

★ **Guided Reading Activity 11-2**

**DIRECTIONS: Outlining** Read the section and complete the outline below. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

**I. The Beginnings of Settlement**

- A. The Great Plains region extends westward to the \_\_\_\_\_ from around the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian, an imaginary line running north and south from the central \_\_\_\_\_ through western \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. For centuries this open country had been home to vast herds of \_\_\_\_\_ that grazed on the prairie grasses.
- C. The government supported settlement in the Great Plains region by passing the \_\_\_\_\_ in 1862.
- D. A homesteader could claim up to \_\_\_\_\_ acres of public land and could receive \_\_\_\_\_ to that land after living there for five years.
- E. Most of the Plains settlers built their first homes out of \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. The Wheat Belt**

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ was a method of planting seeds deep in the ground where there was enough moisture for them to grow.
- B. Many \_\_\_\_\_ eventually lost their homesteads because of drought, wind erosion, and the overuse of the land.
- C. Large landholders invested in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which made it easier to harvest a large crop.
- D. The Wheat Belt encompassed much of the \_\_\_\_\_ and parts of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. \_\_\_\_\_ covered up to 50,000 acres and yielded big profits.
- F. In the 1890s, a glut of wheat on the world market caused prices to drop, and some farmers tried to make it through lean periods by \_\_\_\_\_ their land.
- G. In 1890, the Census Bureau reported that \_\_\_\_\_.
- H. Some people believed that the existence of unoccupied land at the frontier had provided a \_\_\_\_\_, the idea that Americans could always make a fresh start.