



Westward Expansion

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade: Grade 5

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence: The Homestead Act gave settlers 500 acres of free land.

Rewrite: _____

2. Fix the sentence: Most pioneer families traveled west by steamship.

Rewrite: _____

3. Fix the sentence: The Transcontinental Railroad was finished in 1845.

Rewrite: _____

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

1. Pioneer homes on the Great Plains were often built from blocks of _____ .
2. To keep their Homestead land, settlers had to live on it for _____ years.
3. The Pony _____ carried mail quickly between Missouri and California.
4. The Oregon Trail ended in the _____ Valley of present-day Oregon.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. Why did many families decide to move west under the Homestead Act?

2. What challenges did pioneer families face when building homes on the Great Plains?

Part A: Fix the Sentence

Each sentence has an error. Rewrite it correctly on the line.

1. Fix the sentence: The Homestead Act gave settlers 500 acres of free land.

Rewrite: The Homestead Act gave settlers 160 acres of free land.

2. Fix the sentence: Most pioneer families traveled west by steamship.

Rewrite: Most pioneer families traveled west by covered wagon.

3. Fix the sentence: The Transcontinental Railroad was finished in 1845.

Rewrite: The Transcontinental Railroad was finished in 1869.

Part B: Fill in the Blank

Write the missing word or number on each line.

- Pioneer homes on the Great Plains were often built from blocks of sod .
- To keep their Homestead land, settlers had to live on it for five years.
- The Pony Express carried mail quickly between Missouri and California.
- The Oregon Trail ended in the Willamette Valley of present-day Oregon.

Part C: Short Answer

Answer each question in one or two complete sentences.

1. Why did many families decide to move west under the Homestead Act?

The Homestead Act offered 160 acres of free land to anyone who would farm it and live on it for five years. Many families wanted the chance to own land and start a new life.

2. What challenges did pioneer families face when building homes on the Great Plains?

There were very few trees on the plains, so pioneers had to build sod houses from blocks of dirt and grass. They also faced harsh winters, droughts, and insect swarms.
