

# **SOCIAL STUDIES 1105**

## **A NATION DIVIDED AND UNITED**

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2016 Printing

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**Christian Light Publications, Inc.**

Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

Tel. 1-540-434-0768

Printed in USA

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## REGIONAL LIFE STYLES

God's design includes the differences in geography and natural resources of the world that contribute to the development of different life styles. God continues to show that we do not need to be the same to be loved by Him. When He is our Father, we are all brothers. You shall examine the prewar life styles of the three regions of the Northeast, the West, and the South.

**Life in the East.** The Northeast, dominated by the Appalachian highlands, has widely fluctuating temperatures between the winter and summer

months and a short **growing season**. In some areas the growing season is three months long. The high annual precipitation keeps the ground moist and the rivers high. The rough rocky mountains with rivers coursing down their sides provided the abundant power necessary to run the machinery in the new mills and factories of the budding Northeastern textile industry.

In 1850 more than half of the factories in the United States were located in the Northeast with two-thirds of the nation's production value centered in that region.

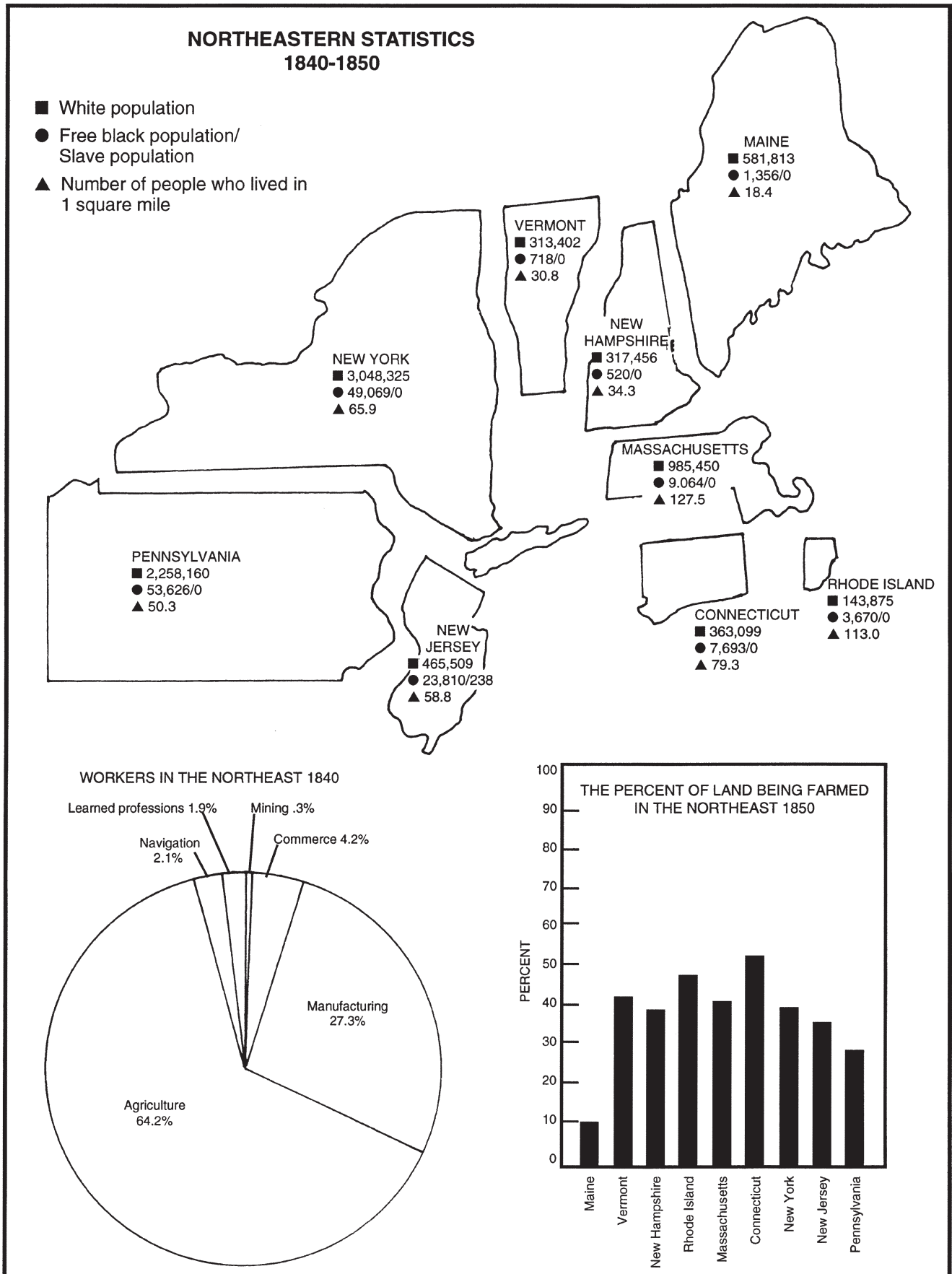


Because the growing season was short and the hard rocky ground kept agricultural production near the subsistence level, more people lived in the cities of the Northeast than in either the West or the South.

In the years preceding the war, a new wave of immigrants came to the United States, fleeing the potato famine of 1845 and 1846 in Ireland. A few of the immigrants remained in the Southern entry ports of Charleston and New Orleans. However, the majority swelled the numbers in the Northern cities where they found work in the factories. By 1857 the number of factory workers had risen to 1.2 million; and the industrial labor force, to almost 1 million people, working an average of sixty-eight to seventy-two hours a week.

**Immigration to the United States  
in the 1840s and 1850s.**

Country	Number
Belgium	20,000
England	420,000
France	180,000
Germany	1,500,000
Ireland	2,900,000
Italy	15,000
Netherlands	20,000
Poland	5,000
Scandinavia	30,000
Switzerland	30,000
Wales	15,000



From IDEA AND ACTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY, M. Brady & H. Brady. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

**Figure 1**

City workers developed machines and products to make their lives easier. Patented in 1844, Charles Goodyear's vulcanized rubber was used for boots and shoes; Elias Howe's sewing machine was patented in 1846; and the electric telegraph which increased intercontinental communications by 1862 was patented by Samuel Morse. These inventions are examples of some of the machines and products of the period.

The cities of the Northeast—Philadelphia, Trenton, New York, Buffalo, Hartford, Providence, and Boston—had cobblestone streets, gas lanterns posted on brick or flagstone sidewalks, and gutters that ran down the middle or sides of the streets carrying the sewage. The more enlightened cities had street cleaners, watchmen who handled thieves and looters, and chief engineers who coordinated the efforts of volunteer firemen. The shops of small **artisans**, merchants, cabinetmakers, silversmiths, candlemakers, blacksmiths, clockmakers, millners, printers, and grocers lined the streets. Horse-drawn carriages rumbled across the cobblestones while hawkers called out, selling water, milk, wood for fuel, fruit, and hot foods, such as boiled corn and gingerbread. Other peddlers bought rags, old metal, and rope.

Brick or board houses lined the streets of the

residential areas, and a few public and religious schools and academies were available for those who were able to pay tuition. Tenement houses became home for some factory workers; other factories provided small houses near the plant for their laborers.

Free black people and Indians lived in the cities of the North. They ran small businesses, were service workers in homes and inns, and worked in the factories like other common people of the time.

Wealthy merchants and industrial capitalists wielded vast political power because of their great wealth. The general public tended to agree with their political and industrial leaders whatever their own social or economic class.

The people of the Northeast during that period became more concerned about the needs of those around them. Most of the great reform movements flowered in this region of the country. The demand for public education, prison reform, assistance for the physically handicapped, care for the insane, women's rights, temperance, ideal societies, and **abolition** all found support in that region.

The Northeast favored governmental aid to business, the protective tariff, controlled bank credit, and federally financed transportation projects.



**Study the statistics of the Northeastern states (Figure 1) and complete the following activities.**

- 1.42 The most populous Northeastern state was a. \_\_\_\_\_ with a white population of b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.43 The least populated Northeastern state was a. \_\_\_\_\_ with a white population of b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.44 The most densely populated state was a. \_\_\_\_\_ with b. \_\_\_\_\_ people per square mile.
- 1.45 The state with the highest percentage of land being farmed was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.46 In Maine only \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of the land was used for farming.
- 1.47 Using the chart of the workers in the Northeast, write a paragraph about the types of workers and what per cent of the labor force they made up. You may select your own title.





**Match these items about immigrants coming to the United States. One answer will be used twice.**

- |      |       |         |    |           |
|------|-------|---------|----|-----------|
| 1.48 | _____ | Ireland | a. | 40,000    |
| 1.49 | _____ | Wales   | b. | 180,000   |
| 1.50 | _____ | Poland  | c. | 20,000    |
| 1.51 | _____ | France  | d. | 2,900,000 |
| 1.52 | _____ | Belgium | e. | 30,000    |
| 1.53 | _____ | England | f. | 15,000    |
| 1.54 | _____ | Italy   | g. | 420,000   |
|      |       |         | h. | 5,000     |



**Complete this map-study activity.**

- 1.55 Complete Map 4 at the end of the LIGHTUNIT by writing in the following places.

Charleston  
New Orleans  
Philadelphia

Trenton  
New York  
Hartford

Boston  
Providence  
Buffalo



**Life in the West.** In 1860 the West covered three vast natural regions. The first of these natural regions ran from the interior plains of Ohio and Indiana west to Iowa and north to Wisconsin and Minnesota. The second region included the Pacific coast states of California and Oregon. The third natural region included the unorganized area gained during the Mexican War and the Rocky Mountain region.

The interior plains are the home of the great rivers and lakes of the United States. The mighty Mississippi River (originating at Lake Itasca in Minnesota), the Missouri River, the Ohio River, and the land surrounding them form the great **drainage basin** that ends at New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. The rich fertile soil of this region, with a growing season of five to seven months, and the flat terrain, encouraged the development of large family-type farms. These farms were generally cultivated using new farm machinery and equipment. The use of the efficient McCormick reaper, patented in 1824 by Cyrus McCormick, was one of the reasons why Western farmers did not need to rely on a large number of people for human labor. Because the new threshers, rakes, and seed drills were made of iron and later steel, the demand for these products in the West caused the iron industry in the East to expand.

The Western farm family, with the help of a few hired hands during harvest, produced a surplus crop of corn, rye, wheat, oats, beans,

and potatoes and developed a lively trade with the Eastern industrial region.

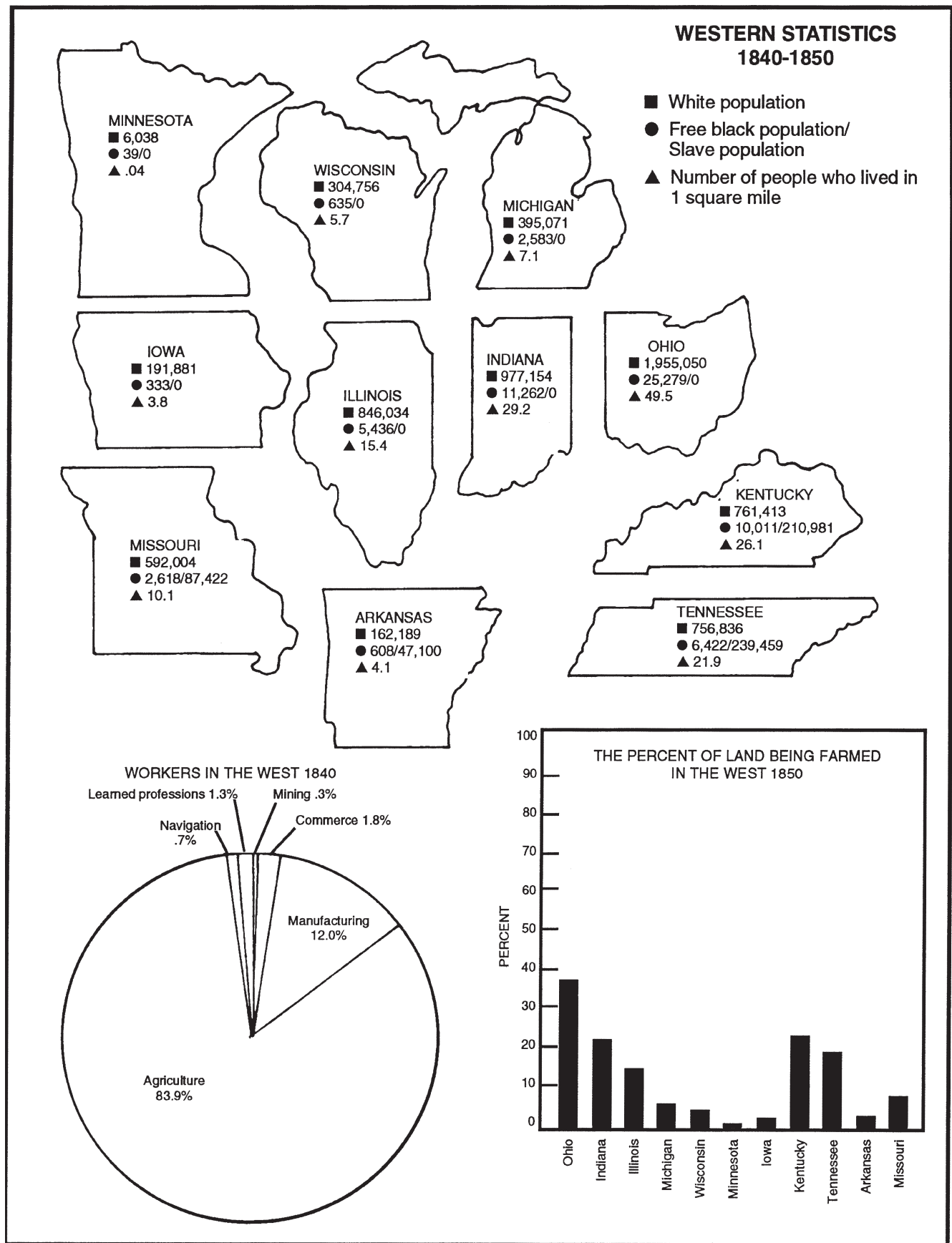
Farther north, where the growing season is much shorter, and in the southwest part of this region, where the precipitation is much lower, large herds of cattle or sheep were raised.

The temperature of the interior-plains region fluctuates greatly, between winter and summer. The winters are extremely cold, as low as twenty-three degrees below zero in some places, and the summer temperatures can soar as high as 100 to 105 degrees during the summer. The vast, flat area of the plain is subject to arctic breezes, and during the late summer months, endures wind from the south that sometimes ends in tornadoes.

Houses in the West were often log cabins built from the trees that were felled to clear the land for farming. On the open prairie where no trees grew, houses were made of **sod** until boards could be transported from the East. Tents and wagons served as temporary homes for the settlers that trekked across the Rockies to Oregon or California.

The coastal and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges in California and the Cascade range in Oregon surround a central valley that is fertile and well-protected from ocean winds. The climate in the central valley of California is mild; temperatures do not vary greatly between summer and winter months.





From IDEA AND ACTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY, M. Brady & H. Brady. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

Figure 2

The mountains of California and the Rocky Mountain territories yielded precious metals that attracted miners and other adventurers to this area. In the dry intermountain region the newcomers met an already flourishing culture and adopted the dry farming methods of the Indians and Mexicans of this area.

Many people traveled to the Far West by stagecoach. They boarded the stage in St. Louis and rode three weeks across Texas, New Mexico, and the Arizona Territory to California. In 1861 travelers on the Overland Trail caught fleeting glimpses of the riders on the pony express as they whizzed by.

Many immigrants found their way to the West where land was cheap, and in some places immigrants formed the majority of the people in the area. The West attracted people who were adventurous and saw that area as a land of opportunity. There they did not encounter the rigid class distinctions of the East and the South, and practically all white men owned property and were able to vote. Westerners became proud of the fact that no permanent class of laborers existed and that each man had the opportunity of advancing to property ownership.

The cities of the West were the fastest growing cities in the nation. In 1850 the population of Chicago stood at thirty thousand people, and in less than six years that number had almost tripled. Located at the tip of Lake Michigan, Chicago became the nation's largest

railroad center. Ultimately, it became the trade center of the West, with easy access to the Mississippi, the port of New Orleans, and across the Great Lakes route through the Erie Canal to the East coast.

In Ohio many farmers raised large herds of swine, and in the cities pigs ran through the streets as scavengers of the sewage. Soon Cincinnati became known as the nation's pork-packing center.

On the outer fringes of the West the people clustered around forts. At first the forts served as protection from the Indians; and then, as the Indians were forcibly removed to reservations, the forts became the social and trade centers of the area. The frontier had receded from the Atlantic coast in the 1600's to the prairies and the intermountain region by 1850.

The people of the West wanted internal improvements financed by the federal government, cheap or free public land, and easy bank credit. The West drew closer to the East as transportation lines to the East coast made trade with this region accessible and profitable.

Small numbers of free black people lived in the Northwest and Far West, riding the ranges, prospecting for minerals, and leading settlers across the Western trails to the Pacific coast. The people of the West opposed slavery; some, because they did not want to compete with slave labor in the territories; others, because they saw slavery as a demeaning system harmful to the master as well as the slave.



**Write the letter for the correct answer on the line.**

- 1.56 The Mississippi River begins at Lake \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Erie c. Itasca  
b. Superior d. Winnibigoshish
- 1.57 The growing season in the interior plains lasts from \_\_\_\_\_ months.  
a. five to seven c. four to six  
b. five to six d. three to five
- 1.58 The reaper was invented by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Cyrus Field c. James Howe  
b. Eli Whitney d. Cyrus McCormick
- 1.59 At first, homes on the open prairies were built out of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. logs c. sod  
b. boards d. bricks
- 1.60 A fertile central valley is located in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. California c. Utah  
b. Arizona d. Washington