

**Document D: "Nebraska Land"**

**Source:** Folksong, circa late 1800s.

**Note:** "Shoats" are young pigs. Horses "of bronco breed" have been bred from wild horses.

**Nebraska Land**

We've reached the land of desert sweet  
Where nothing grows for man to eat.  
The wind does blow with blis'ring heat  
O'er the plains so hard to beat.

Chorus:

Nebraska land, Nebraska land,  
As on thy desert soil I stand  
And look away across the plains,  
I wonder why it never rains.

There is not wheat, there is not oats,  
Not even corn to feed our shoats.  
Our chickens are so thin and poor,  
They come and peck crumbs off the floor.

Our horses are of bronco breed;  
They nothing have on which to feed.  
We do not live, we only stay;  
We're all too poor to get away.

(Chorus)

EV

**Document Analysis**

1. The Great Plains were originally called "the Great American Desert." According to this song, what about the land makes Nebraska like a desert?
2. Specifically, what three crops and what three farm animals are affected by these conditions?
3. According to the song, why don't the settlers leave?
4. Perhaps as many as one half of Nebraska homesteaders left this land and moved on. What will you tell cousin Clara or Clyde about whether or not your family will stay or leave? Give your reasons.