Moving West: A Webquest!

Warm-up: What is your goal in life? Is this something you think will happen no matter what path you choose, or do you think you need alter the course on your own? In other words, do you believe in fate, and if so, what is your fate?

WebQuest

Well yee-haw there ya varmints!! I reckon you think you can just saddle up and ride into the West without stopping to ponder for one minute. That’s where you’re wrong! Using that new fangled, fancy glass box you got there, you’re gonna have to do some real research before you can really be ready to vamoose on out here to the range! By the end, you’ll be able to decide if it worth yer troubles!

- This is an INDEPENDENT assignment!
- You must answer ALL of the questions!
- We will access ONLY the websites given on my website

After completing this assignment, you will have a far greater understanding of the factors leading to Westward Expansion, and will be able to make an educated decision as to whether or not you yourself would move west.

To access the website information (with clickable links) follow this procedure:

1. Go to my class website
2. Click on the website links when prompted during the webquest
3. Answer all questions using full sentences
4. Put a star by your name on the top to show me you have read and understand the instructions. Assignments will not be accepted until this has been done!

Have fun ☺
Let’s see if you’ve got what it takes! The first thing we’ll need to do is make sure you even understand what this movement is all about!

1. Go to the first website and read up on **The Homestead Act**.
   - What exactly was it?
   - What was required to claim land under the act?
   - Explain the goal of the government by passing this law.

2. Now access the second website to find information on **Manifest Destiny**.
   - Under the idea of Manifest Destiny, what is said is the United States goal (that they MUST achieve?)

3. By accessing the third site, explain the importance of the passage of the **Pacific Railways Act**. WHY is this law so important to Westward Expansion?

4. With Congress behind it, the **Transcontinental Railroad** was soon to be. Go to to answer the following questions.
   - Look at the rail map on the website. What accomplishment do you achieve when you connect this new railroad to the railroads which already existed in the East? (they’re not drawn on the map, but they are there!)
   - What is the official completion date of the TCRR?
   - Name the modern day states through which the track passed. (You can google a US map to help you!)
• Who is the track MOSTLY built by (what people)? What percentage of the entire US labor force was involved with the track building?

• How will the completion of this rail impact Western settlement? Why?

5. Visit the next website to describe the importance of the **Morrill Land Grant Act**. What is specifically offered to people by the government under this law?

• Name a college that was made possible by this law.

• How do you think this act will benefit citizens as a whole? Why or why not?

6. Using the next site as a **background**, write three sentences that describe the destruction of the buffalo. Be sure to reference the website in three different ways. Keep in mind, the pictures are the reality, and this reality greatly threatened the various Native American plains cultures way of life.

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7. Go to the next **website**. From here, select three of the battles from the Sioux Wars, but no later than the massacre at Wounded Knee. Complete the chart below based on the information.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Of Battle</th>
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Decide on ONE major reason that these battles are being fought between Native Americans and Settlers: ______________________

In the end, who seems to win most of the battles? ______________________
8. Access the site on the list to read about the Dawes Act. According to this new law, what was the US Government policy on Native Americans in Western Lands?

- How does the Dawes Act use the land that Indians were living on?

- In what year is the Dawes Act passed? How does this date relate to the battles of Indians and settlers? (Is it before or after? Why?)

Well I suppose you reckon you’re some kinda expert now! To close this little hootenanny out, go on and write at least 2 paragraphs (8 sentence minimum) about how yer government is trying to get you to go West. When you compare it to the old smoky cities of the East, ya hafta wonder if it’s worth it or not! Do you think it is?

(in other words, now that you have researched the ways that the Government has made it easier to move west, explain whether or not you would have chosen to do so in this time period. Include information about what you learned today, as well as comparison to life in the East!)