

Basic US History
Unit 6 – America Expands
The Story of Us: Heartland

As we watch the film *The Story of Us* answer the following questions:

1. What was the biggest obstacle in the way of building a transcontinental railroad? Which two companies built the transcontinental railroad?

2. Which group of immigrants dug the tunnels through the Sierra Nevada Mountains?

3. What technology allowed them to blast through the rock? Why was it so dangerous?

4. How long did the journey across the country take before the railroad? How long did it take with the railroad? What did this change trigger?

5. What Act created the biggest land giveaway in history? How many acres were people granted?

6. Why was living on the Great Plains so hard?

7. What was the most numerous species of large wild mammal on earth? How many were there?

8. What did white hunters harvest the buffalo for? What did the plains Indians use the buffalo for?

9. Who brought the horse to America? How did the horse transform life for the Native Americans?

10. Why were cowboys necessary for the cattle industry in Texas? What invention ended the era of the cowboy? How?

11. What was discovered in the Black Hills? What conflict did this lead to?

12. Where was the massacre that ended in the killing of 200 Sioux men, women and children?

13. How did the railroads create a national economy?
