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.

A. Main Idea: During the late 1800s, construction of the railroads encouraged settlement of the Great Plains.

1. Detail: The Great Plains were once called The Great American Desert because of the scarcity of __________________ and __________________ .
2. Detail: The population of the Great Plains grew steadily after __________________ .
3. Detail: One important factor that spurred population was the construction of the __________________ .
4. Detail: In the year ________________, settlement increased because of the passage of ________________ .
5. Detail: The law entitled settlers to ________________ acres and title to the land after living there ________________ years.

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

1. 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.
2. Detail: Two inventions that made harvesting large wheat crops easier were the __________________ and __________________ .
4. Detail: In the 1880s a severe __________________ destroyed much of the wheat crop and turned the soil to __________________ .
5. Detail: However, by the 1890s wheat prices dropped because of __________________ .
6. Detail: In 1889, an event called the __________________ opened one of the last large territories for settlement.
Summary and Reflection
DIRECTIONS: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

What were the factors that contributed to the development of the Great Plains as a major agricultural region?

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