Homestead Act

In 1862 the Homestead Act was passed by congress to attract farmers to settle on the Great Plains. Read the law that was passed (link below) and watch the video to answer the following questions.

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/five/homestd.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbwVl-0AP6s>

1. What is the purpose of this act?
2. What is meant by the term "public domain"?
3. Who is entitled to secure a grant of land from the Federal Government?
4. Can women secure such a grant in their own names, and if so, how?
5. What is the largest amount of land a person can secure from the Federal government through this act?
6. How would one go about applying for land under the act (filing the affidavit)?
7. How long would one have to wait in between filing an affidavit and securing final title to the land one settled? What did a settler need to do in the meantime?
8. How much per acre did land under the Homestead Act cost?
9. The Homestead Act was meant to insure that United States citizens who actually wanted to farm land were the recipients of the government's largess. Who else might have wanted to profit from this deal, and how?
10. How is the law trying to prevent various abuses?