Westward Expansion Primary Source Documents

Document 1

Excerpts from the Pacific Railway Act (1862)

Section 1 ...the said corporation [Union Pacific Railroad Company] is hereby authorized and empowered to layout, locate, construct, furnish, maintain, and enjoy a continuous railroad and telegraph ... 

Section 5 ...in accordance with the provisions of this act, issue to [Union Pacific Railroad Company] bonds of the United States of one thousand dollars each, to the amount of sixteen...bonds per mile.


Document 2

The homestead policy was established only after long and earnest resistance; experience proves its wisdom. The lands in the hands of industrious settlers, whose labor creates wealth and contributes to the public resources, are worth more to the United States than if they had been reserved as a solitude for future purchasers.

-Andrew Johnson, December 4, 1865

Document 3

Photograph from the mid-1870s of a pile of American bison skulls waiting to be ground for fertilizer.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/chatarrapicks/378644914/lightbox/
Document 4

![Percentage of Total Acreage in State that was Successfully Homesteaded](http://www.nps.gov/home/historyculture/upload/Percentage%20graph.pdf)

Document 5

“They attacked our village and we killed them all. What would you do if your home was attacked? You would stand up like a brave man and defend it.”

- Sitting Bull, Sioux Chief, 1881

Document 6

Advertisement for Americans to move to new Indian lands in the West.

http://tm112.community.uaf.edu/unit-1/worcester-v-georgia-1832/

Document 7

These images show Tom Torlino before and after he attended the Carlisle Indian School in the 1880s.

Western History/Genealogy Dept., Denver Public Library
Directions: Answer the questions below based on the information you find in the documents.

1. According to the Pacific Railway Act, what does the government give the Union Pacific Railroad Company authority to do?

2. Summarize Section 5 of the Pacific Railway Act in one sentence.

3. How do you think the transcontinental railroad will affect the United States and its residents?

4. What effect does Andrew Johnson believe the Homestead Act will have on the American economy?

5. Why do you think he believed the Homestead Act was a better alternative than selling the lands out west privately?

6. Based on the chart, what can you say about how western states were affected by the Homestead Act?

7. How can the information in this chart help explain conflicts between settlers and Native Americans?

8. Do you think Native Americans would approve of using the bison skulls for fertilizer? Why or why not?
9. Based on the number of skulls in the photo, do you think this practice could lead to problems? Why or why not?

10. What do you think Sitting Bull means when he says “they attacked our village”?

11. Based on this quotation, how might you characterize the feelings many Native Americans had toward the United States government and people?

12. What is being advertised in Document 6?

13. How do you think the US gained this land to sell?

14. Where are the Native Americans who lived there previously?

15. What do you think is the purpose of having Tom Torlino change his style of dress?

16. Do you think many Native Americans would be willing to forget their culture and adopt a new one? Why or why not?
Different Points of View

Consider how each group might view these issues and explain your thinking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completion of the Transcontinental Railway</th>
<th>US Government</th>
<th>Native Americans</th>
<th>Western Settlers</th>
<th>Business Owners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homestead Act</td>
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<td>More states added to the US</td>
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<td>Schools for Native Americans</td>
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<td>Sport hunting of bison</td>
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