America ~ The Story of Us

"Heartland"

Name_____

Date_____ Period____

As you watch the program, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. In 1865, how many buffalo roam the Great Plains?

2. Why was the railroad system important to westward expansion?

3. Where do the two ends of the railroads meet? (Which state?)

4. How many Chinese laborers were brought to the US to dig through the Sierra Nevada Mountains?

5. What is used to blast out the tunnels in the mountains? How many Chinese are killed doing this?

6. After completing the railroad, what was the average time to travel across the US?

7. According to Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., what was the promise of America? What law was passed to help with this?

8. What dangerous weather condition constantly threatens the Great Plains?

9. What insect made it difficult for early settlers to grow crops?

10. What was "green gold"? How was it moved?

11. Give examples of how buffalo hide was used in the East.

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12. Why were the buffalo so important to the Plains Indians?

13. After the buffalo were hunted to near extinction, what happened to the Indian tribes of the Great Plains?

14. How were cattle from Texas moved to the northern railroad stations? Who did this difficult work?

15. Today, how many firearms are owned by Texans?

16. Explain the conflict between “cattle ranchers” and “homesteaders”.

17. What invention brought an end to the “wild west” and the era of the cowboy?

18. As the US government takes over the traditional hunting lands of the Sioux Indians, where do they move? What discovery threatens their new home?

19. What happened to the Sioux on December 29, 1890?

20. Who was Richard Sears? What idea made him great wealth?

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