

Document Analysis: Use the documents & questions to complete your chart

Document One

Homestead Act (May 20th, 1862) by US Congress

Any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, or shall have performed service in the army or navy of the United States... may apply for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation... and on payment of ten dollars, he or she shall be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified: 160 acres.

If he, she, or they have resided upon or cultivated the same land for the term of five years immediately succeeding the time of filing the statement...then, in such case, he, she, or they, if at that time a citizen of the United States, shall acquire the absolute title to the land...

Document Two

Pacific Railway Act (July 1 1862) by US Congress

An Act to aid in the Construction of a Railroad and Telegraph Line from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. . . .

Be it enacted...“The Union Pacific Railroad Company” . . . is hereby authorized and empowered to lay out, locate, construct, furnish, maintain, and enjoy a continuous railroad and telegraph with the equipment, from a point...in the Territory of Nebraska, to the western boundary of Nevada Territory... the right of way through the public lands be . . . granted to said company for the construction of said railroad and telegraph line. . . The United States shall extinguish [end] the Indian titles [rights] to all lands falling under the operation of this act . . .

Sec. 3. ...there be granted to the said company, for the purpose of aiding in the construction of said railroad and telegraph line, and to secure the safe and speedy transportation of mails, troops, munitions of war, and public stores...public land each side of said railroad . . . and the stone, timber, and other materials on said land is hereby granted to said company . .

Sec. 10....And the Central Pacific Railroad Company of California...is authorized to continue the construction of said railroad and telegraph through the Territories of the United States to the Missouri River... upon the same terms and conditions provided in this act to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, until said railroads shall meet and connect in Utah...

Document Three

Railroad Advertisements for Western Land, 1870s

A circular of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad promotes land sales and settlement in southwest Kansas in the 1870s.

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IF YOU WANT A FARM OR HOME
"THE BEST THING IN THE WEST"
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe
RAILROAD
LANDS
IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS.

PRAIRIE **WOODLAND**

A.T. & S.F.R.R.

THE SAME PLACE AFTER SIX YEARS WORK AND PROFIT

THE SAME PLACE AFTER TEN YEARS WORK AND PROFIT

Temperate Climate, Excellent Health, Pure and Abundant Water.
GOOD SOIL FOR WHEAT, CORN AND FRUIT.
The Best Stock Country in the World.

Or to **For Full Information apply to**
Agent, **LAND COMMISSIONER,**
A. T. & S. F. R. R., Topeka, Kas.

Kunstler ertheilt, C. B. Schmidt, Deutscher Gen'l Mgt., Topeka, Kan.

Knight & Leonard, Printers, Chicago.

An ad from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Companies promote land sales in Iowa & Nebraska, 1872

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

MILLIONS OF ACRES

View on the Big Blue, between Camden and Crete, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.

IOWA AND NEBRASKA
LANDS
FOR SALE ON 10 YEARS CREDIT
BY THE
Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co.

AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.
 Only One-Seventh of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase.
 20 PER CENT. DEDUCTED FROM 10 YEARS PRICE, FOR CASH.

LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD
 and Cost allowed in First Interest paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket.
 Thus our Land Buyers GET A FREE PASS in the State where the Land bought is located.
 These TERMS are BETTER at \$5, than to pre-empt United States Land at \$2.50 per Acre.
 EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS on FREIGHT and PASSAGE are AFFORDED TO PURCHASERS and THEIR FAMILIES.

Address **GEO. S. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER,**
 or **T. H. LEAVITT, Ass't Land Comm'r, Burlington, Iowa.**

Or apply to

FREE ROOMS for buyers to board themselves are provided at Burlington and Lincoln.

CIRCULARS are supplied GRATIS for distribution in ORGANIZING COLONIES and to induce individuals to emigrate WEST.

A SECTIONAL MAP showing exact location of our IOWA LANDS is sold for 30 Cents, and of NEBRASKA LANDS for 20 Cents.

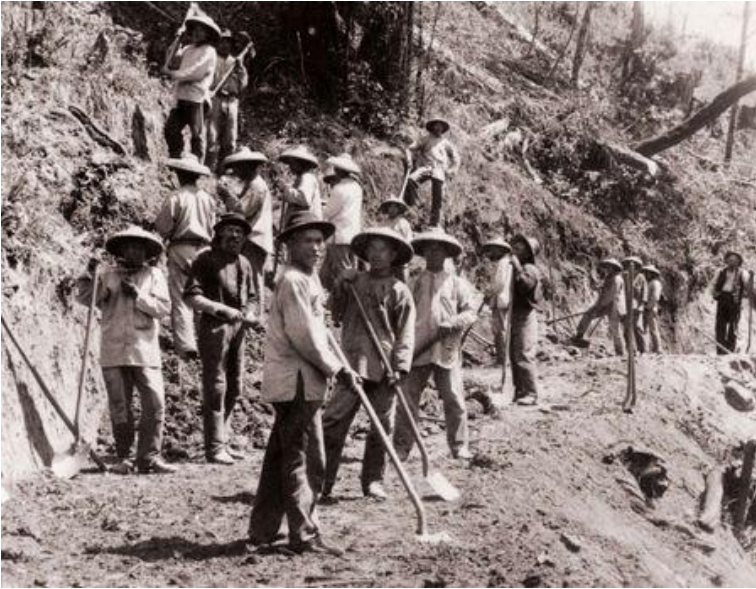
COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER PRINTING HOUSE, BUFFALO, N. Y.

Document Four

Railroad Workers

Chinese Workers for the Central Pacific Railroad, 1870s

Building railroads was dangerous work, and many workers preferred to mine for gold or try to acquire homesteads and start farms in the West. When white workers ignored the call for 5,000 workers, railroad companies turned to immigrant labor. Mostly German and Irish immigrants worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, while 80-90% of workers for the Central Pacific Railroad were Chinese. Chinese laborers were usually paid \$20-30 less per month than European workers.



1351 Wood Train and Chinamen in Bloomer Cut

Mexican-Americans and the Railroads

"Traqueros" working on the rails: A "traquero" was a Mexican or Mexican-American railroad worker. On August 3, 1881 workers completed a railroad between Mexico and United States, allowing easier transportation and immigration in the region. In the southwest, railroad companies hired more Mexicans than any other ethnic group. From 1870-1930, thousands of "traqueros" built and maintained railroads in the US

