Civil War Video Questions

1. Why did U.S. leaders want to build the Erie Canal? How did the canal change the U.S.?
   They wanted to build it for transporting goods and making more money. It changed the U.S. by increasing trading productivity, increasing money, and increasing farm land. It made the U.S. like 3 times richer and the word, “millionaire” was invented.

2. Some historians refer to the increase in highways and roads in the U.S. during the 19th century as a “transportation revolution.” How did the addition of many more roads and highways affect the U.S.?
   It allowed more access to different areas using horse, wagons, etc that needed land to travel with. Making it easier to trade within different cities/towns that wasn’t near a canal, river, or any type of water that could use transportation.

3. When was the Fugitive Slave Act passed, and what were the consequences of this law?
   In 1783 the Fugitive Slave Act was passed, but in 1850, it was abolished. It turned everybody in the city into a slave catcher. If called on by authorities, it was required and if not done, you could face the same penalty as a slave did. It made civilians feared too.

4. In this episode, a commentator says that the Civil War played a role in advancing U.S. industrial progress. Can you give an example that proves this argument?
   During the Civil War, the production of cotton was up so high. They had farms everywhere, and still needed to increase productivity. So they built machines that could turn fresh cotton into clean cotton that they could start using to make clothes. The more machines they built, they more money they would make.

5. Define the word “inevitable” – what does this word mean? Do you think the Civil War was inevitable?
   Inevitable means that a situation was unavoidable. I think the Civil war wasn’t inevitable because if the northern and southern states could agree on no slavery, there wouldn’t be slavery.