American Society

Reading Guide Ch. 5 sec. 2 and 3 Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

p. 214 to 223

Section 2: Settling on the Great Plains p. 214 to 218

1. Why do you think the pace of settlement of North America accelerates over time?
2. How does the federal government encourage the railroads to expand their systems? Why is this expansion important for the nation’s growth?
3. How did the Homestead Act and similar programs encourage the settlement of western lands?
4. Why does the frontier make America unique according to Frederick Jackson?
5. How does the U.S. population shift after 1850?
6. On the prairie there are very few trees. How do those settlers adapt?
7. How do the new farm machines invented in the 1800’s change the nature of farming?
8. What was the purpose of the Morrill Act of 1862 and 1890? The Hatch Act of 1887?
9. How does the drought of the 1885 – 1890 help small farmers in competition with the bonanza farms?
10. How do railroads help, and hurt farmers in the late 1800’s?

***Section 3: Farmers and the Populist Movement p. 219 to 223***

1. How does the move from greenbacks to hard money prove to be a problem for farmers?
2. Why do farmers have such issues with debt and credit?
3. How do the Grange and Farmer’s Alliances help the farmers?
4. What does the Populism movement want to reform? Is it a successful political party?
5. What is the Panic of 1893?
6. What are silverites and gold bugs? What are the economic consequences of the two kinds of currency each supports?

Silverites support……

This would cause……

Gold bugs support…..

This would cause………

1. Who are the candidates in the election of 1896? Who does each candidate represent?

8. What happens to the Populist movement? Does it achieve its goals?