

## Chapter Eight Vocabulary Terms

Prairie – an area of flat or rolling land covered mostly by grasses and wildflowers

Drought – a time of little or no rain

Blizzard – a snowstorm driven by strong, freezing winds

Hailstorm – a storm that drops hail, or lumps of ice

Tornado – a funnel-shaped, spinning windstorm, sometimes called a cyclone or twister

Pictograph – a graph that uses symbols to stand for numbers

Sod – a layer of soil held together by the roots of grasses

Self-sufficient – being able to do almost everything for yourself, with no help from other people

Fertilizer – matter added to the soil to help crops grow

Urbanization – the spread of city life

Sequence – the order in which one thing comes after another

Entrepreneur – a person who sets up a new business

Free enterprise – a kind of economy in which people own and run their own businesses with only limited control by the government

Demand – a desire for a good or service by people who are willing to pay for it

Supply – a good or service that a business offers for sale

Meat packing – the preparing of meat for market

Route – a path from one place to another

Interstate highway – a divided highway that goes through more than one state and connects large cities

Toll road – a road that drivers must pay to use

# Chasing a Storm

Scientists who study tornadoes are sometimes called *storm chasers*. The story below is based on a magazine article about storm chasers.

## Analyze a Magazine Story

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage below. Then answer the questions that follow.

As we drove within 10 miles of the storm, we saw the long, dark cloud base. Within minutes we spotted a twister shaped like an elephant's trunk. It hung from the rear of the main cloud tower.

Usually twisters move forward across the land at a speed of about 30 miles per hour and last only a few minutes. But in those few minutes a twister can destroy everything in a path 150 feet wide. Some twisters, however, can be more than a mile wide, move at speeds of 60 miles per hour, and last for more than an hour.

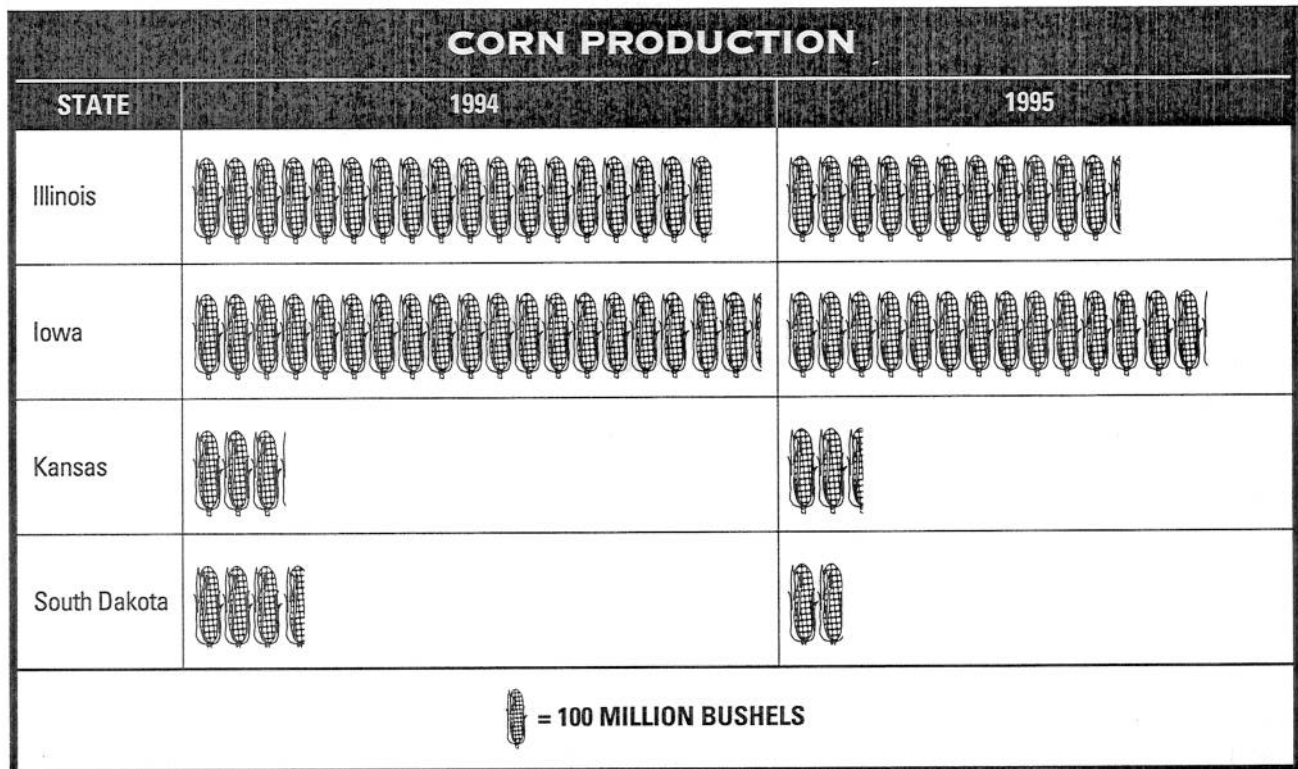
Low on gas, we raced ahead of the twister as it moved directly at us. After a while, we stopped to watch the tornado. It had been on the ground for at least 14 miles. We saw it pass south of us and disappear into the darkness.

1. What is another name for a tornado? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did the writer describe the shape of the tornado? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a picture of the description given in the first paragraph.
4. How wide is the damage path of most tornadoes? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Imagine that you are a storm chaser. On a separate sheet of paper, write a note to a friend telling what it is like to see a tornado up close.

# HOW TO READ Pictographs

*Apply Chart and Graph Skills*

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the information in the pictograph to answer the questions below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.



1. Which state in the pictograph produced the most corn in 1994 and 1995?
2. How much more corn did Illinois produce in 1994 than in 1995?
3. Which state in the pictograph produced the least corn in 1994? in 1995?
4. Which state's corn production dropped the least from 1994 to 1995?
5. Which of the two years shown in the pictograph had higher levels of corn production?
6. What do you think might have been responsible for the smaller corn crops of 1995?



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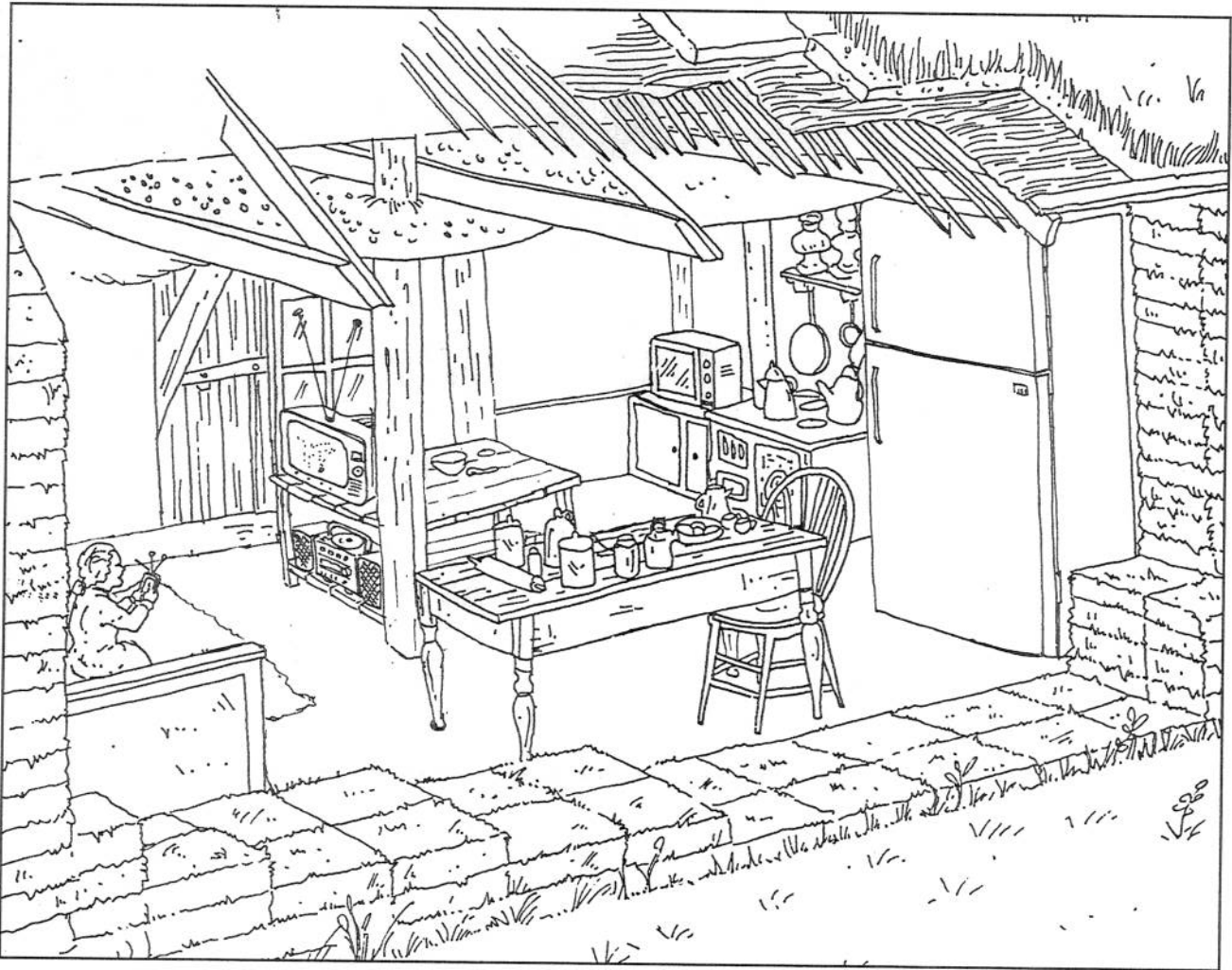
# Lesson 1 Quiz

1. What is a prairie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the main difference between the Central Plains and the Great Plains? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is corn important to the central plains? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Define drought. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why is more wheat than corn grown on the Great Plains?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What is a blizzard? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is a hailstorm? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Define tornado. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why can storms be especially bad for farmers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Life in a Soddy

*Identify Items from Different Time Periods*

**DIRECTIONS:** Use what you know about life in a sod house in 1875, as well as your own common sense, to decide which items do not belong in the picture. Circle the things that are out of place. Then, on the lines below, tell which circled item you would find it most difficult to live without. Explain your answer.



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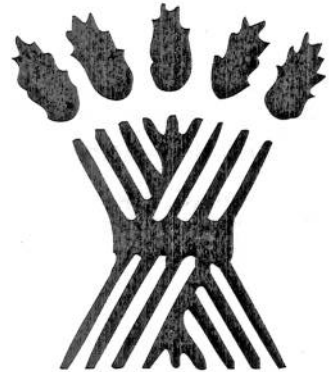
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## Lesson 2 Notes

1. What is sod? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did settlers on the Great Plains have to learn new ways of building? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does it mean to be self-sufficient? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did pioneer families need to be self-sufficient? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did new farm machines and improved plows change farming? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Define fertilizer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is urbanization? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How has the number of people who earn their living on farms changed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What changes might you face if you moved to a new region? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HOW TO IDENTIFY TIME PATTERNS

The list below shows some important tasks that a wheat farmer might do to try to ensure a successful crop. The tasks are listed in the order in which the farmer performs them.



*Apply Critical Thinking Skills*

**DIRECTIONS:** Write a short article describing the steps wheat farmers might follow. Use words like first, second, then, and finally to describe the order of steps in a farmer's work.

## Tasks of a Wheat Farmer

1. Plowing
2. Planting the seeds
3. Cultivating (breaking up the soil around new plants to allow the roots to get air and water)
4. Weeding (removing weeds by hand, by machine, or with chemicals)
5. Fertilizing
6. Irrigating (adding water to dry soil)
7. Reaping (harvesting the ripe grain)
8. Threshing (separating the grain from the rest of the plant)

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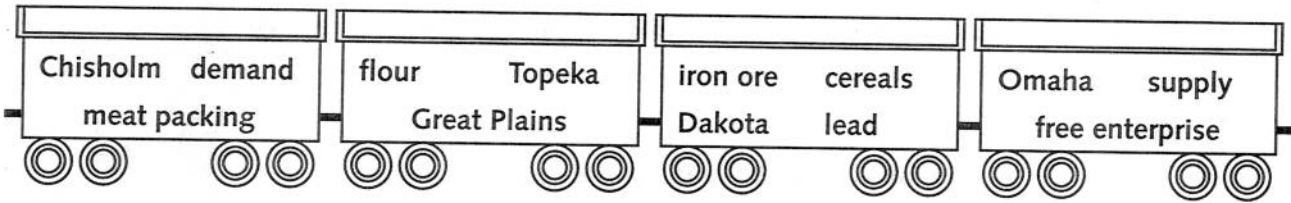
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**DIRECTIONS:** Exchange your article with a classmate. Circle all the words in your classmate's article that show time patterns.

# THE RAILROAD

*Recall Facts*

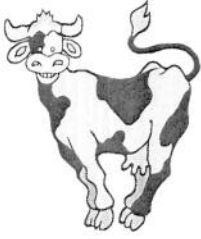
**DIRECTIONS:** Supply the word or words each sentence needs.  
**Hint:** Unload the words you need from the railroad cars.



1. On the \_\_\_\_\_, railroad tracks usually followed rivers because the steam engines that pulled the trains needed water. Cities that grew along these railroad tracks include \_\_\_\_\_, Nebraska, and \_\_\_\_\_, Kansas.
2. The most famous cattle trail was called the \_\_\_\_\_ Trail.
3. The raising of cattle has made \_\_\_\_\_ a leading business in several states in the Middle West.
4. Minnesota has one of the largest \_\_\_\_\_ deposits in the world, South \_\_\_\_\_ has the largest gold mine in the country, and Missouri is a leading producer of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. To save shipping costs, \_\_\_\_\_ mills are located in several cities in the Middle West. In other cities workers use corn and wheat to make \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The United States has a \_\_\_\_\_ economy, in which the \_\_\_\_\_ of goods and services usually rises when the \_\_\_\_\_ is great.

Harcourt Brace School Publishers





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 3 Notes

1. How did trains link farms and cities? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How did railroads help the cattle industry? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is an entrepreneur? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is a free enterprise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Define demand. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Tell me what a supply is. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. In a free enterprise economy, who makes most of the decisions about a business? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is meat packing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why are certain businesses likely to be in cities in the Middle West? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

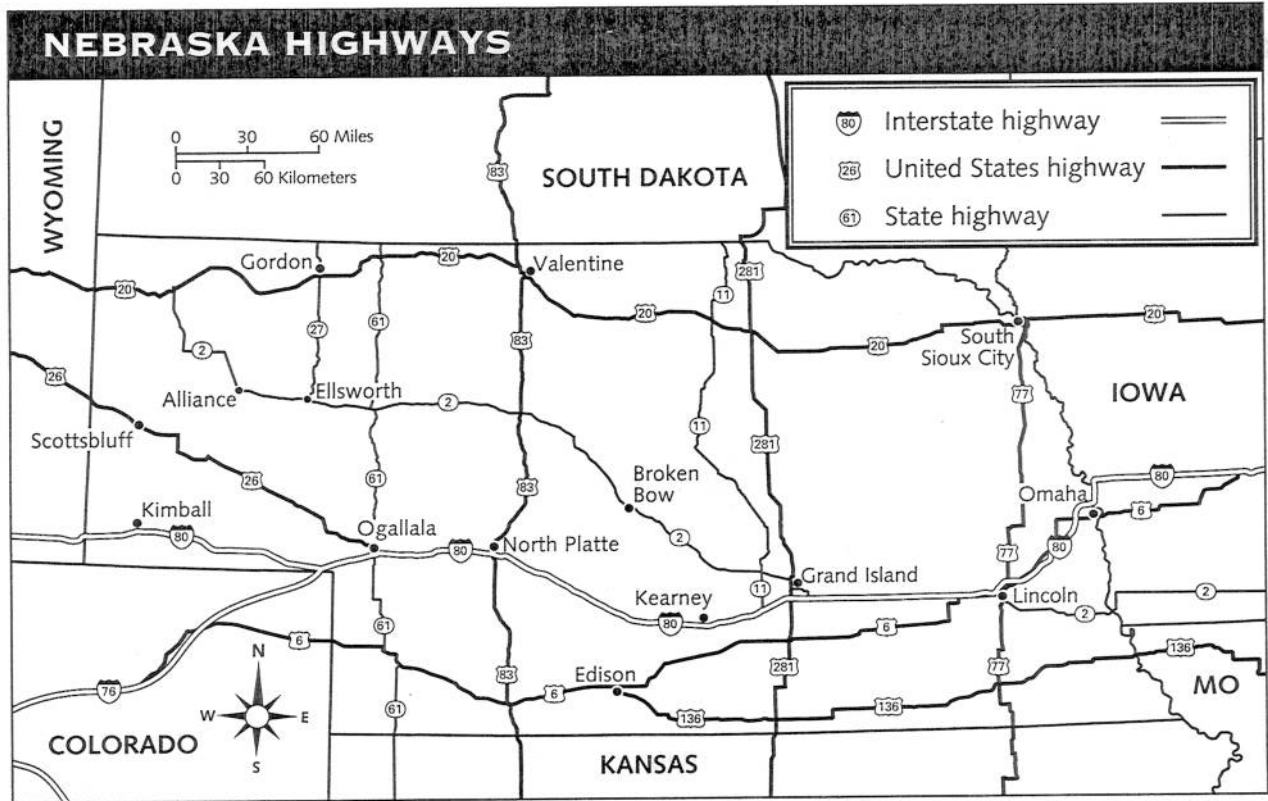
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# HOW TO FOLLOW ROUTES on a ROAD MAP



Apply Map and Globe Skills

**DIRECTIONS:** Use this road map of Nebraska to describe the route outlined below.



Describe the best route that would . . .

- begin in Alliance and follow a state highway to Grand Island for the Husker Harvest Days celebration.

\_\_\_\_\_

- take you from Grand Island to the National Roller Skating Museum in Lincoln.

\_\_\_\_\_

- take you from Lincoln to South Sioux City.

\_\_\_\_\_