Quiz: Railroads, Robbers, & Rebels (1873)

Multiple Choice

1. What major economic event began in 1873 in the United States?

   A. The Great Depression

   B. The Panic of 1873

   C. The Gold Rush

   D. The Civil War

2. Which industry expanded rapidly in the United States during the 1870s?

   A. Textile mills

   B. Railroads

   C. Automobile manufacturing

   D. Oil drilling only

3. “Robber barons” is a term used to describe:

   A. Small farmers fighting railroads

   B. Wealthy industrialists accused of unfair business practices

   C. Union leaders organizing strikes

   D. Railroad workers building tracks

4. What was one major cause of the Panic of 1873?

   A. Overbuilding of railroads and risky investments

   B. Shortage of gold in California

   C. War with Britain

   D. Decline in farming exports

5. Railroads helped the U.S. economy grow mainly by:

   A. Limiting trade between states

   B. Slowing industrial production

   C. Connecting markets across long distances

   D. Reducing immigration

6. Which group often protested working conditions and low wages during this era?
   A. Industrialists
   B. Bankers
   C. Laborers and railroad workers
   D. Politicians only
7. Many railroad companies received government support in the form of:
   A. Free land grants
   B. Free cars
   C. Guaranteed profits only
   D. Tariff elimination
8. The term “rebels” in this period most closely refers to:
   A. Farmers and workers resisting powerful corporations
   B. Foreign armies invading the U.S.
   C. Government officials
   D. Railroad owners themselves

True or False: Write T or F

9. ____ - The Panic of 1873 led to a long economic depression in the United States.
10. ____ - Railroads had little impact on westward expansion.
11. ____ - Robber barons were always seen positively by the public.
12. ____ - Labor unrest increased as industrial workers demanded better conditions.
13. ____ - The railroad industry was one of the most important sectors in the 1870s economy.
14. ____ - Government land grants helped railroad companies expand.
15. ____ - Most workers in the 1870s had safe working conditions and high pay.
16. ____ - Railroads helped create a national market in the United States.
