

Guided Reading Activity

The logo for 'networks' features the word 'networks' in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of intersecting lines forms a starburst or network pattern behind the letter 'o'.

Settling the West, 1865–1890

Lesson 2 *Farming the Plains*

Review Questions: Identifying Supporting Details

DIRECTIONS: Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: During the late 1800s, construction of the railroads encouraged settlement of the Great Plains.

- 1. Detail:** The Great Plains were once called The Great American Desert because of the scarcity of _____ and _____ .
- 2. Detail:** The population of the Great Plains grew steadily after _____ .
- 3. Detail:** One important factor that spurred population was the construction of the _____ .
- 4. Detail:** In the year _____ , settlement increased because of the passage of _____ .
- 5. Detail:** The law entitled settlers to _____ acres and title to the land after living there _____ years.

B. Main Idea: New farming techniques and new inventions helped to make the Great Plains the Wheat Belt of the United States.

- 1. Detail:** One new farming method of planting seeds deep in the ground was called _____ ; farmers planted seeds deep in the soil where there was enough _____ for growth.
- 2. Detail:** Two inventions that made harvesting large wheat crops easier were the _____ and _____ .
- 3. Detail:** The Wheat Belt included parts of the Dakotas and the states of _____ and _____ .
- 4. Detail:** In the 1880s a severe _____ destroyed much of the wheat crop and turned the soil to _____ .
- 5. Detail:** However, by the 1890s wheat prices dropped because of _____ .
- 6. Detail:** In 1889, an event called the _____ opened one of the last large territories for settlement.

Guided Reading Activity *Cont.*



Settling the West, 1865–1890

Summary and Reflection

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

What were the factors that contributed to the development of the Great Plains as a major agricultural region?
