

## **“America: The Story of Us – Heartland”**

### **Video Guide**

1. What was the biggest obstacle in the way of building the transcontinental railroad?  
***The Sierra Nevada Mountains***
2. Who were the two companies that built the railroad?  
***Central Pacific and Union Pacific***
3. How does the federal government pay for the railroad?  
***They give federal land to the companies. For every mile of track laid, the government***
4. Why were Chinese workers chosen to build the railroad?  
***They were excellent workers and it was cheaper to bring Chinese workers across the ocean than other workers across the continent.***
5. What happened on May 10, 1869?  
***The tracks from the East and tracks from the West were connected at Promontory Point, Utah.***
6. Where does the railroad trigger a mass migration to?  
***The Great Plains***
7. How much of America’s land is given away under the Homestead Act?  
***10% of the United States***
8. List several obstacles or challenges for settlers. (Get at least 5)  
***Indian raids, bad weather, strong winds, tornadoes, lack of lumber for building material, boundary disputes with cattle ranchers***
9. What happened to half the population of western Nebraska by 1892?  
***Half of the population moved back East.***
10. What happens to the Great Plains?  
***They become the “Bread Basket” of America.***
11. What is “green gold”?  
***lumber or trees***
12. Why do so many people come from Norway to America?  
***They were experienced loggers or lumberjacks***
13. How many buffalo were roaming the Great Plains in the 1800’s?  
***30 million***

14. What new hunter arrives on the Great Plains?  
***The white man came with his long distance rifle, many of whom were soldiers from the Civil War.***
15. Why is there conflict between white people and Indians over the buffalo?  
***Plains Indians depended on and worshipped the buffalo as part of their way of life. White hunters wiped them out for profit.***
16. How did the horse change the Indian way of life?  
***Indians became expert horsemen and were able to hunt and fight more effectively.***
17. For what purpose did the cowboy develop?  
***They drove cattle from the ranches of Texas to the "cowtowns" or rail hubs of Kansas.***
18. Where did the Texas Longhorn come from?  
***They were a product of the wild Spanish cattle and the English cattle who roamed wild.***
19. What invention will threaten the cowboy's way of life?  
***barbed wire***
20. What happened to the open range?  
***The open range was closed forever.***
21. How long did the "hay day" of the cowboy on the open range last?  
***20 years***
22. Where do most Indians wind up living as settlers moved west?  
***reservations***
23. What happened to Lt. Col. George Custer and his men?  
***At Little Bighorn, MT, Custer and his 7<sup>th</sup> cavalry were slaughtered by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors in less than 3 hours.***
24. What happened on December 29, 1890?  
***The 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry massacred 200 Sioux and Cheyenne men, women, and children.***
25. How did the railroad change time?  
***American railroad companies set up standard time and the US divided into 4 separate time zones.***
26. How did Richard Sears change the way Americans shopped?  
***He developed the mail order catalog, utilizing mail and railroads to ship goods.***