Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?

Some popular songs, such as “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?” below, expressed the feelings of people during the Great Depression.

Read the lyrics below and answer the questions that follow:-

They used to tell me I was building a dream
And so I followed the mob
When there was earth to plow or guns to bear
I was always there, right on the job
They used to tell me I was building a dream
With peace and glory I have
Why should I be standing in line
Just waiting for bread.

Once I built a railroad-made it run
Made it race against time,
Once I built a railroad-now it’s done
Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once I built a tower in the sun
Working brick and shovel and line
Once I built a tower – now it’s done
Brother, can you spare a dime?

Once in khaki suits
Gee we looked swell – full of that
Yankee Doodley Dum
Half a million boots went slogging through hell
I was the kid with the drum.

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

Name: __________________________________   Date: ______________________

Use complete sentences for your answers:-

1. Where is the singer of this song located when he is telling his story?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. How good a worker is the person in the song? Explain how you arrived at your answer using passages within the song.
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________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What do you think he means when he “once built a tower in the sun?”
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. How do you know this person is a patriotic and loyal American citizen?
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________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5. In 1932, unlike today, ten cents (a dime) went a long way. What do you, in your own opinion, believe that this person would do if he was to be given a dime?
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