

# Chapter Eight

## Social Studies Study Guide

### Vocabulary:

*Erosion:* The process of wearing away soil and rock

*Natural gas:* A fossil fuel

*Refinery:* A factory that separates crude oil into different groups of chemicals

*Homestead:* Land given to settlers by the United States government if they lived and raised crops on it

*Meat-packing:* An industry that processes animals for food

*Metropolitan area:* A large city and its surrounding area

### Key Points:

#### ◆ *Southwestern Land and Water:*

- The four states in the Southwest region are Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona.
- Water is scarce in the Sonoran Desert, so you are most likely to find plants like cactus that survive on less water.
- Texas produces more oil and natural gas than any other state in the United States.
- The Grand Canyon was mostly formed by erosion from the rushing water of the Colorado River.

#### ◆ *Climate of the Southwest:*

- As elevation increases, the temperature tends to decrease.
- More tornadoes occur in Texas than in any other state in the nation.

#### ◆ *The Southwest's Past:*

- The Navajo were forced to walk about 300 miles during the winter months in the 1800s. This difficult journey was called "The Long Walk."
- The largest reservation was the Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma.
- Ancient Puebloans built cliff dwellings, or homes in the cliffs, in present-day New Mexico and Arizona.
- Native Americans who received food and protection at Spanish missions were expected to work and become Christians in exchange.
- Spanish explorers sent to the Southwest region were looking for cities of gold.

#### ◆ *Growth of the Southwest:*

- Married men saw opportunity in moving to Texas in the early 1800s because they were promised more than 4,000 acres of land.

- Oil was discovered at Spindletop in 1901. As a result, land went from \$150 to \$50,000 for one lot.
- The annexation of Texas to the United States led the United States into the Mexican-American War.
- As more railroad lines were laid in the southwest, cattle drives became unnecessary.
- ◆ *Life in a Dry Land:*
  - Ground water is water that is underground. Ground water resources are called aquifers.