Assessment: Tensions in the West

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. Which group would disagree with this statement?
   
   Owning a plot of land provides a sense of freedom.

   A. Texas ranchers  
   B. European settlers  
   C. U.S. government  
   D. American Indians

2. All of these were an effect of the Homestead Act except
   
   A. an increase in U.S. farms.  
   B. an increase in railway lines.  
   C. a decrease in settlers moving west.  
   D. a decrease in American Indian land.

3. Which of these contributed to the flood of new settlers in the West?
   
   A. wars in Europe  
   B. jobs in factories  
   C. growth of railroads  
   D. fear of American Indians

4. Which group was most responsible for the completion of the transcontinental railroad?
   
   A. Great Plains homesteaders  
   B. Chinese immigrants  
   C. California miners  
   D. U.S. military

5. How did the U.S. government entice railroad companies to take on the transcontinental railroad project?
   
   A. by paying for all supplies  
   B. by offering land subsidies  
   C. by providing all the laborers  
   D. by transporting supplies by rail

6. Which group was negatively affected by the transcontinental railroad?
   
   A. Plains Indians  
   B. cattle ranchers  
   C. Irish immigrants  
   D. shipping workers
7. How did mining change the West?
   A. by improving the landscape
   B. by establishing law and order
   C. by ending American Indian conflicts
   D. by opening up areas to new settlement

8. What caused the Plains people to finally move to reservations?
   A. financial incentives
   B. opportunity to own land
   C. educational opportunities
   D. extermination of the buffalo

9. Which of these describes the long drive?
   A. the movement of cattle to railroad lines
   B. the path leading the Nez Perce to Canada
   C. the action of nailing spikes into railway ties
   D. the path followed by buffalo hunters in the Great Plains

10. Which of the following was typically the last step in this sequence?

      gold discovered
      \[\rightarrow\]
      mining camps
      \[\rightarrow\]
      boomtowns
      \[\rightarrow\]
      ?

   A. gold rush
   B. ghost towns
   C. crime waves
   D. law and order

11. Which of these was a challenge for farmers on the Great Plains?
    A. unreliable rainfall
    B. conflicts with ranchers
    C. miners intruding on land
    D. clearing of abundant trees
12. Which material was used to build homes on the Great Plains?  
   A. sod  
   B. wood  
   C. bricks  
   D. adobe

13. Under the Indian Removal Act of 1830, what was promised to American Indians?  
   A. land in the Great Plains  
   B. protection of homelands  
   C. land to freely hunt buffalo  
   D. homes on reservations in the East

14. Which of these changed federal policy toward American Indians?  
   A. destruction of the buffalo  
   B. development of the West  
   C. popular belief that they had been mistreated  
   D. political pressure to allow them to move to reservations

15. After a successful 20 years, what caused the end of the long drive?  
   A. growth of cities  
   B. weather conditions  
   C. conflict with farmers  
   D. government regulations

16. What is the significance of the Battle of the Little Big Horn?  
   A. It was a famous U.S. Army victory.  
   B. It was an event that forced Congress to honor treaties.  
   C. It was the last big battle between the army and American Indians.  
   D. It was the longest battle fought by the army and American Indians.
Applying Social Studies Skills
Use the maps and your knowledge of history to answer the questions.

17. Based on the information in the maps, which of these statements is true?
   A. American Indians immigrated to other countries.
   B. Before 1850, American Indians moved to the East Coast.
   C. American Indians lost land only along the West Coast.
   D. Before 1850, American Indians lived throughout the western United States.

18. When did the largest American Indian land losses occur?
   A. before 1850
   B. between 1865 and 1880
   C. between 1880 and 2010
   D. after 2010

19. How did the United States enforce the transfer of land from American Indians to whites?
Exploring the Essential Question
How did settlers change the West and affect American Indians?

Follow the directions to complete the item below.

20. Write a short essay describing two events or policies that increased settlement in the West after the Civil War. Describe how the settlers who responded to each of these events or policies changed the West. Also explain how each event or policy affected American Indians.
   Be sure to convey your ideas clearly, using standard English.