

PROMPT: evaluate the extent to which migration transformed the western United States across a broad time period in the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

Migration from 1820 to 1898 influenced the western US greatly, by completing the goal of Manifest Destiny and leading to a large divide throughout the US. During this time, the US had a goal to stretch the country from "sea to shining sea" so that the nation extended from coast to coast. During this time there was also a debate over slavery and which states would be free states or slave states. There was also a formation of trusts and monopolies during this time, which controlled the prices created a large gap between economic classes. The goal of Manifest Destiny was completed during this time. Things such as The Louisiana Purchase, the Northwest Ordinance, and the Mexican-American war helped to complete this. All of these events led to the gaining of territory across the continent. This territory was later developed through the construction of railroads, telegraph lines, and things such as the Homestead Act, which gave people land in the west as long as they developed it within the next five years by building on it and farming on it. The formation of trust also led to a greater gap between the economic classes in America. People like Carnegie and Rockefeller held most of the money while charging farmers excessively high prices and choosing people they liked to charge less money to. This later led to revolts from farmers and the formation of the Populist party which advocated for the use of paper money and direct election of senators. Eventually, this led to a questioning of the Laissez-Faire economic system and encouraged the government to work to break up trusts and monopolies. It also led to an increased industrialization, and eventual urbanization of the US as a whole.

SCORE BREAKDOWN:

Thesis: 1

Contextualization: 1

Evidence: 1

Analysis and Reasoning: 1

Total Score: 4

A. Thesis/Claim (0–1 points): 1 The response earned 1 point for the thesis because the first paragraph establishes a historically defensible claim with a line of reasoning: "Migration from 1820 to 1898 influenced the western US greatly, by completing the goal of Manifest Destiny and leading to a large divide throughout the US." B. Contextualization (0–1 points): 1 The response earned 1 point for contextualization. The introductory paragraph of the response describes the debate over the expansion of slavery during the period. C. Evidence (0–2 points): 1 The response earned 1 point for using evidence relevant to the topic of the prompt. In the second paragraph the response describes territorial expansion and "the construction of railroads, telegraph lines." A second example of evidence is provided in the second and third paragraphs with descriptions of the Homestead Act and farming. Although the response contains at least two specific examples of evidence relevant to the prompt, they are not sufficiently used to support an argument in response to the prompt to earn the second point. For example, the

response discusses trusts and monopolies, but it does not make clear how these support an argument about the influence of migration on Manifest Destiny or economic division. D. Analysis and Reasoning (0–2 points): 1 The response earned 1 point for using historical reasoning. The response uses the historical reasoning skill of causation to structure an argument that addresses the prompt. The second paragraph successfully explains how the acquisition of territory led to developments and changes in the West. The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a complex understanding. The attempt in the concluding paragraph to connect the argument to a later time period is not sufficiently developed and falls short of using sophisticated argumentation relevant to the prompt.