



The Homestead Act Primary Source Questions – Teacher Answer Key

1. Which United States citizens does the Homestead Act exclude from benefitting from the act? How do these exclusions apply to those who were fighting in the Civil War?
 - Those who have taken up arms against the United States government are prevented from benefitting from the Homestead Act. Therefore, any man fighting for the Confederacy or aiding those in the Confederacy, thereby going against the U.S. government could not benefit from the act.
2. How did the Homestead Act protect children under the age of 21 whose parents died?
 - The land owned by the children's parents could be sold by the children's guardian for the benefit of the children.
3. How did the Homestead Act provide for those who fought in the War but who were under the age of 21?
 - If a man had served for the United States Army or Navy for over 14 days, regardless of his age, he could benefit from the Homestead Act.