6.4 The American West, c1835-c1895: Development of Settlement, Ranching and the Cattle Industry: 10-minute Pack

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 10 minutes on this pack.

1 State one reason why cattle ranching developed on the open range of the Plains in the years after the American Civil War.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Explain two consequences of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869.

(Total for Question 2 is 8 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.4 The American West, c1835-c1895: Development of Settlement, Ranching and the Cattle Industry: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

identifies a reason, e.g. millions of semi-wild Texas longhorn cattle were available, having bred largely unmanaged during the war	**B1**
supporting detail, e.g. cattle could be bought cheaply in Texas and sold at a large profit once driven north to railheads and shipped to growing eastern city markets	**B1**

Answer: Large numbers of cheap Texas longhorn cattle could be driven north to railheads and sold at a big profit in eastern markets.

Question 2

Level 1 Identifies one or two general consequences of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, with little or no supporting detail or explanation.	**1-2**
Level 2 Identifies and begins to explain one consequence, supported by accurate detail.	**3-4**
Level 3 Explains two consequences of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, each supported by accurate and relevant detail.	**5-6**
Level 4 Explains two consequences in a well-developed, logically structured way, supported throughout by precise and accurate detail, showing how the consequences connect.	**7-8**

Indicative content:

- Faster, cheaper travel encouraged a much larger wave of settlers to move onto the Plains than the earlier overland trails had allowed, speeding up the pace at which land claimed under the Homestead Act was actually settled.
- The railroad let farmers and ranchers ship their produce and cattle to large eastern markets far more cheaply and quickly than driving cattle overland or hauling crops by wagon, making commercial farming and ranching on the Plains far more profitable.
- Railheads such as Abilene grew rapidly into busy cattle towns almost overnight, as they became the point where cattle driven north on trails such as the Chisholm Trail were loaded onto trains, shaping the pattern of the developing cattle industry.
- The railroad also made it easier and cheaper for the US government and army to move soldiers and supplies across the Plains, which had significant knock-on effects for US government policy and military campaigns against Plains Indian nations in the years that followed.

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