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

EDEXCEL 1HI0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. You are advised to spend about 15 minutes on this pack.

1 Give the year in which the US government passed the Homestead Act.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 Name a cattle town that grew rapidly in Kansas as a railhead where cattle driven north from Texas were loaded onto trains.

(Total for Question 2 is 1 mark)

3 Explain two reasons why the Homestead Act (1862) encouraged settlement of the Plains.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 Describe two ways in which new technology helped farmers and ranchers overcome the difficulties of the Plains environment.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 State one problem the Plains environment created for farmers settling there.

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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

Question 1

1862 **B1**

Answer: 1862

Question 2

e.g. Abilene, Dodge City or Wichita (any one) **B1**

Answer: E.g. Abilene

Question 3

the Act let a settler claim 160 acres of public land for only a small filing fee, making land ownership possible for families who could not have afforded to buy farmland outright **B2**

requiring only five years of residence and improvement to gain full title gave settlers a clear, attainable path to secure ownership, encouraging many families to move west and commit to farming the Plains despite its difficulties **B2**

Answer: Cheap, accessible land (160 acres for a small fee) and a clear, attainable path to ownership after five years both encouraged settlers to move to the Plains.

Question 4

barbed wire, patented by Joseph Glidden in 1874, let farmers fence land cheaply despite the shortage of timber, protecting crops from livestock and allowing ranchers to mark out and control their own grazing land **B2**

windmills allowed farmers and ranchers to pump groundwater up from deep underground in areas where surface water was scarce, making it possible to provide water for livestock and, in some places, for irrigation, in a region where low rainfall was a constant problem **B2**

Answer: Barbed wire solved the timber-fencing shortage and let land be enclosed, and windmills solved the water shortage by pumping up groundwater.

Question 5

identifies a problem, e.g. a shortage of timber for building and fencing **B1**

supporting detail, e.g. the tough, deeply rooted prairie turf was also difficult to plough with ordinary equipment, and low rainfall made crops unreliable in some areas **B1**

Answer: A shortage of timber, tough prairie turf that was hard to plough, and low or unreliable rainfall.

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