Appendix L
Study Guide: An Era of New Beginnings

Winslow Homer

Winslow Homer was known as a genre painter. Born and bred in Boston, he was described as a "self-contained and practical New Englander." It was in Boston that Homer made his reputation as a lithographer and illustrator. In 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War, he was sent to the battlefront as a correspondent for Harper's Weekly. By 1876 he had given up illustration to devote himself completely to painting. In his later years, Homer became, by choice, a virtual recluse; and he remained so to his death in 1910. Aside from his family, he accepted few visitors during these last years. Trying to discourage a friend from paying a call, he wrote, "I do not keep a horse and my nearest neighbor is half mile away—I am four miles from telegram and P.O. and under a bank of snow most of the time..." It was in this quiet environment that Homer thrived. Like the Hudson River painters, he endeavored to capture nature on canvas. Unlike these earlier artists, however, he viewed nature realistically rather than poetically. His scenes were not of nature's tranquil rivers and forests but of its fierce storms and struggles. Despite a lack of "poetry" in his work, however, Homer's powerful watercolors, especially those of the sea, are unequaled in American painting.

Introduction/Signs of New Beginnings

(pp. 336-37)

1. The birth of modern thought which occurred during the half century following the _________________, was a time in which both the standard of living and _________________ values changed drastically.

2. This period, which lasted from the year _________________ to the beginning of _________________ in _________________, was the period in which _________________ and _________________ appeared on the literary scene.

3. Among the changes that had taken place by 1890 were the disappearance of the American _________________ due to the growing population of the West, the disappearance of _________________ as a result of the railroad's emergence, and the disappearance of the _________________, which had been massively slaughtered.

4. The white man's conquest of the West was finally complete when the remaining rebels of the _________________ tribe were killed at the Battle of _________________ in _________________.

5. The _________________ brothers ushered in the era of air travel with their first flight in the year _________________ in _________________, North Carolina.

6. The other mode of transportation which helped to usher in the modern age was the _________________.

7. Some of the difficulties that faced the nation were the period of _________________ that followed the war and the financial and political scandals such as the one involving _________________.

8. Other difficulties were a destructive fire in _________________, extensive corruption in the construction of the _________________, a financial crisis which led to a _________________, and a series of railroad strikes.
New Forces Changing American Society  
(pp. 337-41)

1. The two major forces of change in American society during this period were the country’s rapid ___________________ and ___________________ theory of ___________________.

2. During this period America changed from an ___________________ society to one of the most highly industrialized in the world, and the ___________________ life of the nation was affected as many people accepted Darwin’s theory.

3. Industrialism grew rapidly with the demand for products from the Northern factories during the ___________________, the development of new ___________________ which made the production of goods easier and less costly, and the lowering of prices even more through ___________________.

4. The clothing industry prospered after ___________________ obtained the rights to make the ___________________, a device which produced ___________________ among the American people.

5. The growth of industrialism was aided by America’s natural resources, especially ___________________ and ___________________, and the expanding supply of ___________________ available in the rapidly growing cities.

6. Many families who possessed the pioneering spirit moved to the West after the war and some became successful in ___________________ and ___________________, or, as in the case of Armour and Swift, in the ___________________ industry.

7. Many other people, however, such as farmers who were discouraged by adverse conditions, moved to the growing cities where they were eventually joined by millions of ___________________ and ___________________. Nearly ___________________ per cent of all Americans lived in cities by the end of the nineteenth century.

8. Three of the leading businessmen who provided leadership during this period were ___________________ in the steel industry, ___________________ in the oil refining business, and ___________________ in the ___________________ industry.

9. In spite of the presence of the unscrupulous ___________________, who became rulers of huge business empires by dishonest means, the American businessmen assumed the role of leadership. ___________________, a Unitarian minister, wrote many novels in which he described the success of poor boys who had achieved greatness and thus popularized the idea of the ___________________, an idea considered shallow by later writers.

10. Although many people did become wealthy during this period, the industrialized society did succumb to severe ___________________. As a result, labor organizations such as the ___________________ and the ___________________ and the ___________________, an organization for farmers, came into being.

11. Although evolutionary theory was not new, Darwinism supposedly added ___________________ proof to the theory. Darwin argued that one ___________________ can develop into another and that survival is a result of the process of ___________________. Darwin, who had only hinted at man’s evolution in ___________________, proposed in his later book, ___________________, that man had also evolved.
12. By readily accepting Darwin’s theory as fact, scientists disregarded the principle of ________, which demands that a scientist ____________ and ____________ a theory before accepting it. Instead, Darwin’s view was widely accepted in many disciplines, and even ____________, the father of ____________, wanted to dedicate *Das Kapital* to him.

13. The most devastating aspect of Darwinism, however, was its destructive effect on Americans’ faith in ____________ and the ____________ as it forced people to decide between contradictory explanations of the ____________ of life.