Guided Reading Activity

Settling the West, 1865–1890

Lesson 1 Miners and Ranchers

Review Questions: Outlining

DIRECTIONS: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

I. Growth of the Mining Industry
A. ____________________ staked a claim near Virginia City, Nevada, that turned out to be nearly pure silver ore.
B. Almost overnight it went from a town of ____________________ people to almost ____________________ people.
C. Most mining ____________________ did not survive when the mines closed, instead they went ____________________ and most residents left.
D. ____________________ was a process that used simple equipment such as picks and pans.
E. ____________________ was a mining process that removed large quantities of earth.

II. Ranching and Cattle Drives
A. Some settlers began raising cattle on the ____________________ after the Civil War.
B. Cattle from the East could not survive on tough prairie grasses, but the ____________________ could survive in the harsh climate.
C. Cattle ranching grew in part because of the vast areas of grassland owned by the ____________________.
D. The ____________________ covered much of the Great Plains and provided land where cattle ranchers could graze their herds free of charge.
E. In 1866 ranchers drove about 260,000 cattle to ____________________; this was the first “long drive.”

III. Settling the Hispanic Southwest
A. ____________________ taught American cowhands their trade and enriched the English language with words of Spanish origin.
B. ____________________ were the majority of the population in New Mexico.
C. Spanish-speaking immigrants to Southwestern cities settled in neighborhoods called ____________________. 
Summary and Reflection

DIRECTIONS: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How did mining and cattle ranching help prepare Western territories for statehood?

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