

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 16 Essay Questions

### Crossing the Continent

1. Describe in detail **three** methods of sending messages across the country during the 1860s. Sequence them **in the order** in which they were developed.

*Stagecoach- traveled in stages, carried people, goods, and messages; Pony Express- mail delivery system, young riders traveled 75 miles each; Telegraph- sent Morse Code messages across electrical lines; Transcontinental Railroad- carried people, goods, and messages quickly across the country.*

2. Why did the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific race against each other while building the transcontinental railroad? How do you think the race affected the workers' attitudes about the obstacles they faced?

*Both companies were paid in land and money for every mile of track they completed, so both wanted to complete the most miles; Workers did not want anything to slow them down, so they overcame obstacles.*

3. Why do you think the Great Plains region was known as the "Great American Desert"?

*It was a vast region of dry grassland that looked too harsh to settle.*

4. What conditions made life difficult for homesteaders? What helped homesteaders survive? Give examples.

*Difficulties: Tough soil, harsh weather, including floods, droughts, prairie fires, blizzards and grasshoppers; Aids to Survival: Steel plow to cut sod, windmills to pump water, homesteaders' own determination.*

5. Why do you think Lakota leader Sitting Bull said, "I do not want to sell any land to the government"? Explain.

*Sitting Bull probably did not trust or like the U.S. government because it had forced his people off their homeland and now wanted to take their new land from them.*

6. What role did the buffalo play in the conflict between Native Americans and the United States government?

*The U.S. government helped kill off the buffalo that the Native Americans depended upon for survival. This created conflict between the two groups.*

**Map Skills:**

Know how to read a time zone map- text pages 542-543.

