

Chapter 2 - Lesson 1
Miners and Ranchers- pages 20-26

1. Why did people go to the Far West to the Oregon Territory and California?
2. Why did people once call the Great Plains the Great American Desert?
3. Where was gold discovered in 1858?
4. Where was the Comstock Lode?
5. What does the term **boom town** mean?
6. What was an **open range** of the Great Plains?
7. How did cowhands get their cattle from the west to the Midwest and east coast?
8. What caused the end of the open range in the 1880's?

Chapter 2 Lesson 2
Farmers on the Great Plains – pages 26-28

1. What did the Homestead Act give to farmers?
2. Between 1862-1900 how many farmers were started on the Great Plains?

3. What were **sod** homes on the Plains made of?
4. What did men do on the Plains farms?
5. What did women do on the Plains farms?
6. What activities brought the community together on the Great Plains?
7. What new technology did Plains farmers use to make planting easier?
8. Why was **barbed wire** important on the Plains?
9. What was **dry farming**?
10. Why was **winter wheat** important?

After the Civil War, would you have rather been a miner, cowhand, or farmer? Explain below.
