Three Truths and a Lie 1

1. The Homestead Act
2. Was passed in 1862
3. Gave away 160 acres of land
4. Required you to live on the land for at least five years
5. Required you to plant 40 acres with trees
6. The Plains Indians:
7. Thought of the land as like their mother
8. Lived in tipis
9. Thought the oval shape was sacred
10. Abandoned their old people to die
11. Cattle ranching moved to the Plains because:
12. The railroad meant they could easily get their cattle to market
13. Florida was getting a bit overcrowded
14. The cold Plains weather killed Texas fever ticks
15. The end of the Civil War meant there wasn’t enough grazing land for the cattle
16. The Open Range ended because:
17. There was a particularly cold winter, 1880-81
18. Demand for beef fell in the east and from the government
19. The price of beef fell so ranchers kept their cattle on the Plains instead of slaughtering them
20. There was a very hot and dry summer in 1883
21. Policing the West:
22. The Pinkerton Detective Agency were employed by the government to protect important trains
23. Texas Rangers were a small local army who policed Texas
24. Sheriffs were elected locally and held office for two years
25. US Marshals were appointed by the President to oversee the whole of one state
26. Early settlers went west:
27. Because the newly invented Prairie Schooner wagon made it easier
28. Because Mountain Men said how good the land was
29. Because economic problems in the East meant they had nothing to stay there for
30. In 1842 the government passed a pre-emption bill which allowed people to buy land in Oregon very cheaply
31. Things that helped farmers on the Great Plains:
32. Barbed wire, invented in 1864 by Joseph Glidden
33. The sod buster, invented by John Deere
34. Dry farming, that involved ploughing rainfall or snowfall into the ground
35. Self-governing windmills, invented by Daniel Halliday in 1874
36. Plains Indians vs American government:
37. Little Crow’s War was fought 1861-62
38. Two Fort Laramie treaties were signed and broken
39. News of the loss of the Battle of the Little Bighorn reached the East Coast on 4th July 1776
40. Crazy Horse finally surrendered almost a year after he won the Battle of Little Bighorn
41. People moved to the Plains because:
42. The government gave away free land under the Homestead Act, the Timber Culture Act and the Desert Land Act
43. The transcontinental railroad made it easier and sold off land cheaply
44. They didn’t want to attend any more period 6s
45. Manifest Destiny
46. Mining towns and cow towns had law and order problems because:
47. There wasn’t a steady and effective police force
48. There weren’t many women to act as a stabilising influence
49. Money was spent on booze, women and gambling which caused crime
50. There was a transient population – lots of people showed up only once or twice a year and had all their wages to spend.