

Chapter 8, Section 2

Farming the Plains

(Pages 292–295)

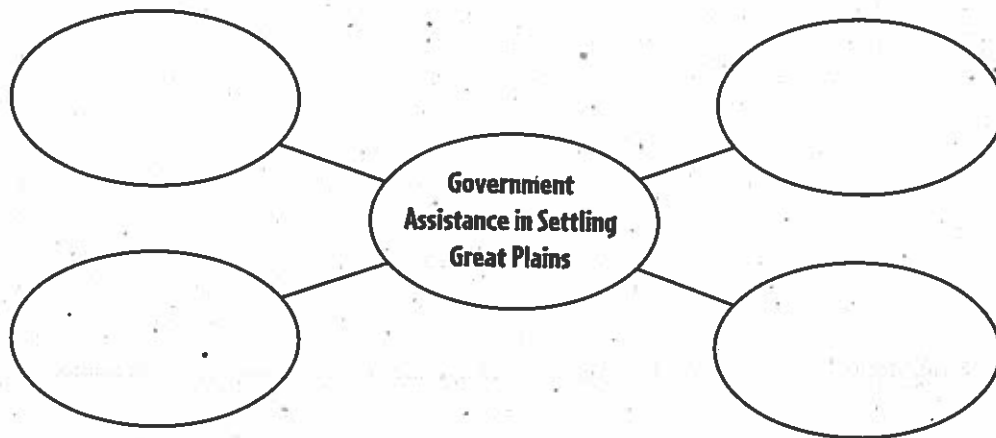
Reason To Read

Setting a Purpose for Reading Think about these questions as you read:

- Why and how did people begin to settle the Plains?
- How did commercial farming grow on the Plains?

Main Idea

As you read pages 292–295 in your textbook, complete the graphic organizer below by listing ways the government encouraged settlement in the Great Plains.



Sequencing Events

As you read, place the following events on the time line below.

- Western farmlands hit by drought
- Homestead Act
- Oklahoma Land Rush takes place
- Bonanza farming begins on Great Plains
- Timber Culture Act



Geography of the Plains (pages 292–293)

Reviewing

Write down some of the problems the early settlers of the Great Plains faced.

The Beginnings of Settlement (page 293)

Summarizing

As you read, complete the following sentences to help you summarize the lesson.

1. _____ companies offered land and credit to prospective settlers in the Plains.
2. The _____ gave settlers up to 160 acres of land for only \$10 if the homesteaders agreed to live there for five years.
3. The homesteaders faced many problems, but eventually they learned to overcome the harsh _____.

Terms To Know

Define or describe the following key term from this lesson.

homestead

Academic Vocabulary

Use each of these two academic vocabulary terms in a sentence.

factor

method

The Wheat Belt (pages 294–295)

Skimming

Skim the lesson before you begin to read, taking note of headings and terms in boldface and color. The first paragraph should give you an idea of the content of the lesson. Use the lines provided to write down the headings of the lesson.

Terms To Know

Define or describe the following terms from this lesson.

dry farming

sodbuster

bonanza farm

Academic Vocabulary

Define or describe the following academic vocabulary word from this lesson.

equip

Terms To Review

Use the following term, which you studied earlier, in a sentence that reflects the term's meaning in this lesson.

approach
(Chapter 2, Section 5)

Closing the Frontier (page 295)

Connecting

Many people saw the settling of the frontier as an end of an era. Using your knowledge of American history, what new frontiers would Americans find to explore? Are there still new frontiers left? Write your thoughts below.

Academic Vocabulary

Define or describe the following academic vocabulary word from this lesson.

adjusting

Terms to Review

Circle the letter of the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the underlined word, which you studied earlier.

environment
(Chapter 1, Section 1)

The environment of the Plains was often harsh.

- a. characteristics of a region
- b. an outbreak or product of sudden growth
- c. a natural enclosing

Section Wrap-up

Now that you have read the section, answer these questions from Setting a Purpose for Reading at the beginning of the section.

Why and how did people begin to settle the Plains?

How did commercial farming grow on the Plains?
