

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"Swarms of Terror"

1. Describe the purpose of the introduction—the article's opening section. (text structure)
2. In the section "Whir, Click, Buzz," many paragraphs are very short—some are only one sentence long. Why might the author have chosen to use such short paragraphs here? (author's craft)
3. Why did the locust swarms lead to ruin for many families? (key idea)
4. How does Tarshis characterize pioneer life in the American West? (key ideas and details)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Critical-Thinking Questions

"Swarms of Terror" and "Growing Up on a Farm"

1. What is the purpose of "Growing Up on a Farm"? How is it similar to or different from the purpose of "Swarms of Terror"?
2. The introduction to the essay explains that farmers make up a far smaller percentage of the labor force today than they did in 1870. Why do you think this is?
3. What are the rewards and challenges of being a farmer? Base your answer on information in the article, the essay, and your own ideas.