he origin of this song, as of many other folksongs, is uncertain. We know that it was sung in Texas as early as 1867. We also know that a set of words was published in 1873 by a pioneer doctor, Brewster M. Higley, who had moved from Ohio to Kansas (some said he moved to escape his bad-tempered wife). The music has been attributed to Daniel E. Kelley, a musician and entertainer who had moved to Kansas from Rhode Island. Honoring these two men, Kansas adopted Home on the Range as its state song in 1947.

The Homestead Law of 1862 encouraged the westward movement that brought Higley and Kelley to Kansas. Under this law, a settler could become the owner of 160 acres of land after paying an $18 fee and farming the land for five years. This distribution of government land soon brought an end to the open range; by 1885, railroad tracks and barbed wire fences had divided the land.

By the turn of the century, most of the buffalo, deer, and antelope had been killed. Buffalo can now be found only in zoos and on small private ranches. The deer and antelope herds have grown in recent years; they present a wildlife conservation problem because there isn’t enough open land to support them. The range celebrated in this song—thousands of miles of unfenced grassland between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains—now exists only in memory.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

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Teacher’s name: ________________
Level: ____
Your age: ____

The Institute is considering which forms of teacher assessment (TA) to use. The teachers already chose their preferred TA procedures. Now we want you, the students, to consider these options. Which ones do you think will help our teachers improve? Why do you prefer them?

1. The teacher videotapes the class and writes an evaluation. (Only the teacher sees the video.)

2. Supervisor visit. (The supervisor visits the class, discusses it with the teacher, and writes a report.)

3. Students write evaluations of their teachers. (Example: Describe how you feel about your English class.)
   Do you agree or disagree with each sentence below? (Circle one.)
   agree disagree  I like the way we learn to read.
   agree disagree  My teacher gives clear instructions.
   agree disagree  The teacher helps me improve my pronunciation.

4. Collegial observation. (The teacher being observed invites another teacher to visit the class, take notes, discuss the class, and write a report.)

5. Talk with students. (The teacher has an open discussion with the students about his or her teaching.)

6. Student-teacher journals. (Students are free to write their opinions about anything related to the teaching of the class.)

Of these six options, which do you most prefer? Write its number: ___

Thanks for your cooperation!