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

DAILY Warm-Up 10

Name _____ Date _____

WESTWARD, HO!

The size of the country was growing quickly. People were in search of land. Upon arriving in America, many headed west to settle. They were called pioneers. Pioneers were the first people to settle an area. The pioneers came across the mountains looking for good land.

Pioneers came by the thousands. Some traveled down the Ohio River, while others came down the Mississippi River. They traveled on flatboats. The flatboats could go through shallow places in the river without getting stuck. When enough people arrived, that state was given statehood. Kentucky and Indiana became states during this time.

As more and more people moved west, they encountered Indians. The Indians were not happy with the intruders. Tensions grew as the pioneers looked for new land and the Indians worked to keep their land.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. People wanted to move west to take advantage of the . . .
   a. specific resources in the area.
   b. assignments they were given.
   c. land available to settle.
   d. opportunity to meet the Native Americans living there.

2. Another title for this reading passage could be . . .
   a. "Westward Returns Eastward."
   b. "Problems of Immigration."
   c. "Confronting the Indians."
   d. "Moving Westward."

3. What is the main idea of the passage?
   a. Pioneers traveled westward in search of good land.
   b. Indians were not happy with the pioneers.
   c. Pioneers were famous explorers.
   d. People moving west were looking for gold.

4. The flatboats were ideal because . . .
   a. they could carry a large load.
   b. they could maneuver through shallow parts of the river.
   c. they were more stable on the river.
   d. they were an inexpensive way to travel.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 11

Name _____ Date _____

SOUTHERN PLANTATIONS

Most of the people who lived in the South owned farms. The South had a long growing season. This made it easier for farmers to grow food. This made it possible to have a cash crop, meaning they could sell their crops for money.

Soon, the farms grew into plantations. A plantation was about the size of 100 small farms. For some of the plantations, the cash crop was tobacco. Others grew rice or indigo.

To grow these crops, owners and farmers needed a lot of workers. Sometimes they had as many as 50 to 100 workers. Many of these workers at the time were indentured servants. They were working to pay off their passage to America. But soon these workers were replaced with slaves. Slaves were cheaper. Slaves were easier to control. Slavery rose to become a huge issue in the South for many years to come.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is the author's opinion about the Southern plantations?
   a. tolerant
   b. pathetic
   c. disgusted
   d. You can't tell.

2. Which of the following sentences explains why indentured servants were replaced with slaves?
   a. Indentured servants were cheaper than slaves.
   b. Indentured servants were easier to control than slaves.
   c. Slaves were easy to locate.
   d. Slaves were cheaper.

3. Which of the following statements is the reason why cash crops were grown?
   a. Growing year round is easier.
   b. Plantation owners worked together to grow crops.
   c. Farmers could sell cash crops for money.
   d. The plantation owners wanted to eat certain foods year round.

4. What does the term "indentured servants" mean?
   a. slaves
   b. lazy people
   c. people who pay off money they owe by serving
   d. children who had jobs

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 12

Name _____ Date _____

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

For years and years, women had been fighting for many rights. Women were not treated equally to men. Laws were in place that did not allow women to vote.

After years of work, things were slowly changing. More and more women were finishing high school and going to college. By 1900, laws were being passed that allowed women to own property.

There were still needed changes. For example, jobs were divided into women's work and men's work. Women weren't allowed to have certain jobs, and they were still denied the right to vote.

Many women leaders worked to bring this right to all women. These women held marches demanding the right to vote. They wrote letters and made speeches to the nation's leaders.

Finally, in 1920, all adult women were given the right to vote. This was the 19th Amendment to the constitution.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which paragraph explains when women were finally allowed to own property?
   a. first paragraph
   b. last paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. second paragraph
2. What inferences can you make about why women finally received the right to vote?
   a. They had been demanding it for years.
   b. They made convincing arguments in speeches and letters.
   c. It was only a matter of time before they would be given the right.
   d. Women had to demonstrate they were capable of voting.
3. What is the author's opinion about women voting?
   a. The author thinks that it was a great day when women got the right to vote.
   b. The author thinks there has not been enough research on women's voting rights.
   c. The author is interested in sharing the fascinating process of how to vote.
   d. The author is indebted to and feels happy that men allowed women the right to vote.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 13

Name _____ Date _____

THE DUST BOWL

The Dust Bowl is a term used to describe a region that suffered from drought and dust storms during the Great Depression. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s lasted for about a decade. It was one of the most trying times in the history of the nation. Families struggled to survive during this time. The Dust Bowl actually caused the Depression to last longer.

The Dust Bowl was located along the southern Plains. Oklahoma, Kansas, and parts of Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado made up the Dust Bowl. Drought took away the rains and the water. The land was left dry and parched. The wind came and blew the dust around.

The blowing dust made it difficult to do even simple things. It was hard to breathe, eat, and sleep with all the dust. People got sick from all the dust. Farmers were not able to grow crops. Food and water were scarce.

Sometimes the dust storms were so bad they were more like dust blizzards. One day was called "Black Sunday." On this day, the worst dust blizzard happened. It caused a lot of damage. The rains did not come until 1939.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did the Dust Bowl get its name?
   a. The dust in the bowl kept spilling over.
   b. The land was filled with dust.
   c. The name was given when the country was struggling during the Depression.
   d. Dust and bowls were the two most common occurrences during that time.
2. What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
   a. to explain how the Dust Bowl was formed
   b. to explain how the Dust Bowl affected daily life
   c. to explain how Dust Bowls can be prevented
   d. to explain how people survived the Depression
3. Which paragraph would you read to find out about Black Sunday?
   a. first paragraph
   b. third paragraph
   c. second paragraph
   d. fourth paragraph

LIVEWORKSHEETS