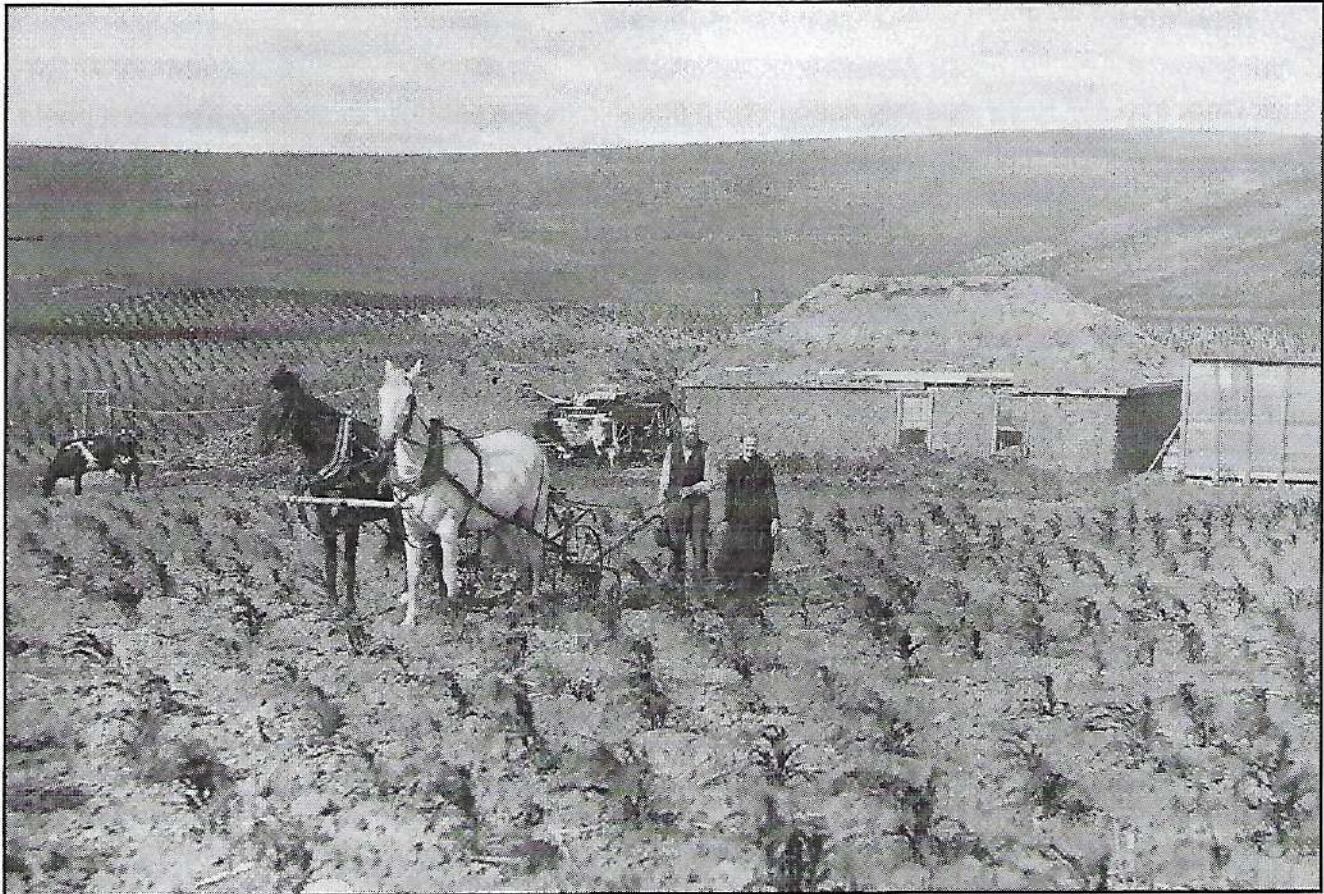

Life on the Plains: A Letter Home

EV



Overview: A vast prairie lies across America's middle, stretching from Texas to Canada. In this Mini-Q you will create a persona (character) of a pioneer who settled in this area. Then you will look at documents about the lives of these early settlers and write a letter to your cousin back in Virginia.

The Documents:

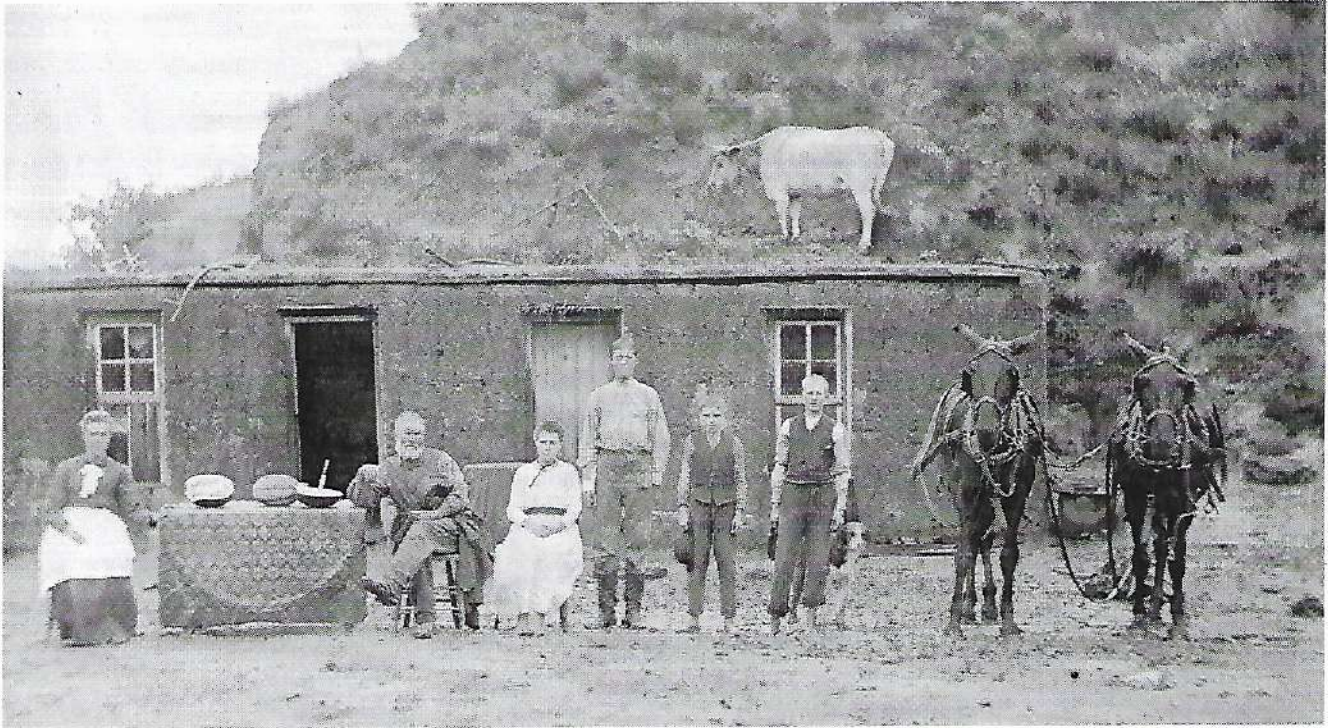
- Document A: "Such a Christmas"
- Document B: "At school all day"
- Document C: Custer County schoolhouse
- Document D: "Nebraska Land"

A Mini Document Based Question (Mini-Q)

Hook Exercise: Creating a Persona

This photograph was taken by Solomon Butcher in 1886. It shows a family outside their sod house on the Nebraska prairie.

Task One: Closely examine the photograph below and answer the questions that follow.

EV

1. What is the location and date of the photograph?
2. Who are the members of the family?
3. What evidence is there in the photo that the family is poor?
4. What evidence is there that the family is not so poor?
5. Is there evidence that this family's farm received some rain during the spring and summer?