Buffalo Days

1. Do you think Mooar found himself participating in a historically significant movement? Why?

Yes, I believe that Mooar found himself in a historically significant movement. Mooar includes how many people ended up leaving to find another job when the buffalo started becoming uncommon to find. Plus, there was a sliver of text where Mooar describes buffalo hunting as eventful.

1. What hint does Mooar leave to show that buffalo hunting was becoming an economic activity?

The hints that Mooar leaves about buffalo hunting becoming an economic activity can be found throughout the piece. Mooar hints that buffalo hunting is becoming huge by telling how much buffalo carcasses he has to go through to fulfil his duty. Mooar saying how many are leaving because of the lack of buffalo also implies that it was an economic activity at one point. Also, Mooar leaves another hint that buffalo hunting is becoming a trend by describing a gun as if it was made to hunt down buffalo.

1. Mooar mentions dates from the middle to late 1800s. Name one event around the time and explain why that event increased the tensions between the Indians and Americans.

One event that occurred in the middle 1800s was the Sand Creek Massacre. This rose tensions between the Indians and Americans since it was an attack on a peaceful Indian settlement led by a U.S. army who did not take surrenders. The fact that the settlement was supposedly promised immunity to attacks from Americans only makes the tensions grow more.

1. Explain at least two reasons for the sudden population decrease of the buffalo.

There were many reasons for the decrease of buffalo. Killing them was a culture and was probably a pastime when waiting for the long hours in the train. Another reason was that the Americans were extremely wasteful with their hunting. It was not rare for many people to kill buffalo for what they only wanted. If a man killed a buffalo only for its hide, he would skin the buffalo and leave the rest of the body to rot on the ground.

1. Why was the Dawes Severalty Act considered a win-win situation for the Americans?

The Dawes Severalty Act was considered a win-win situation for the Americans because of how unfair it was for Indians. The act was made in order to force assimilation towards the Indians. If they resisted and left (which they did), the land they left behind was used for the Americans to take up for living spaces. Those who decided to assimilate were often left poor and forced to move on since they were forced to take up farming which was unfair due to the poor soil in the Plains. Another damaging factor was that they have no experience with money whatsoever.