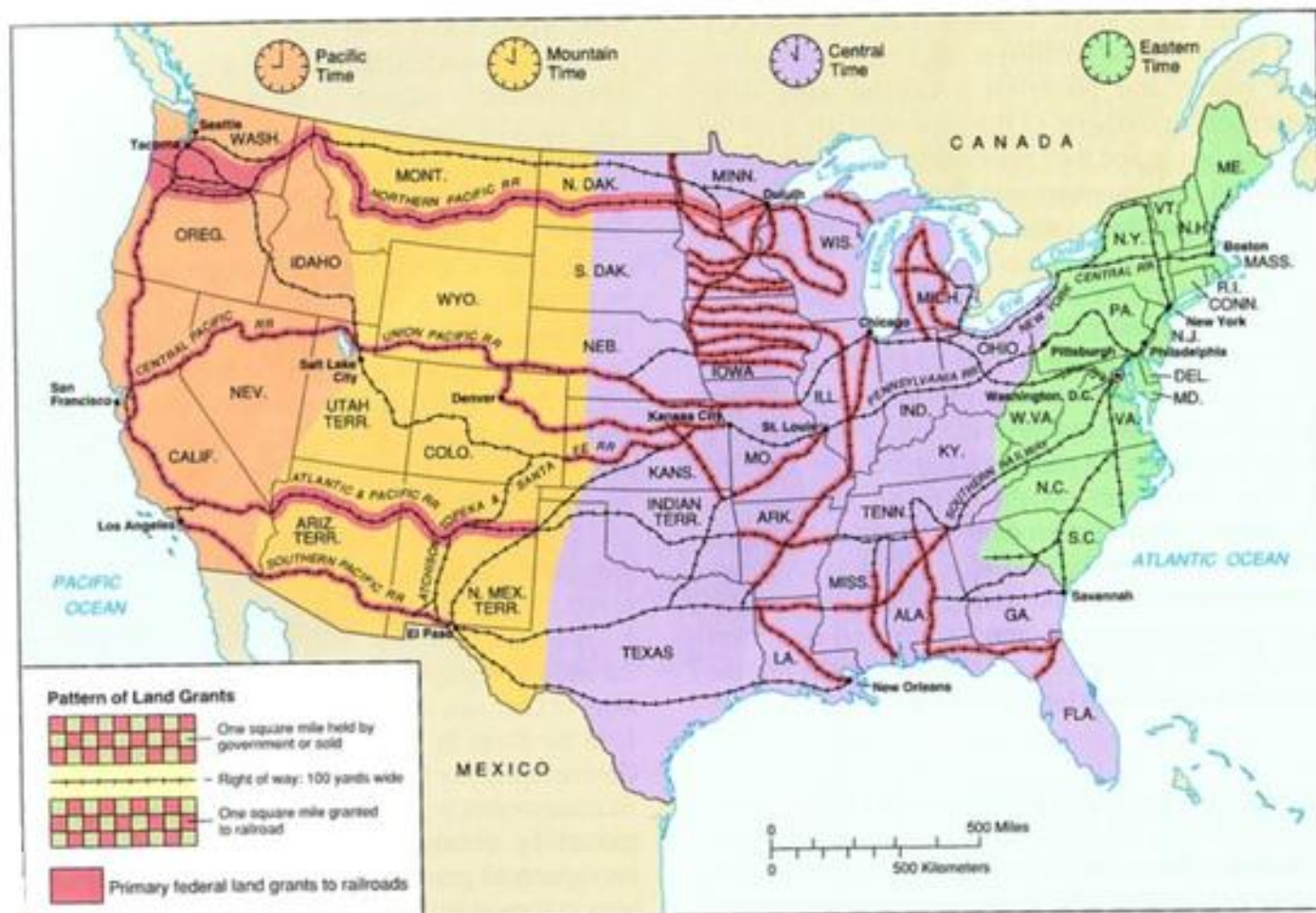
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## Document 5



5. According to the document, describe one impact of the Transcontinental Railroad.

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## Document 6A

### The Homestead Act

Source: United States. *Statutes at Large*, Vol. XII, 1862, pp.392-394 (12 Stat. 392)  
May 20, 1862

AN ACT to secure homesteads (farms) to actual settlers on the public domain (available to the public). Be it enacted (law), That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention (purpose) to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled to enter one quarter-section or a less quantity of unappropriated (available) public lands, upon which said person may have filed a pre-emption claim. . . . Provided, that any person owning or residing on land may, under the provision of the act, enter other land lying contiguous to (neighboring) his or her said land, which shall not, with the land already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate (total) one hundred and sixty acres.

naturalization - the process by which a foreign citizen becomes a citizen of a new country.
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6a. What was the purpose of the Homestead Act?

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## Document 6B

For half a century after Lewis and Clark's expedition, the Great Plains aroused little interest in the young nation. The plains were too dry for agriculture, people said. They were barren, forever a wasteland at the center of the continent.

These ideas began to change in the years leading up to the Civil War. As the railroads were built westward, Americans realized how wrong they had been about the plains. Settlers in Kansas found no desert, but millions of acres of fertile soil. Cattlemen saw an open range for millions of cattle, a land of opportunity larger than even the Lone Star State. Of course, the plains were already inhabited by buffalo and Indians. But these meant little to the newcomers. Civilization, they believed, demanded that both be swept away and the land turned to "useful" purposes. How this came about is one of the saddest chapters in our history. . . .

Source: Albert Marrin, *Cowboys, Indians, and Gunfighters*,  
Atheneum

**6b. According to Document 6B, how did the use of railroads change people's opinions about the Great Plains?**

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## Document 7

### **Indian Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, upon his surrender to the U.S. government troops, September 1877**

"I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed... He who led the young men is dead. It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food; no one knows where they are-perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me my chiefs. I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

**7. Based on this statement, state two reasons Chief Joseph finally decided to surrender to the United States government troops.**

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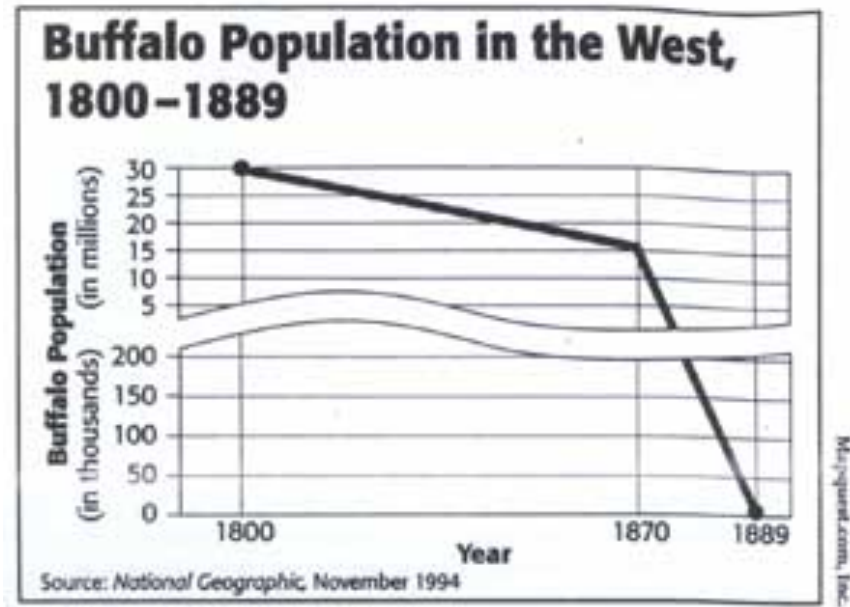
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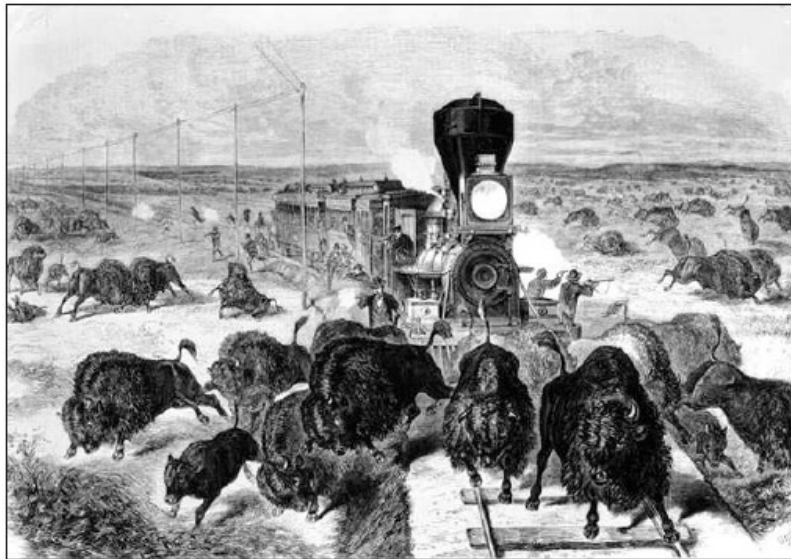
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### Document 8A

This is a graph taken from *National Geographic*, November 1994.



### Document 8B



8. According to the above documents, what effect did the railroads have on the buffalo herd?

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## Westward Expansion DBQ - PART II

### ESSAY

#### Directions:

- ☐ Use the documents and your responses to each document to write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, at least 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
  - ☐ Use evidence from at least **three** documents in your essay.
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  - ☐ Include additional outside information.
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