

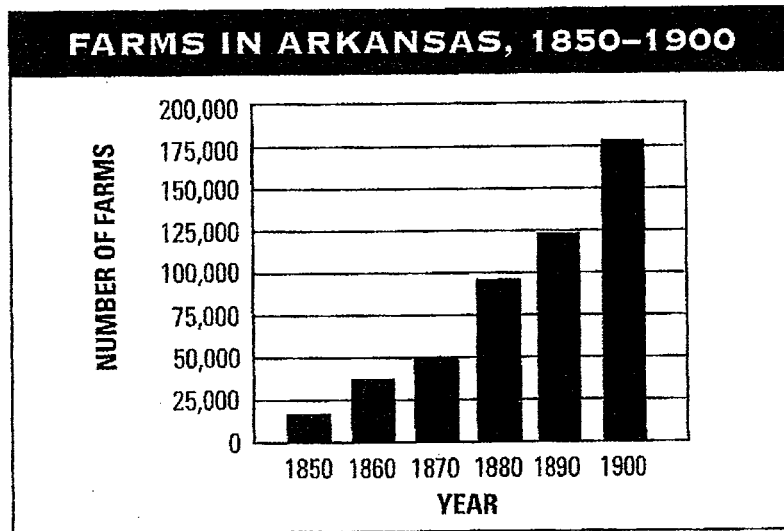
Parham-AMI # 30

EARLY FARMS IN ARKANSAS

DIRECTIONS: Read the paragraphs below, and study the bar graph. Then use the graph to answer the questions.

Life for the early farmers of Arkansas was not easy. They worked long hours and raised just enough food to feed their families. Until the 1830s farmers did not grow much of a **surplus**, or extra amount, of crops. Therefore, they made little money from their hard work.

Then several things happened to change the lives of farmers. Inventors came up with new ways to harvest crops. Often these new ways meant using new machines to do work more quickly. Farmers also learned how to add chemicals to the soil to make crops grow better. Farmers were able to produce much more than ever before. This meant that the farmers could raise crops to sell and make money. Because of these changes, more Arkansans began farming. The number of farms in the state rose greatly.



1. In 1850 about how many farms were there in Arkansas? _____
2. In 1890 about how many farms were there in Arkansas? _____
3. About how many more farms were there in 1890 than in 1850? _____
4. In which ten-year period did the number of farms increase the most? _____

5. Did the number of farms increase more between the years 1860 and 1870 or between the years 1870 and 1880? _____