

Ch. 2.1: Guiding Questions; pg. 80-87

Directions: While reading the text, answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. You do not need to write in complete sentences.

1. What does the term “Manifest Destiny” mean?
2. How could Manifest Destiny cause people to want to move west?
3. Texas was part of Mexico when Americans settled there. What did they do after settling there?
4. What did the citizens of Texas hope to achieve after gaining their independence? What stood in their way?
5. What happened when Polk became president?
6. Why did the US go to war with Mexico? How did President Polk hope to avoid this war?
7. When did the Mexican-American War begin?
8. What treaty ended this war? What did the US receive as a result?
9. Define popular sovereignty.
10. Why were the Northern and Southern states fearful of popular sovereignty?
11. What significant event happened in January, 1848? How could this completely change our country?
12. What did the Fugitive Slave Act do? Which side would favor this?
13. What did the Underground Railroad do to help slaves hoping to escape?
14. What famous book did Harriett Beecher Stowe write? Why is this significant?
15. In order to complete the Transcontinental Railroad, the middle territory had to be settled into states. What did Congress have to do to get this accomplished?

16. Why did so many people rush into Kansas after Congress passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act?
17. Explain "Bleeding Kansas."
18. What Act repealed the Missouri Compromise?
19. What was the goal of the newly-formed Republican Party in 1856?
20. How would you describe the "Know-Nothing Party" of 1854?
21. Explain the Dred Scott case.
22. Was John Brown in favor of, or against slavery? How do you know this?
23. List the four candidates for president in 1860.
24. What does "A house divided against itself cannot stand" mean?
25. Why did Lincoln's election trigger the secession of the Southern states?