Name: 
Date: 

U.S. History: Chapter 17

Chapter 17 study guide

Key

Study guide due date: Monday, October 28th
Test day: Wednesday, October 30th

Directions: Complete the following review questions on a separate sheet of looseleaf. Remember there will be a vocabulary section on the test - be sure to review that material as well.

Section 1: Mining & the Transcontinental Railroad
1. What was the continuous cycle that happened when a boomtown arose? Why didn’t boomtowns survive longer than a few years? Other than mining, what other businesses began out west?
   a. Silver & gold was found → Many people rushed to the land to excavate the metal → Once the metal was all gone everyone moved on to the next boomtown (boomtowns quickly turned to ghost towns)
   b. Low population, shortage of profit to be made besides the silver and gold
   c. Hotels, stores, buildings - women worked making food & clothes

2. Describe the Comstock Lode.
   a. Land in the Sierra Nevada with a blue tinted sand - this sand turned out to be silver, worth more than gold at the time.

3. Who were the main constructors of the Transcontinental Railroad? What was the working environment like for them?
   a. Immigrants from Mexico, Ireland and China
   b. Harsh environment: snow, wind, avalanches, cutting through mountains for very little pay in return

Section 2:
4. Why were buffalo out west being killed by white hunters at such a high rate? In contrast, in what ways were buffalo that were killed by Native Americans used? (list 3 ways)
   a. To move them off the land in order to have room to build railroads
   b. Horns & bones could be used for tools, tendons could be made into thread, hides used for clothing and a teepee covering

5. What is the cause of the Sand Creek Massacre? What are the effects of the Sand Creek Massacre?
   a. Native Americans refused to give up their land around Pikes Peak, in response, Colonel John Chivington and 700 volunteers attacked a band of Cheyennes at Sand Creek.
   b. As a response by the Native Americans to give up their lands, they attacked
supply trains and homes.

6. What was the goal of the Dawes Act? What happened to Native Americans as an effect? Why did it fail?
   a. Act passed to try to end Native Americans' wandering and turn them into farmers. Native American males each received 160 acres to farm and set up schools to make Native Americans more like Americans.
   b. Few Native Americans took to farming, many sold their land back, Natives had to give up their traditional ways - many remained poor.

Section 3: The Cattle Kingdom
7. What are some of the dangers that herders experienced on the trails? (list at least 5)
   What was the purpose of moving cattle west?
   a. Cattle going blind with dehydration, stampedes, river currents, grass fires, thieves, panicked animals

8. Who was Annie Oakley? Who was Buffalo Bill? Why are they significant?
   a. Annie Oakley: Western girl, proved that she could shoot a gun better than a man
   b. Buffalo Bill: Started a Wild West show including gun slinging, sharp shooting & horseback riding
   c. Significant because they were breaking stereotypes of the West.

9. Why did the Cattle Kingdom come to an end?
   a. The boom mainly ended because of a cycle of scorching summers and frigid winters killed millions of cattle

Section 4: Farming in the West
10. Describe the Homestead Act. Who were the sodbusters & Exodusters?
    a. Offered a 160 acre plot of land to anyone who resided on that land for 5 years
    b. Sodbusters: Plains farmers that used machines to be able to plant crops
    c. Exodusters: Usually freed slaves - believed they were like the Jews fleeing slavery in Egypt. Some took up farming, others moved to towns. Men usually worked as hired hands and women as laundresses.

11. What was the main purpose of grange groups? What did they turn into? What did the group advocate for?
    a. For groups of farmers to meet for lectures, sewing bees and other events
    b. Demanded the same low rates from railroads and warehouses that were given to big farmers

12. What was the Populist party? What did they demand? Why did Populists support William Jennings Bryan?
a. Political party that pushed for social reforms.
b. Demanded public ownership of railroads and warehouses, to control rates, a tax on income to replace property taxes and an eight hour work day.
c. B/c Bryan supported the use of silver to raise prices.