

The vast grasslands of the High Plains in the central United States were settled by farm

question 1

According to paragraph 1, which of the following statements about the High Plains is t

A Until farmers and ranchers settled there in the 1880s, the High Plains had never been

B The climate of the High Plains is characterized by higher-than-average temperatures

C The large aquifer that lies underneath the High Plains was discovered by the Ogallala

D Before the early 1900's there was only a small amount of farming and ranching in the

question 2

According to paragraph 2, all of the following statements about the Ogallala aquifer ar

A The aquifer stretches from South Dakota to Texas.

B The aquifer' s water comes from underground springs.

C Water has been gathering in the aquifer for 30,000 years.

D The aquifer' s water is stored in a layer of sandstone.

question 3

Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlight

A Despite the current impressive size of the Ogallala aquifer, the region' s climate kee

B Although the aquifer has been adding water at the rate of only half a centimeter a ye

C Because of the region' s present climatic conditions, water is being added each year

D Even when the region experiences unfortunate climatic conditions, the rates of addit

question 4

In paragraph 3, why does the author provide the information that 40 percent of American

- A To suggest that crop cultivation is not the most important part of the economy of the
- B To indicate that not all economic activity in the High Plains is dependent on irrigation
- C To provide another example of how water from the Ogallala has transformed the econ
- D To contrast cattle-fattening practices in the High Plains with those used in other regi

question 5

According to paragraph 4, all of following are consequences of the heavy use of the Og

- A The recharge rate of the aquifer is decreasing.
- B Water tables in the region are becoming increasingly lower.
- C Wells now have to be dug to much greater depths than before.
- D Increasingly powerful pumps are needed to draw water from the aquifer.

question 6

According to paragraph 4, compared with all other states that use Ogallala water for ir

- A has the greatest amount of farmland being irrigated with Ogallala water
- B contains the largest amount of Ogallala water underneath the soil
- C is expected to face the worst water supply crisis as the Ogallala runs dry
- D uses the least amount of Ogallala water for its irrigation needs

question 7

Paragraph 5 mentions which of the following as a source of difficulty for some farmers

- A Crops that do not need much water are difficult to grow in the High Plains.

- B Farmers who grow crops that need a lot of water make higher profits.
- C Irrigating less frequently often leads to crop failure.
- D Few farmers are convinced that the aquifer will eventually run dry.

question 8

According to paragraph 6, what is the main disadvantage of the proposed plans to transfer water from the Ogallala aquifer to the Colorado River?

- A The rivers cannot supply sufficient water for the farmer's needs.
- B Increased irrigation costs would make the products too expensive.
- C The costs of using capillary water for irrigation will increase.
- D Farmers will be forced to switch to genetically engineered crops.

question 9

Look at the four squares [] that indicate where the following sentence could be added.

The vast grasslands of the High Plains in the central United States were settled by farmers in the late nineteenth century.

question 10

Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Select the THREE answer choices that most accurately and completely capture the main ideas and important details in the passage. Write the letters of your answers in the boxes provided.

- A. The use of the Ogallala for irrigation has allowed the High Plains to become one of the most productive agricultural regions in the United States.
- B. Given the aquifer's low recharge rate, its use for irrigation is causing water tables to drop, which threatens the long-term sustainability of the region's agriculture.
- C. Releasing capillary water and introducing drought-resistant crops are less-promising solutions to the water supply crisis than transferring water from the Ogallala aquifer to the Colorado River.
- D. The periodic deepening of wells and the use of more-powerful pumps would help irrigators access the Ogallala aquifer more effectively.
- E. In Texas, a great deal of attention is being paid to genetic engineering because it is the most promising solution to the water supply crisis.
- F. Several solutions to the upcoming water supply crisis have been proposed, but none have been widely adopted.

