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| **Guided Reading Activity**  **Settling the West, 1865–1890**  **Lesson 2: *Farming the Plains***  **Review Questions: Identifying Supporting Details** **DIRECTIONS:** Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea. When there are multiple blank lines, fill in the first line then the second with the answers separated by a comma and a space. (Example: Great Plains, construction)  **A. Main Idea:** During the late 1800s, construction of the railroads encouraged settlement of the Great Plains. |

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| 1. **Detail:** The Great Plains were once called The Great American Desert because of the scarcity of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |

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| 2. **Detail:** The population of the Great Plains grew steadily after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |

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| 3. **Detail:** One important factor that spurred population was the construction of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |

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| 4. **Detail:** In the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , settlement increased because of the passage of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |

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| 5. **Detail:** The law entitled settlers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acres and title to the land after living there \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. |

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| **B. Main Idea:** New farming techniques and new inventions helped to make the Great Plains the Wheat Belt of the United States. |

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| 6. **Detail:** One new farming method of planting seeds deep in the ground was called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; farmers planted seeds deep in the soil where there was enough \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for growth. |

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| 7. **Detail:** Two inventions that made harvesting large wheat crops easier were the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

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| 8. **Detail:** The Wheat Belt included parts of the Dakotas and the states of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

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| 9. **Detail:** In the 1880s a severe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ destroyed much of the wheat crop and turned the soil to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

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| 10. **Detail:** However, by the 1890s wheat prices dropped because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

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| 11. **Detail:** In 1889, an event called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ opened one of the last large territories for settlement. |

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| **Summary and Reflection** **DIRECTIONS:** Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below. |

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| 12. What were the factors that contributed to the development of the Great Plains as a major agricultural region?  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Answer Key**

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| 1. wood, water |

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| 2. the Civil War |

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| 3. railroads |

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| 4. 1862, the Homestead Act |

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| 5. 160, 5 |

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| 6. dry farming, moisture |

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| 7. seed drill, threshing machine |

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| 8. Nebraska, Kansas |

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| 9. drought, dust |

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| 10. overproduction |

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| 11. Oklahoma Land Rush |

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| 12. Students’ answers will vary but they should mention some of the following factors: the free land provided to people willing to work the land; the decade of unusually frequent rain; the global demand for wheat; the Great Plains’ suitability for bonanza wheat farming; and the new farming technologies developed in the Great Plains. |