THE FARMERS

Game Rules

1. The class will be divided into two teams that will score points by filling in answers on the puzzle on page 3.

2. Play begins when Team 1 reads the first sentence below and tries to identify the missing word, name, or term. Notice that “35 down” is in parentheses following the blank space. A look at “35 down” on the puzzle tells you that the answer has 4 letters. If Team 1 can give the correct answer, it scores 40 points — 10 for each letter. Team 2 would then take sentence 2 below (“16 down” on the puzzle). If Team 1 had failed to give the right answer, then Team 2 would try to identify the missing word, name, or term in sentence 1. If Team 2 knows the answer, it gets the 40 points. The game would then continue with Team 1 taking sentence 2 below.

3. If both teams fail to give the correct answer, then the teacher will announce it.

4. When a team gives the correct word, name, or term, it always scores 10 points for each letter in the answer. As correct answers are given, write them in the spaces below and also on the crossword puzzle.

Farms Before the Civil War

(1) Cotton and other ______________________ (35 down) crops were grown on Southern plantations.
(2) Most American farms of the early 1800s were ______________________ (16 down).
(3) A farmer and his family usually did all of the farm work ______________________ (26 down).
(4) The farmer of the early 1800s had only a few simple tools, including the ______________________ (4 down) and scythe.
(5) Heavy work was done with the help of horses, mules, and ______________________ (22 across).
(6) A horse-drawn reaper, invented in the 1830s by Cyrus McCormick, made it possible to harvest large fields of ______________________ (31 down).

Farms After the Civil War

(7) Great changes occurred in farm tools and ______________________ (19 across) after 1865.
(8) In 1869, James Oliver made a ______________________ (11 down) plow that was stronger and tougher than ones made of iron.
(9) The “____________________” (24 across) cut grain, threshed it, cleaned it, and put it into bags.
(10) Other inventions included an automatic milking machine, a corn-husking machine, an automatic seeder, and a ______________________ (25 across) picking machine.
(11) A ______________________ (29 across) car was added to trains, so that meat and vegetables could be sent long distances to market.
(12) The new inventions helped farmers feed the rapidly expanding ______________________ (5 across).
(13) The size of an average American farm ______________________ (13 across) between 1865 and 1900 because the new machines enabled farmers to grow more crops.
(14) Labor-saving machines put many people out of work and started a migration to the ______________________ (1 across).
(15) The number of farms decreased in the late 1800s, but the total number of ______________________ (17 down) used in agriculture increased.
(16) American farmers boosted their income by ______________________ (2 down) products to foreign
Problems Faced by Farmers

(17) During the 1880s and 1890s, huge amounts of corn and wheat were produced by farmers in the ______________________ (7 down).

(18) An oversupply of agricultural products drove down __________________ (5 down).

(19) American corn and wheat growers began to face tough ___________________ (3 across).

(20) As farm prices were falling, the cost of machinery, other farm equipment, and ___________________ (18 down) was going up.

(21) Although overproduction was their main problem, farmers complained that the ___________________ (10 across) were charging them too much to ship their grain.

(22) Farmers were angry because most railroads gave reduced rates to ___________________ (27 across) and other big businesses.

(23) Another problem was high interest rates on ___________________ (33 down) loans.

(24) Farmers who could not make their loan payments, especially during periods of falling prices and crop failures, ___________________ (37 down) their farms to the bank.

Attempts to Solve the Farmers’ Problems

(25) Oliver H. Kelley established a national organization of farmers called the “Patrons of Husbandry,” or “____________________” (20 across).

(26) The original purpose of the Grange was to bring farm families together for ___________________ (32 across), lectures, and other social activities.

(27) Local Grange lodges, which were especially strong in the Midwest, soon had a total national membership which exceeded ___________________ (6 down).

(28) The Grange began to support political ___________________ (8 down) who promised to help them.

(29) The farmers succeeded in getting several states to pass “Granger laws,” which held down ___________________ (12 across) rates for more than ten years.

(30) In 1887, Congress created the Interstate Commerce Commission, which took over the job of keeping railroad rates fair for all people, including the ___________________ (30 down).

(31) During the 1870s, farmers supported the Greenback Party that wanted the government to print more paper ___________________ (21 across).

(32) If more money was put into circulation, the farmers could charge higher prices and pay off their ___________________ (34 down).

(33) ________________ (1 down), under pressure from banks and wealthy businessmen, did not go along with the idea of printing large amounts of “cheap money.”

(34) In the 1880s, farmers organized regional groups called “Farmers’ Alliances,” which called for a program of political and economic ___________________ (15 down).

(35) In the 1890s, the Farmers’ Alliances ___________________ (28 across) with several labor groups to form the “People’s Party,” more commonly known as the “Populist Party.”

(36) The Populist Party wanted cheap money, government loans at low interest rates, government ownership of railroads, a limit on immigration, and a reduction in ___________________ (38 across) for workers.

(37) The Populist Party supported Democratic candidate William Jennings Bryan for President in 1896, but he lost the election to ___________________ (36 across).

(38) Farm prices began to ___________________ (39 across) in the late 1890s, and farmers lost interest in politics.

– 111B –
The Government Helps the Farmer

(39) The Morrill Act, passed by Congress in 1862, gave government lands to the states, which then sold the lands to raise money for ________________ (14 down) that would teach agriculture and industry.

(40) The Department of Agriculture fights animal and plant diseases, and does research on a variety of ________________ (23 down) problems.

(41) The Department of Agriculture also distributes the latest agricultural information to farmers, and supports soil ________________ (9 down) measures.