DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

ALASKA BECOMES A STATE

By the 1850s, most of the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans was part of the United States. Much of the land to the north belonged to Canada. Land to the south belonged to Mexico. Land to the north was filled with plenty of fish and animals.

William Seward, who was Secretary of State, wanted the U.S. to buy some of this land to the north. Russia owned this land but was willing to sell it. The United States bought the Alaskan territory from Russia for $7.2 million.

Not everyone in the United States thought it was a good buy. Many thought it was too cold and that people wouldn't want to live there. The land was called "Seward's Icebox."

It wasn't until 1897, almost 50 years later, before Americans gained interest. That's because gold was found in Alaska. Thousands of people rushed to Alaska to find their treasure. Alaska also ended up providing the United States with minerals and oil. Alaska finally became the 49th state in 1959.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What interests did William Seward have in Alaska?
   a. He wanted America to expand and grow.
   b. He was offered a good land deal.
   c. It was filled with fish and animals.
   d. It would be a place for people to immigrate.

2. What of the following sentences is <u>not</u> a concern that people had about purchasing Alaska?
   a. Buying Alaska was a waste of money.
   b. People thought it was too cold.
   c. People wouldn't want to live there.
   d. Alaska was filled with oil.

3. What is the meaning of the phrase "Seward's Icebox" in the third paragraph?
   a. cold and freezing place bought by Seward
   b. place to store frozen foods
   c. place where ice is stored
   d. waste of money

4. What is the main idea of paragraph four?
   a. Many people thought Alaska was a bad purchase.
   b. The gold rush in Alaska boosted interest.
   c. Seward learns of his mistakes.
   d. Alaska is purchased by the U.S.

LIVEWORKSHEETS