



The American West, 1835-1895 Revision Guide

Name:



Key Topics

1. Early Settlement of the West, 1835-62
2. Development of the Plains, 1862-76
3. Conflicts and Conquest, 1876-95

American West Revision Guide Contents

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Knowledge Organiser

Key Events

1	1830 – Indian Removal Act - 46,000 Indians from the Eastern states are forced by the US government to re-locate to the Great Plains
2	1836 – The Oregon Trail opens safe passage for settlers across the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains to Oregon country
3	1846-47 – The Mormon Migration – Migration of those from the Mormon faith westwards to find their homeland. They settled in Salt Lake City, Utah.
4	1849 – Gold Rush – The discovery of gold in California led to huge migration to the West, over 300,000 moved by 1855.
5	1851 – The Fort Laramie Treaty – An agreement between Indians and government that Indians would not attack settlers using Oregon trail and in exchange for large areas of land being given to Indians ‘for all time’
6	1862 – Homestead Act – The government offered 160 acres of land for \$30 to settlers to encourage settlement on the Great Plains.
7	1869, Transcontinental Railroad – The first railroad connecting East and West America is completed, increasing settlement in the West.
8	1876 – Battle of the Little Big Horn – General Custer’s soldiers are wiped out by Crazy Horse’s Indians, in a major defeat for the US government.
	1887 – The Dawes Act – All Indians are forced onto reservations losing the last of their land and independence.
	1890 – The Wounded Knee Massacre - 250 Indians (women/children) are killed by US soldiers, this ends Indian resistance to the US government.

Key Words

9	Tribe	A distinct community of Indians, for example the Sioux
11	Chief	Leader of band/tribe but not elected. Became chief due to wisdom, healing power or skills as a warrior.
12	Home steaders	A settler who moved onto the Great Plains after the 1862 Homestead Act.

15	Great Plains	Large grasslands to the west of the Mississippi River, home of the Plains Indians. A tough environment with hot summers, cold winters and no vegetation
16	Buffalo	A plains animal that was central to Indian life.
17	Scalping	Taking the scalp of a person a warrior has beaten as a prize and to stop them coming back in the afterlife
18	Cowboy	Men who worked with cattle (cows) on the cattle drives and ranchers in Texas and on the Great Plains
19	Rancher	A person who owns a cattle ranch (farm)
20	Cattle Baron	A rich and powerful rancher with a large number of cattle who hold considerable economic and political power.
21	Tipi	Home of the Plains Indian, made out of buffalo hide. Could be packed up quickly to move as part of the Indians nomadic lifestyle of constantly moving.
22	Reservation	An area of land to live on given to the Indians by the Federal Government
23	Manifest Destiny	Idea it was God’s will that white Americans should settle over all of America.
23	The Oregon Trail	A 3000km long trail used by those who wanted to reach California from Missouri. It crossed the Great Plains
24	Vigilantes	Ordinary citizens that decides to punish suspected lawbreakers itself instead of using the official system
25	Miners Courts	Miners who set up their own court to settle disputes over claims
26	Open Range	Farm lands without fencing, allowing cattle to wander/graze
27	Lawlessness	A lack of law and order
28	US Marshal	Appointed by the president to be responsible for a state, they used lots of deputies and town marshals to help.

Narrative Question Guide

This question is testing your ability to write a historical narrative, in chronological order that explains and links key events together. It is not simply 'write a story'

Mark Scheme		
Level	Mark	Descriptor
AO1: Knowledge and understanding of features and characteristics. (4 marks)		
AO2: Analytical narrative (analysis of causation/consequence/ change) (4 marks)		
1	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple narrative. Little analysis and organisation of events (AO2) • Simple knowledge and understanding (AO1) • MAXIMUM OF 2 MARKS IF NO LINKING OF EVENTS.
2	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence of events given which leads to an outcome. Some analysis and links between parts of the narrative. (AO2) • Some specific knowledge (AO1) • MAXIMUM of 4 MARKS IF ONLY 2 EVENTS DISCUSSED.
3	6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear sequence of events which lead to an outcome. Analyses links between the events and well structured (AO2) • Good knowledge and understanding (AO1)



- So to hit Level 3
What do I need to do?**
- Pick 3 events to explain in detail (You can use the bullet points and one of your own)
 - Write in each paragraph in chronological order and explain how the events link together
 - Give specific knowledge
 - Use analytical terms



1. First you need to think of three events to discuss – you can use the bullet points to help you must add one of your own
2. Then follow Chronolink for your answer
3. Remember to use analytical language and specific subject knowledge

Chronolink

Chrono

Your answer needs to be in chronological order, Think about the order of your 3 paragraphs

Link

You must link these events together in your answer, how did they affect/cause each other?
So as a result of X, Y was possible..

Analytical Language

Your use of narrative analytical language is essential to success in your answer. It allows you to link events, discuss the importance and consequences

therefore

in order to...

hence

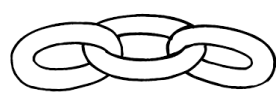
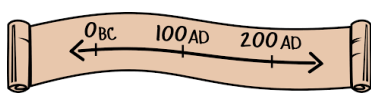
Because of this

Combined with

thus

This led to

As a result



Example Paragraph

This is one paragraph of the question on the right. The key parts of a top mark paragraph have been identified.



Write a narrative account analysing why Americans went West in the years 1836-49. You may use the following in your answer:

- The Oregon Trail from 1836
- The California Gold Rush 1849

You may also use information of your own

It first became possible to travel West safely after **Jed Smith discovered the Oregon Trail in 1824** which was quicker than sailing around the American coast. **As a result**, settlers families began to travel to Oregon and California using this trail from **1836** onwards. The opening of the Oregon Trail **increased** further migration West as settlers could bring wagons safely along the trail, in 1843 the first **Great Migration of 900** settlers successful completed the 6 month journey. **Consequently**, over **400,000** settlers used the Oregon Trail over the next 30 years to travel West. **As a consequence of the Oregon Trail**, groups like the **Mormons led by Brigham Young the trail as part of their Mormon migration to the Salt Lake Valley in 1846-47.**

Chrono

The paragraph identifies key events and uses them in chronological order.

Link

The paragraph links the Oregon Trail to the next event about the Mormon Migration.

Analytical Language

Narrative language is used to link, show importance, or consequences

Knowledge

Specific subject knowledge

Practice Questions

Write a narrative account analysing how the cattle industry developed in the years 1861-72. You may use the following in your answer:

- The Cattle Drives
- Joseph McCoy and Abilene

You may also use information of your own

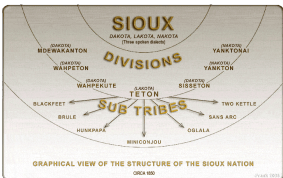
Write a narrative account analysing how the conflict between Plains Indians and the US government in the years 1876-90. You may use the following in your answer:

- The Battle of Little Bighorn (1876)
- The Ghost Dance (1890)

You may also use information of your own

Who were the Plains Indians?

Many different Indian tribes made up the Plains Indians (e.g. Sioux, Crow, Araphos and Comanches) These Indians were not unified, several tribes were sworn enemies and would often go to war. However, tribes depended on each other for survival.



The largest Plains Indian tribe were the Sioux, they contained smaller tribes like the Lakota, which was made up of 7 sub-tribes such as the Hunkpapa and Ogala.



The Plains Indians who lived in the harsh Great Plains had adapted to survival and this was their homeland – which would lead to conflict as the white settlers moved in.

Indian Society

Tribes were made up of bands (10-50 families), they would often meet once/twice a year for the Buffalo hunt.

Chiefs were the leaders of Indian society and they were chosen for their skill (leadership, spiritual, wisdom or fighting).



Famous chiefs include Red Cloud and Sitting Bull. Chiefs had no actual power as everything had to be agreed by the well respected tribal council - these were a group of elders, medicine men and chiefs.

Warrior brotherhoods, were trained young fighters who led the buffalo hunt and went to war. They did not have to follow council orders – which caused problems.



Indian Warfare

Real honour came not from killing but from **counting coup**. This was getting close enough to touch an enemy without being hurt.



Taking scalps of enemies or stealing horses was evidence of success. White people saw scalping this as evidence of Indians being savages.

Indians mainly fought to protect their hunting grounds or to steal horses and not for land. War parties would even run away from a fight if they were losing.



Indian Beliefs

The Plains Indians believed in the *Great Spirit* who created the world. Everything was equal and sacred – people and nature



Dances were used when the whole tribe needed to contact the spirits e.g. Buffalo dances.



Some land was sacred, such as the Black Hills to the Sioux – they were burial grounds

Land was sacred - 'the mother'. They believed it could not be bought or owned by anyone as it belonged to everyone. Farming or mining was seen as disrespectful

Survival on the Plains

Survival was based on hunting buffalo and the following of their migration across the plains. Survival relied on hunting skills



The Indians lived a travelling 'nomadic' lifestyle – they constantly moved camps. Living in tipis allowed them to pack up camp and move within minutes.



Tipis were perfect for the Plains, made from wood and buffalo skin they were warm in winter, cool in summer. Some lived in wooden lodges during winter.

Indians also lived off the land, they were hunter-gatherers – eating wild fruits and berries. They did not farm



Family life

Each person also had a role equally important as the other. Working together was key to survival on the Plains.

Women (squaws) were responsible the home and families. They also turned buffalo remains into hides and meat



Men were responsible for hunting, looking after the horses and protecting the bands.

The role of Horses

Horses were essential to the plains Indians, they were needed to hunt buffalo and for the constant travel.

They also were important for status – men measured wealth with horses, the Comanches had over 8000 horses in a tribe of 3000



Horses were key to warfare and Indians would often raid others to steal horses. Also, horsemanship was a sign of warrior bravery.



Elders were often members of the tribal council and their opinions were respected.

Revision Questions



1. How might Indian life contrast with those of the white settlers?
2. Explain the importance of horses to the Plains Indians

Indians and the Buffalo

Indian survival was based on hunting buffalo and the following of their migration across the plains. There were millions of buffalo on the Great Plains but the Indians only hunted enough to survive.



The hunting of the buffalo was a key event, with tribes from all over joining for the Spring hunt and everyone was involved.

The hunt had 3 key parts

Buffalo Dance

A spiritual ceremony to call the buffalo close and to pray for a successful hunt.

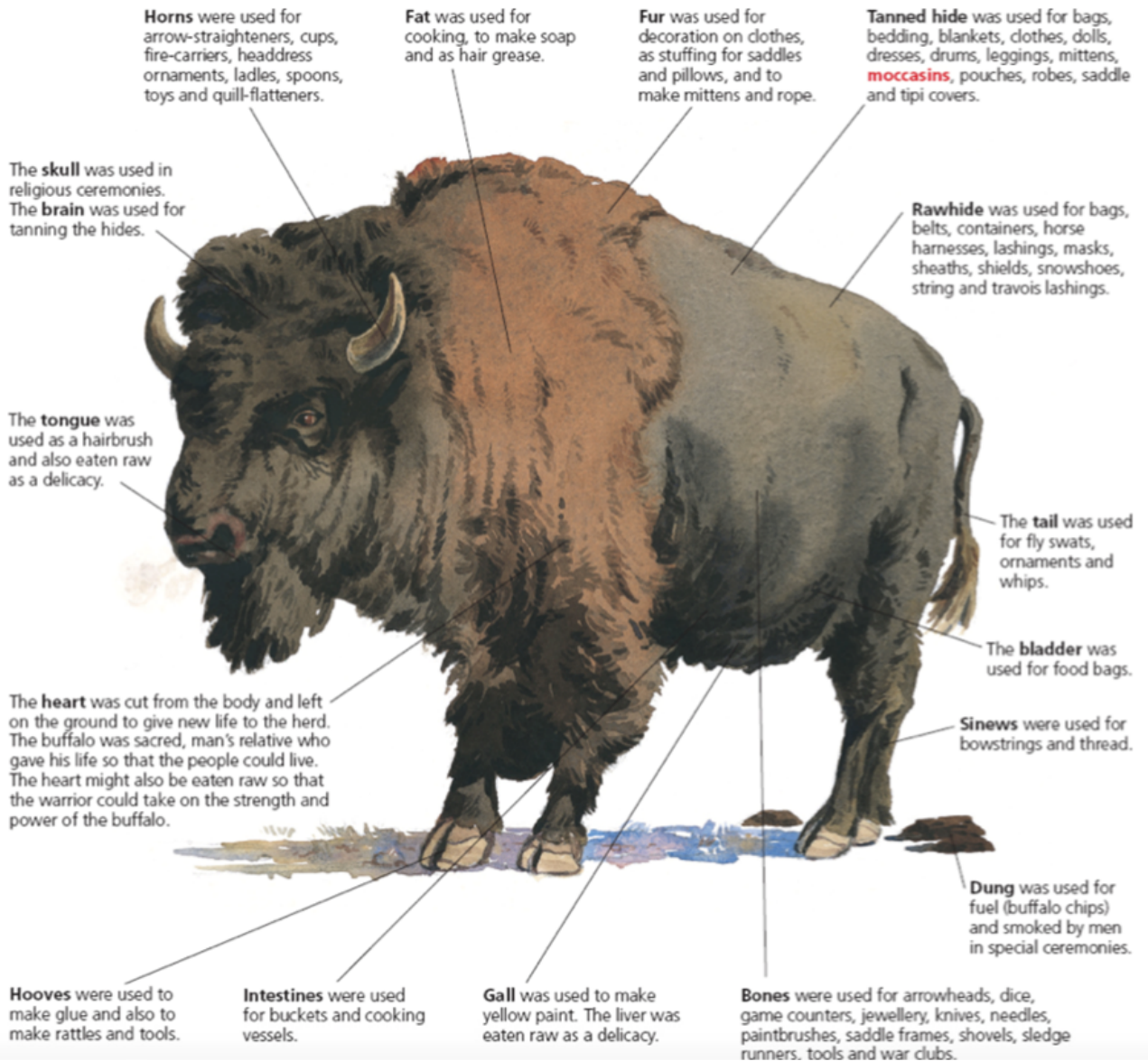
The Hunt

The hunt was very organised with only 2-3 a year enough to feed the bands. The warriors would stampede the buffalo and hunt them

Processing

Women and children would process all of the buffalo so none was wasted.

Uses of the Buffalo



Importance of the Buffalo

Warfare – Buffalo hunts were the centre of warrior life, it was where boys became men during the twice yearly hunts to improve their skills. The bones were used to make knives whilst sinews were used as bowstrings.

Society – The buffalo was central to Indian society, for men, women and children. Men went on the hunt and women and children processed the kill into useful items. Many tribes and bands would join together for the spring hunt, bringing together communities of Indians. Even the buffalo was central Indian beliefs, they would do the buffalo dance before the hunt and even bury the heart out of respect for the buffalo and nature.

Life – Every part of the buffalo was used, even dung as fuel or fur for pillows whilst the tipi itself was made from 10-20 skins! The buffalo could feed the Indians for months, dried meat was eaten in the winter. Even the tongue and brain was eaten as a delicacy. The buffalo was only hunted enough to keep the population going.

Exam Question



Explain the following:

The importance of the buffalo to the Plains Indians' way of life (8 Marks)

The Oregon Trail and Causes of Westward Migration

Early Migration West The first whites to move west were the **mountain men**, who went to the Rockies to hunt and collect animal furs (beaver, bear) in the 1820-30s.



They were not settlers but did return and tell tales of the rich lands in the West, which interested those in the East.

Discovery of the Oregon Trail

In 1824, Jed Smith discovered a path through the Rockies to the West and this was used by the **pioneers** (first settlers) into the West. It became the Oregon Trail as the final destination was the new state of Oregon.



In 1841, the first wagon train travelled the 3,200km trail which led from Missouri, through the Plains, Rockies to Oregon. It was a risky and dangerous journey

In 1843 over 900 pioneers made the dangerous journey West, they called it *'The Great Emigration'*. That same year, a few farmers also crossed the Rockies to California

Between 1841-69, the Oregon Trail was the main wagon route to the West, it also led off to the California trail opened in 1843. In total over 400,000 people crossed it



Why did people migrate West?

During the American West, many people migrated westwards to Oregon, California and to the other new states. They went for many reasons; economic, territorial, religious or simply for the adventure of starting a new life.

Government Encouragement

In 1842, the US Government passed the Pre-emption Act, which allowed settlers to claim 140 acres of land and then purchase it for \$1.25 per acre after a year.

Searching for space

As the Midwest became increasingly settled, some were attracted by the chance to settle on the new 'frontier' in the new open spaces of Oregon and California

Collapse in cereal crop prices

Farmers in the Mississippi valley had struggled due to the economic depression as wheat and corn prices dropped. Starting fresh in the West was attractive.

Push Factors
Push factors are those that force or push people to migrate.

Pull Reasons
Pull factors are those that encourage people to migrate

The Gold Rush

Gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada, California in 1848. This led to 200,000 leaving the East in April 1849 in the hope of finding gold

New territory

The British agreed to give Oregon to America in 1846, whilst the defeat of Mexico meant that its colony California became part of the United States in 1848.

Economic Depression

In 1837, the US was hit by a depression. Banks collapsed and businesses went bankrupt which led to unemployment (25%) and . The West offered a new life and opportunity to start again.

Manifest Destiny

For many Americans, it was their God-given duty to spread their 'civilisation' and democracy across the whole of the United States

Religion

Groups like the Mormons decided to move West to flee religious persecution and to also find the 'promised land'. Others were missionaries, who wanted to convert the native Americans.

Unsettled land in the West

Mountain men and the first pioneers sent back stories of large free fertile farmlands in Oregon and sunny California which was perfect for fruit farming.

Revision Question



1. Explain the importance of the Oregon Trail in migration West

The Journey West – Problems and the Donner Party

Those who migrated west had different experiences. Some like the Mormons had a successful migration that led to the Salt Lake Valley, however others such as the Donner Party showed the dangers of migration.



The Oregon Trail was 3200km long, or 3800km long if you using the California Trail – it could take between 8-9 months to travel from Missouri to your destination.

Each trail crossed the Great Plains and then crossed two mountain ranges, the Rockies and the Blue Mountains or the Sierra Nevada. They were steep, there was little to hunt and the weather could be bad.

Preparation and Problems on the Journey

Migrants needed to complete the journey before Winter or risk getting stuck in the Rocky or Sierra Nevada Mountains



Weather conditions were dangerous, with sandstorms, quicksand, extreme heat, lightning storms and freezing cold winters



The main problems were getting stuck, falling ill or running out of supplies. 20,000 alone died from accidents such as being crushed under wagon wheels



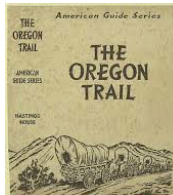
The biggest killer was Cholera, it spread through travellers using the same water as toilets.



Migrants needed enough food to survive the journey. Most people lived on salt pork



The best time to travel as April when there was enough grass to feed to cattle, and time to reach the West before winter.



Early migrants used explorers, mountain men or Indians as guides. Later there were written guides.

It was safest to travel in wagon trails of 20 or more. Within each group people would have specific skills.

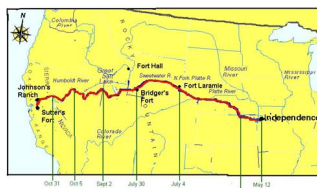


The Donner Party

In May 1846, the Donner party, led by Jacob and George Donner, left Missouri for California with 60 wagons and 300 people.



The wagons train was well equipped and they chose to follow the Oregon Trail, however they were more women, elderly and children than usual.



By July 1846, they reached Fort Bridger in the Rocky Mountains and a small group decided to take a 'short cut' using a leaflet (no-one had ever gone this way!)

It proved to be a fatal mistake.

The party got lost and were delayed by a month leading to them reaching the Sierra Nevada mountains late. By then they had lost 4 wagons and 300 cattle, whilst one man murdered another.



They then became trapped in heavy snow storms in the mountains. All the cattle died and the group turned to cannibalism to survive.

Only 46 survived the journey to California after being eventually rescued in January 1847

Exam Q.



1. Write narrative account analysing the events of the Donner Party migration.
2. Explain the importance of preparation in migration West.

The Mormon Migration and Settlement in Salt Lake



Joseph Smith

They were a religious group established by Joseph Smith, who claimed an **angel** had told him God had **buried two golden plates** in his back garden. Smith said he **translated them** and this became the '**Book of Mormon**'. It became the basis of a **new religion**, which faced hostility from the majority Christian US.

Problems in Eastern America

The Mormons originally settled in Ohio, Missouri and Illinois, but each time faced hostility and had to leave (push factors)

Places Joseph Smith settled the Mormons 1831-46

1. Kirtland Ohio.

The Mormons were successful in Kirtland, but during the 1837 Depression the Mormon bank collapsed and many lost their savings so they moved on.

2. Independence, Missouri

The Mormons moved to Independence but were very unpopular as they were anti-slavery in a slave owning state. They were forced to leave in 1838 after riots.



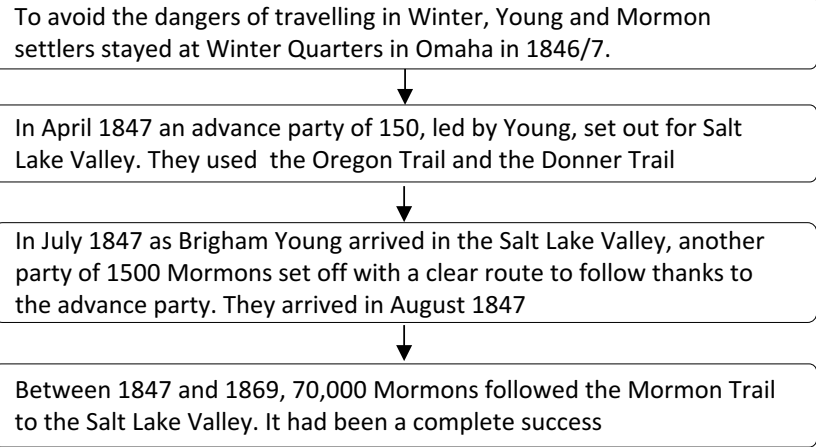
3. Nauvoo, Illinois

In Nauvoo, over 35,000 Mormons settled. However, when Smith said God approved of polygamy (having more than one wife) it led to criticism and outrage. Smith was arrested in June 1845 and a mob murdered him the same year.

The Mormons decide to move West

Following Joseph Smith's murder in 1845, the new leader, Brigham Young, decided the Mormons should move West to the Great Salt Lake Valley. He decided this because; it was isolated, it supposedly had water and farming land, the Mormons could live freely and importantly it was not part of the United States.

The Journey West



Why was Brigham Young so important to the Mormons success?

Brigham Young's leadership was important to the success of the migration to the Salt Lake Valley



1. Young spoke with trail guides and explorers to find out as much as he could about Salt Lake Valley so he could be as prepared as possible.
2. Before leaving Illinois he organised a count of people (3200) and wagons (2500) to enable him to plan the logistics – what would each person need to survive
3. Young built the 'Winter Quarters' so families could take shelter in the winter of 1846
4. The advance party was well supplied/prepared with food, equipment and a boat. They even sign signposted the way for those that followed, highlighting water sources, setting up river crossing and planting crops. This allowed the success of later journeys.
5. Migrants were divided into manageable groups with its own leader who kept control knew the plan so if they got lost they would know what to do. They were encouraged to stop at rest stops for repairs, to avoid exhaustion and for safety.

Brigham Young's Plan

1. Ensuring a safe journey West
2. Farm an arid landscape and provide fresh water
3. Allocate land for each family
4. Become self-sufficient and free to worship
5. Encourage mass Mormon settlement
6. Keep order with no conflict

Survival in the Salt Lake Valley

The Great Salt Lake valley was a harsh, arid landscape - the lake was too salty and the land was too poor to grow crops on. However, under Young's leadership and central plan the Mormons succeeded in settling in the Salt Lake Valley.



Everyone fully obeyed Young as he was Gods prophet and he kept strict control. Young decided the church owned all the land, not individuals and they would be given a share for their needs (farms)

Irrigation systems were built to bring in fresh water, this meant crops could grow. Young organised the settlers so build, operate and maintain these systems

Young create new settlements e.g .Las Vegas with skilled people like blacksmiths to provide the specific products they needed; food, crops, minerals and timber. This would allow the Mormons to become self-sufficient.

Young set up Salt Lake City in the new state of Utah. He began to use missionaries to bring in more Mormons, they create a fund to pay for their travel. In 1855, 4225 converts arrived in Utah

The 1849 Gold Rush



In 1848, gold was discovered in West, mainly in California. News spread across like wildfire and from 1849 huge numbers of miners descended on California, using the new California trail.

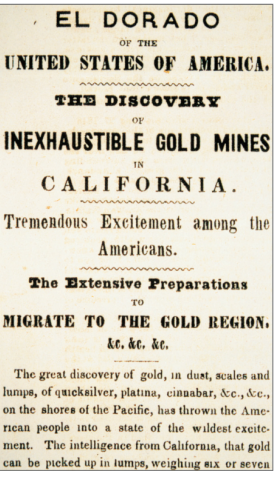


The discovery of Gold in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada mountains was a huge factor for westward migration

The California Trail used the Oregon trail then split off south towards California and San Francisco



Consequences of the Gold Rush



Thousands came from all over the world including over 25,000 Chinese miners who sailed from Hong Kong. These 'Forty Niners' came for the chance to make it rich and for a new start in cities like San Francisco.

As a result, California's population grew from 15,000 in 1848 to 300,000 by 1855. Mining Towns grew like Virginia City

As the population grew, more people moved West to become shopkeepers, bartenders and tradesmen selling mining equipment and essentials.

However, most migrants did not find gold and either left or settled as farmers.



1. Farming in California developed due to the excellent condition for growing fruits like oranges
2. California, it soon began to export crops all over the world



Many became rich and the Gold helped the US recover from the economic crisis as a result of the 1837 Depression.

It even helped pay for the first Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.



The Gold Rush attracted Crooks, bandits, gamblers and outlaws who migrated West to live in all male communities which were full with violence, alcoholism and prostitution. Racism towards Chinese immigrants was a serious problem or 'claim jumping' where miners would steal other miners claims to land.

As mining towns were isolated from other communities keeping law and order was hard and law enforcement struggled. To improve law and order, Miners Courts were set up to settle disputes between miners.

Exam Question



1. Write an analytical narrative account of the Gold Rush of 1848-49 (8 Marks)
2. Explain two consequences of the Gold Rush 1848-9 (8 Marks)

Early settlement on the Plains

By the 1850s, settlement had begun on the Great Plains and was encouraged by the government who wanted people to move to Kansas and Nebraska (although settlers were not meant to pass the Permanent Indian Frontier). Thousands began to move to this new territory

No settlers knew anything about living or farming on the Plains or the 'Great American Desert' as they called it. These settlers faced major problems.

Firstly, the Great Plains were isolated and it was lonely for the new settlers. Farms were isolated with the nearest town over a few days travel away.



Problems facing settlers on the Plains

Natural Disasters

In the summer heatwaves, prairie fires could start and destroy crops whilst plagues of Rocky Mountain grasshoppers could eat all your crops, as they did in Nebraska in 1856.=

Lack of water

There was little rainfall and few rivers or lakes. The shortage of water was a major problem. It could lead to the total failure of crops. This would lead, in turn, to bankruptcy or starvation. It also made it hard to keep clean!

Extreme Weather

Extreme weather was a serious problem, it could be extremely hot in summer or freezing cold in winter. There were thunder storms, tornados and hailstorms which could ruin your farm

Lack of building materials

There was to a lack of trees to build with and transporting wood from the West was too expensive. This meant there was a lack of materials to build houses, fuel or fencing for cattle.



Poor soil

The ground had never been farmed so the grasses and roots were dense. Ploughing was a backbreaking task and the crops such as Maize were not suited to the climate and often died.

Drought

Drought in summer could damage or destroy crops. In Kansas, no rain fell between 1859 and 1860. There was also a lack of water to feed livestock.

Early solutions to living on the Plains

To increase their chances of survival on the Plains, settlers tried a variety of methods:

- Homesteaders used buffalo or cow chips (dried dung) as fuel to heat their homes with the lack of timber
- Water wells were dug up to 300m down to bring up water. However, they were expensive and it was hard work bring up water.
- To combat the lack of timber, settlers built **Sod Houses** out of earth bricks (sod) with flat roofs.



Sod houses were very difficult to keep clean. They were full of pests like bed bugs, fleas, mice and snakes. This made diseases and illness easy to spread.

Sod houses were very cheap to build. They could be warm in winter and cool in summer if well-built, but it was very difficult to stop water coming into the roof.



At first, the American government treated the Indian lands as sovereign nations (belonging to them) and would negotiate over land.

In 1824, the **Bureau of Indian Affairs** was set up to manage the whites relations with Indians, especially when the whites began to expand West.



Conflicts over land

Whilst some whites recognised Indians had rights to the lands, they still saw them as savages who wasted the land. They felt Indians should either use the land properly, or be moved so the whites could do it



This posed a problem for the government, they did not want conflict. The government had two main aims

1. **Keep whites and Indians apart**
2. **Encourage Indians to become white settlers**

These were two hard tasks to achieve as keeping them separate meant they could not 'civilise' the Indians

How did US Government policy towards the Indians change between 1830-51

Think of this as a narrative – Remember to connect each event!

	What happened/terms of the Act	
Indian Removal Act, 1830	<p>President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act.</p> <p>This forced 46,000 Indians (like the Cherokee) living in the east of America to move to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. Ford promised the land would be theirs forever.</p> <p>The Indians called it the '<i>trail of tears</i>' - thousands died</p> <p>This would allow whites to settle on Indian last in the east</p>	
Indian Trade and Intercourse Act, 1834	<p>Defined Indian Territory as the lands '<i>west of the Mississippi</i>', This was the Great Plains</p> <p>To keep whites and Indians apart, the government set up the Permanent Indian Frontier – This a border between Indian Territory and the white states which contained soldiers and forts.</p> <p>It would stop whites from settling on Indian land and vice versa, The government had given the Indians their own land.</p>	
US gained territory in the West 1840s	<p>Between 1845 and 1848, US territory grew with Texas and Oregon becoming part of the USA. Also, after the victory against Mexico America also gained California.</p> <p>Indian land on the Plains was now surrounded by white territory</p> <p>The government encouraged its citizens to move to these new territories and the quickest way was through Indian land. This was breaking the Trade and Intercourse Act and increased tension between Indians and white settlers.</p>	
Indian Appropriations Act, 1851	<p>The government set up 'reservations' in Indian Territory to move Indians onto, this would allow the government to take more Indian land away.</p> <p>The reservations were controlled by the government and they aimed to limit Indian life by putting the reservations far from tribes' sacred places and close to burial grounds. They were far from buffalo hunting grounds.</p> <p>The reservations aimed to 'civilise' Indians by encouraging them to farm (as no buffalo), go to school and become Christians.</p>	

Exam Qs

1. Write narrative account analysing the main developments in US Government policy towards the Plains Indians in the period 1836–61 (• Indian Trade and Intercourse Act, 1834 • Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851)
2. Explain the importance of the Indian Appropriations Act 1851 to the way of life of the Plains Indians.



US Government policy: The Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851

As the numbers of migrations using the Oregon Trail to cross Indian Lands grew, tensions increased between White Settlers and Plains Indians – this led to the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty.



What led to Fort Laramie?

- White settlers were racist – they saw Indians as savages and inferior.
- Whites feared Indian attack and them turning women into slaves
- Indians hated that whites slaughtered the buffalo, causing tension between tribes over food supplies.

On 17th September 1851, the Fort Laramie Treaty was signed between representatives of the Plains Indian tribes and the American Government

Terms of the The Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851	
The Indians would:	The US Government would:
End the fighting between the tribes.	Protect Indians from white Americans (including whites trying to settle on Indian land).
Allow migrants to travel through their land in safety.	
Permit surveyors from railroad companies to enter their lands in safety.	Agreed Indians to have specific territory for 'all time' e.g. Sioux to have Black Hills in Dakota
Allow the government to build roads through their lands and construct army posts.	
Pay compensation if any individuals from their tribe broke the Treaty terms (e.g. by attacking white migrants).	
	Pay the tribes an annuity (yearly payment) of \$50,000 and provide supplies as long as the Treaty terms were kept to.



What were the consequences of Fort Laramie

Territories set out for Plains Indians

Led ↓ to

Reservations

Setting out Indian territory meant the government had laid foundations for putting Indians into reservations.



White settlers allowed into Indian Territories

Led ↓ to

White Settlement of the Great Plains

The Government broke previous agreements such as the Indian Removal Act, whilst it ended the Permanent Indian Frontier which was agreed in the 1834, Indian Trade and Intercourse Act.

As a result, more people began to migrate along the Oregon Trail through the Great Plains. New states like Kansas even meant that whites began to settle on the Plains. This disrupted Indian hunting lands even further. The treaty led to the government building new roads and forts on the Plains, which later resulted in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.



Railroad Surveyors and military posts in Indian territories

Led ↓ to

Tribes to receive resources from the US government

Led ↓ to

Loss of Indian Independence

Making the Indians dependant on American money (\$50,000), supplies and food meant the government had a tool to use against the Indians. They could stop payment if the Treaty was 'broken'



Migrants continued to misuse the Oregon Trail and go 'off track' into Indian Lands but the government did nothing to stop them

Did the Fort Laramie Treaty succeed?



The Indian chiefs struggled to get their bands and tribes to agree to the Treaty. Others continued to hunt where they wanted and war amongst themselves, breaking the treaty

Exam Q's ? 1. Write an analytical narrative account of the government actions towards Indians between 1830-51
 2. Explain two consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851

As a result of the mass settlement in the West due to the Gold Rush, a major problem arose in these new settlements; lawlessness



Lawlessness means keeping law and order was hard because a lack of law enforcement, which led to a rise in crimes and violence.



By the early 1850s, the gold rush had attracted over 300,000 new immigrants to the West but also a less desirable crowd. Crooks, bandits, gamblers and others came to take advantage of the wealth and the new settlers, this led to a serious rise in crime.

What were the key problems in the West?

<p>Isolation</p> <p>Difficult for law enforcement to cover the large areas of the West. Many of towns were isolated communities</p>	<p>Poverty</p> <p>Growing unemployment and the small chance of 'striking rich' meant people would resort to desperate measures</p>	<p>Culture of violence</p> <p>Everyone carried guns, and sorted out problems by using violence. In Aurora, Nevada there were 31 killings a year.</p>
<p>New Crimes</p> <p>Claim Jumping was a new crime when one man stole another's claim to land where they thought gold was.</p> <p>Road Agents would commit highway robbery of travellers on the roads.</p>	<p>Disorderly lifestyle</p> <p>Male dominated settlements were filled with alcohol, gambling and prostitution. This increased violence and reduced law and order.</p>	<p>Racism</p> <p>Crimes against the 20,000 Chinese migrants increased due to racial tension. Whites stole from them the government and courts racially discriminated against the Chinese.</p>
<p>Law Enforcement</p> <p>There was simply not enough law enforcement available to police the settlements. This meant crimes went unpunished.</p>	<p>Gangs</p> <p>San Francisco's population grew from 1000 to 25,000 and by 1851 there were rival gangs seeking to take control. This led to murder & violence</p>	<p>Poor court system</p> <p>Punishments were often fast and simple, from whipping to hanging. However, judges often knew little about law leading to problems</p>

How did the Government attempt to tackle lawlessness?



Until a territory had a population of 50,000 it was under the control of the Federal Government. They decided on the laws for the territory and hired governor, three judges and a US Marshal for law enforcement



US Marshalls were appointed by the President to be responsible for states or territories, they used Deputy Marshalls for help. They could also form a 'Posse', a group of men to help him hunt down lawbreakers



If territories had over 5000 people they could choose a Sheriff for a two year period. They would carry out law enforcement in a county and could also form posse's and appoint deputies

Sheriffs



Town Marshalls

Towns appointed these each year. They dealt with local lawlessness like Saloon brawls and shootouts. They were often a respected and experienced peace maker from within a town.



Problems facing law enforcement

The government struggled to keep law and order for a number of reasons

Geography

Territories were huge, it took days for US marshals to hear of trouble. Kansas's sheriff had to cover 200,000 km2 alone

Government Limitations

The federal government did not spend much on law enforcement and law officers were poorly paid, leading to corruption

Lack of Training

Sheriffs had no legal training and would not always act fairly, they often carried out personal grudges

This led to

Local Enforcement

A lack of 'action' and corruption in law enforcement led communities to create their own law enforcement

Vigilantes

WARNING!

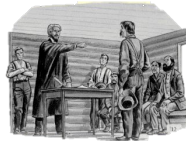
NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person found Pilfering, Stealing, Robbing, or committing any act of Lawless Violence will be summarily HANGED

Vigilance Committee.



Vigilance committees were groups of civilians who would identify, arrest, try and hang suspects. In San Francisco 89 criminals were caught in 1851. However, trials were often not fair and they would often hang suspects

Miners Courts



Miners set up their own Miners Courts to settle claims between miners. They create their own community laws and a respected person was made judge.

Exam Q.



1. Explain the importance of the growth of mining settlements for government efforts to bring law and order to the West (8 Marks)

American West – The Homestead Act, 1862

The Civil War 1861–1865

The American Civil War between the Northern (Union) and Southern (Confederate) states had a serious impact on the development of the West. After four years of fighting, over 600,000 Americans were dead and large parts of the East/South were destroyed whilst African-American slaves were freed this led to many people (slaves, ex-soldiers) looking to start a new life in the West.



The US government has passed two laws during the war which would have huge significance on settlement in the West, the Homestead Act (1862) and the Pacific Railroad Act (1862).

The Homestead Act, 1862

The Homestead Act promoted settlement in the West by providing incentives for people to take unclaimed land.

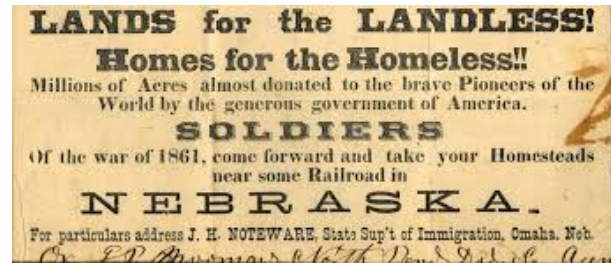
The Homestead Act, 1862

- Settlers could buy 160 acre plots of land called Homesteads enough land for a house and farming land
- It cost just \$10 to make a claim for the land but only claim per person
- After five years, if they could prove they had farmed the land they could purchase the land for only \$30 dollars
- Nearly anyone could purchase the land if they were over 21; women, ex soldiers, ex slaves but no Indians.

Impact

Why was the act important?

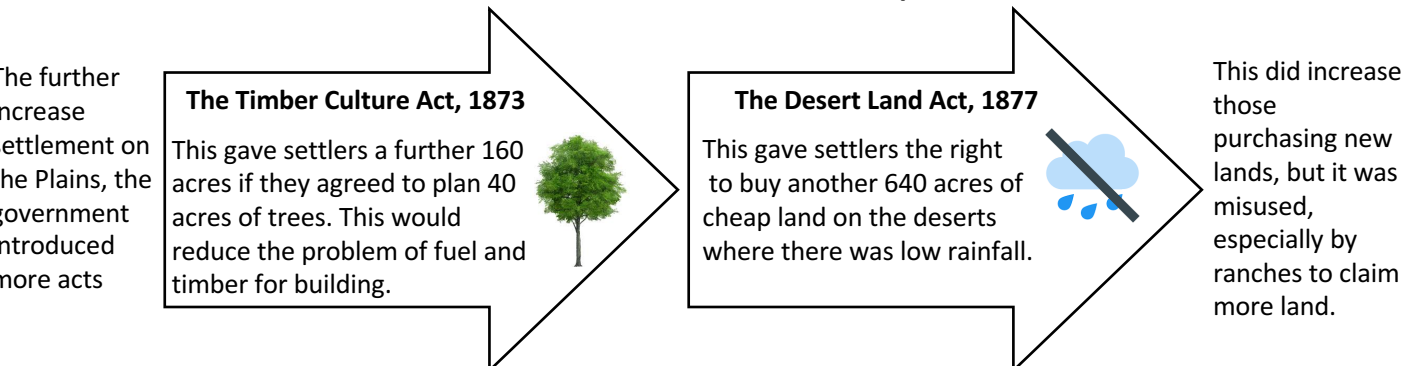
- It was the first proper settlement on the Great Plains – it encouraged migration West
- Allowed the ‘homeless’ and ‘landless’ to purchase their own farm, it was cheap enough for anyone to claim lands
- By 1867, over 6 million acres of land had been claimed by ‘Homesteaders’, this increased to 80 million and over half of Nebraska was claimed.



What were the limitations of the Act?

<p>Only 80 out of 500 million acres available (26%) were actually homesteaded. Over 300 million acres were given to the railroad companies, which they could sell for profit – more people actually bought land from the railroad companies</p>		<p>60% of homesteaders failed and quit before the 5 years were up. This was because the Plains were too challenging for farmers due to the environment/weather.</p>	
<p>Rich landowners were able to use the act to take more land for cheap by getting people to claim for them. Cattle Barons used it to enlarge their ranches</p>		<p>Others bought land and then sold it on themselves for profit.</p>	

How did the Homestead Act develop?



Exam Question 1. Write an analytical narrative account of the settlement in the west 1862-77-Marks)
 2. Explain the importance of the Homestead Act 1862 for the settlement of the West (8 Marks)

Americans had been calling for a railroad (railway) across the continent since 1817, they saw two key benefits

1. It would help develop the west (Settlement, fulfilling Manifest destiny and bringing law & order)
2. It could open up trade across America and between the West and Asia



The Pacific Railroad Act, 1862

The government passed the Pacific Railroad Act in 1862, it provided incentives for companies to build the first transcontinental railroad in 1869.

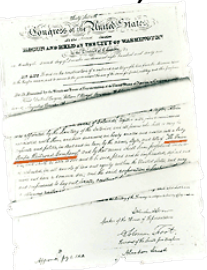
To encourage them to build the railroad the government did the following:

1. Gave 45 million acres of free land so the railroad companies could sell this to settlers to make money.
2. They loaned the companies \$61 million (\$16,000 per mile) to help with the cost
3. Signed treaties with the Plains Indians, so they would move to new reservations



The act led to two companies being set up to build the railroad.

- The Union Pacific
- The Central Pacific



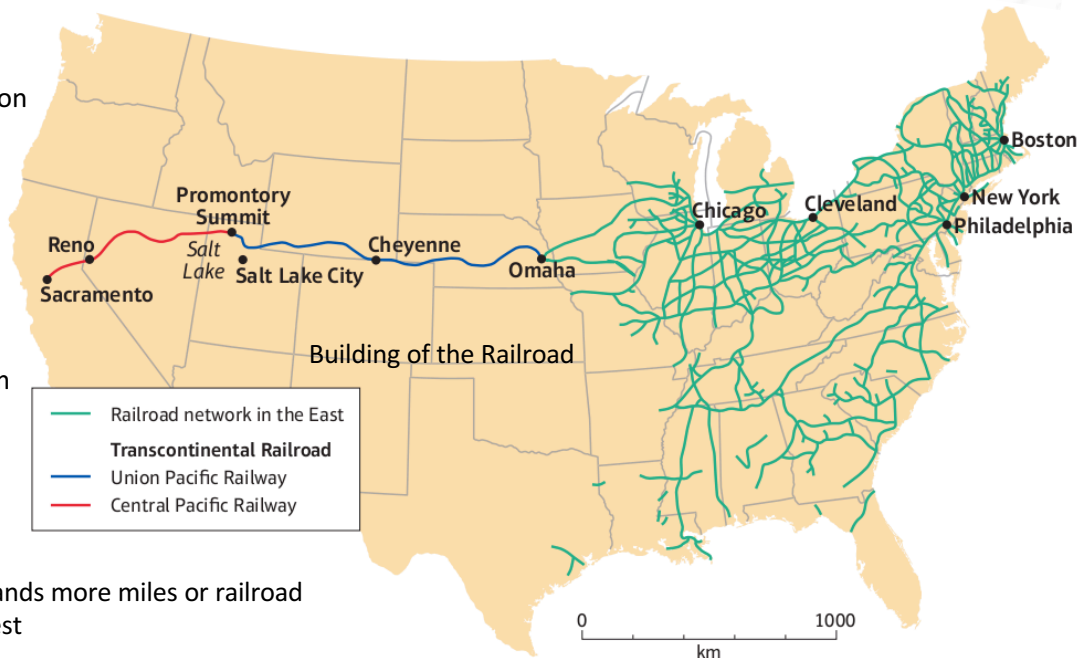
Building of the Railroad

The first railroad was over 2000km long and construction began 1865.

Chinese and Irish labourers worked on the building of the railroad, over 12,000 men died. Thousands of buffalo were slaughtered which also led to attack from Indians.

By 1869, the railroad was complete, it had a huge impact on America.

Over the next decades thousands more miles of railroad were built connecting the West



The impact of the Railroad

Impact on settlements & farming

It directly increased settlement in the West and on the Great Plains and helped America.



The railroad companies sold plots of land to settlers, over 200 million acres by 1900.

They used their 'Bureau of Immigration' to persuade people to 'Come West'

- It made travelling West easier and cheaper
- Towns like Denver grew quickly along the railroad routes, every stop became a town
- Farmers could transport their crops to sell in the East
- Settlers like Homesteaders could buy products from the East, like farming machinery

Impacts on the Plains Indians

It also directly affected the Plains Indians

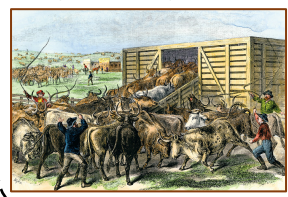
- Plains Indians were moved onto reservations away from the railroad
- It affected the buffalo – the railroad companies took buffalo grazing lands and the trains brought hunters
- Plains attacks on the trains led to conflict with the army
- It increased white settlement on Indian territory



Impact on the Cattle Industry

It enabled the growth of the Cattle Industry.

Texas cattlemen began to drive their cattle to 'Cow Towns' like Abilene on the railroad. They sold transported the cattle East which they sold for prices.



Exam Question



1. Write an analytical narrative account of the increased settlement of the West 1851-69 (8 Marks)
2. Explain the consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act, 1862 (8 Marks)

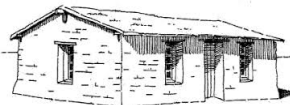






Homesteading on the Plains

From the start of homesteading in 1862, thousands of people moved to the Plains to set up farms but they faced serious challenges. They needed at least \$800 dollars in the first place to purchase the goods, horses and materials required to get started. Over half of homesteaders who moved to Kansas quit by 1890, showing the challenges they faced.



Despite the number of problems, there were plenty of new inventions and solutions which did allow some homesteaders to survive.

How did the Homesteaders try to solve problems on the Plains?

Problem	Explanation	Solution
A lack of timber – not enough trees on the Plains.	There was nothing to build houses with	People built sod houses out of earth – they had good insulation in the winter and were fire proof. 
	There was nothing to make fences to contain cattle and protect crops from animals	In 1874, Joseph Glidden invented barbed Wire. It was a cheap and easy way to fence off crops from other animals. It had a huge impact on the West, as thousands of acres of land were fences across the Plains. 
	There was nothing to use for fuel to cook or to heat the home.	Farmers used buffalo dung as fuel The new railroads could finally bring timber for fuel. 
		The Timber Culture Act of 1873 aimed to encourage settlers to plant more trees – however, many trees died due to the lack of water
A Lack of Water	There was low rainfall and few rivers and lakes.	Drills were developed to find underground water then windmill were used to pump water out of the ground so farmers could irrigate their land making it more fertile for crops. In 1870, Halladay invented a steel bladed windmill which could handle the strong winds on the plains. 
Hard arid land and unfertile ground	Ploughs often broke going through the grass on the Plains	Strong ploughs, like the 1875 'Sulky Plough' were used to pull up the tough weeds. They were strong and easy to use, over 50,000 were sold in the first year. Sod buster ploughs were invented by Deere in 1837 
	Low rainfall meant crops like maize and wheat were hard to grow	New techniques like dry farming were used – the fields were ploughed as soon as it had rained to keep the moisture in the soil. Many began to breed cattle and sheep instead of crops Others used a wheat from Russia called the Turkey Red, it could survive the plains and the harsh winters. 
Natural Hazards	Pest like grasshoppers/locusts could destroy crops. Prairie fires could burn everything	There was no solution and homesteaders could be bankrupted by natural disasters. 

How did railroads help Homesteaders?

The development of the railroads from 1869 made homesteader life easier as:

1. They could visit families and friends more easily, making life less isolated and women were able to build up relationships with other women, they even set up schools.
2. Homesteaders could buy manufactured goods to help their life, e.g. a sulky plough
3. Towns developed along the railroad, this meant that homesteaders could socialise, compare farming ideas, sell crops and buy new goods.



Exam Question



1. Write an analytical narrative account analysing the ways in which homesteaders solved the problems of farming on the Great Plains in the years 1862-76

Lawlessness: Law and Order 1862-76

Lawlessness had not been solved in the early settlements and the Civil War and development of railroads, the cattle industry and homesteading added pressure on law and order. This is where the reputation of the 'Wild West' came from, the fact that over 20,000 people died of shooting between 1866-1900 gives evidence of this!



The **Civil War of 1861-65** added to lawlessness due to the large number of deserters and ex-soldiers who moved west. Many had been affected by the war and were unable to find work, so they became outlaws like the Reno Gang.

The Code of the West

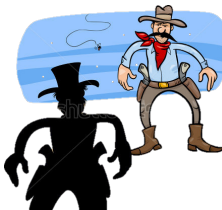
As there was a lack of law and order, people felt it was their own responsibility to settle things for himself and not back down.

As most westerners carried guns, this often led to violence. If you shot someone in self defence, it was not against the law and you would not be convicted



Hell on Wheels

- The new towns and settlements created along the railroads were lawless and were known as Hell on Wheels, the most lawless of these were the Cow Towns like Abilene.
- Cowboys would cause trouble by having gun-fights, gambling and seeing prostitutes
- Soon Abilene became outlaws and crooks.
- Abilene attempted to build its first jail and get a town marshal in 1870 but this failed and the marshal was killed. Eventually the only way to stop these problems was ending the cattle business.



Train Robbery

The railroads also brought a new crime – train robbery, with the first coming in 1866 where the Reno Brothers stole \$16,000

Between 1870 and 1880 gangs regularly robbed trains

To prevent this, railroad companies strengthened doors with and employed guards to help stop the robbers



Bank Robbery

Many ex-Confederate soldiers turned to bank robbery. A famous gang were the James-Younger gang, and were outlaws. Between 1866 & 1876, they robbed a number of banks and stage coaches. In 1876, a raid on a bank in Minnesota went wrong. The townspeople fought back and 2 gang members were killed (other 2 wounded) They carried on robbing banks until 1882, when they handed themselves in.



Stage Coach Robbery

- The movement of people and mail led to the setting up of stage coach lines.
- Wells Fargo was the first in 1858, travelling from Missouri to California
- Stage coaches carried a lot of money and became targets for robbers and were held up far away from towns.
- Companies responded by hiring guards and sometimes calling on the army for help.



Solving Lawlessness

Local communities still struggled to keep law and order whilst the government continued to use US marshals, judges and sheriffs to tackle lawlessness, however they still did not have enough resources/men to keep fix the problems .

Usually crime was met with force, either by hiring a tough sheriff or town marshal to keep the peace. **Vigilantes** continued to work outside of the law, there were over 200 groups in the West such as the Wyoming Regulators who would enforce the law and hang/shoot those who broke the law.

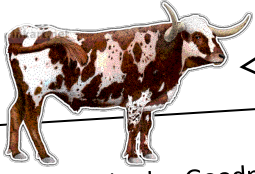


Some hired private police forces like the **Pinkertons**. They were a private group hired by banks and coach businesses for protection. This is an example of companies following the Code of the West – fighting fire with fire

The development of the Cattle Industry



Texas was the major centre of cattle ranching in America, by 1865, there were nearly 5 million cattle in Texas. After the Civil War, beef became a popular food and there was a big demand for cattle in the Great Plains and East. Cows were worth \$40 in the North, compared to \$5 in Texas. There were new opportunities in the West for ranching and cattle business



The **Longhorn Cow** which could survive on the plains

Cattle Drives

In **1866**, Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving decided to sell cattle directly to the new settlements in the West and government reservations by driving cattle themselves up from Texas to the Plains.

Their first 'drive' in 1866 to Fort Sumner made them \$12,000 (4 times what they made in Texas). As a result, they continued to drive thousands of cattle North along the new **Goodnight-Loving Trail**.



The trail went from Texas to the gold towns in Colorado and to Wyoming on the Pacific Railroad. They also supplied the US government who were buying 50,000 cattle a year to feed Indians on reservations in Cheyenne. These drives eventually led to the development of Cow Towns like Abilene and the building of cattle ranches on the Plains.



Cow Towns: Abilene

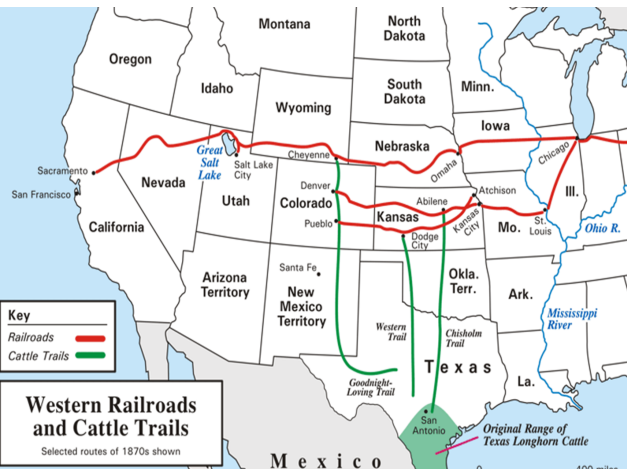
Joseph McCoy set up the first a 'Cow Town' in Abilene in **1867** which was on the Pacific Railroad. His aim was to transport cattle East on trains to make profit, as the cattle would sell for 10 times their value.

To encourage Texans to drive their cattle to Abilene he spent \$5000 dollars marketing his new town and built hotels, stockyards and space for 100 rail cars.



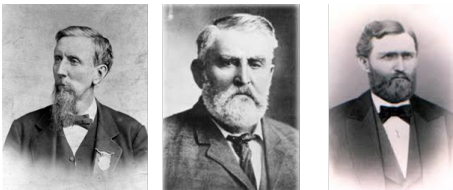
The **Chisholm Trail** led to Abilene and over 35,000 cattle were driven along this trail. In total, 3 million cattle were driven to Abilene to be sent East between 1867 and 1873

Abilene led to the development of further Cow Towns in Dodge City and helped the McCoy and others becoming rich Cattle Barons



Cattle Barons

The growth of ranching was a big business on the Plains - costs were low, profits high. Men like McCoy, Illif and Goodnight became Cattle Barons, they owned huge ranches with thousands of cattle and they became wealthy and influential within their territory.



Iliff even became the first cattle millionaire! In new states like Colorado Cattle Barons controlled politics as well as most of the land.

Early Ranchers – John Iliff

Jon W. Iliff spotted a new opportunity to developing ranching. Cattle ranches could be set up on the Plains where the cattle could be fattened up on the grass of the Plains instead of being driven up from Texas. The environment also reduced the chances of cattle getting Texas Fever.

Iliff bought a ranch land in Denver, Colorado using the Homestead Act to claim over 16,000 acres of land. By 1870 he had over 26,000 cattle. Iliff sold the beef to railroaders and won a contract to provide beef to the US Government, who used it to feed 7000 Sioux living on reservations. This led to the growth of cattle ranches on the Great Plains, open range ranching and emergence of cattle Barons.



Exam Question

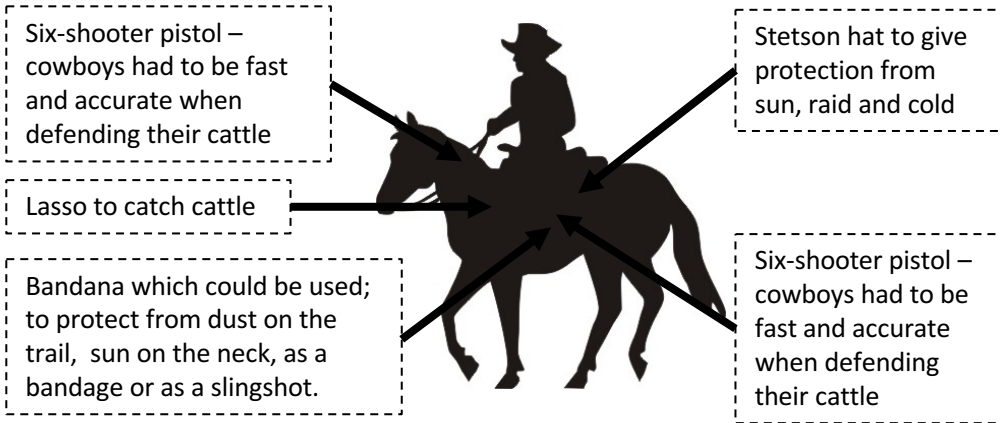


1. Write an analytical narrative account of the development of the Cattle Industry (8 Marks)
2. Explain the importance of the Cattle Barons in the development of the Cattle Industry (8 Marks)

How did the role of Cowboys change?

The term 'cowboy' was used to describe men who worked with cattle on the cattle drives, they were made up of blacks, Indian, Spanish, Mexican and white young men.

Cowboys were a tough group and had to survive on the harsh plains, they had specialist equipment to aid them.



Life on the Cattle Drives

Originally cowboys were hired to work on the cattle drives (e.g. Goodnight Loving Trail) from Texas to Abilene or the Great Plains cities like the Goodnight-Loving Trail.

You worked between 12-24 hours a day, walked 20 miles a day for up to 6 months. You would sleep and cook using campfires out in the open.

Cowboys worked seasonally (part of the year). In spring you round up the cattle and drive them north by Autumn



Your job was lonely, you could be at the front of the cattle drive miles away from others

Cowboys looked after the health and security of the cattle, keeping watch for predators or hostile Indians.

At the end of the drive they would spend their wages in Cow Towns like Abilene. Many would visit saloons and brothels causing problems.

The trail was very hot and dusty in the summer months and was full of dangers such as natural hazards and cattle stampedes.

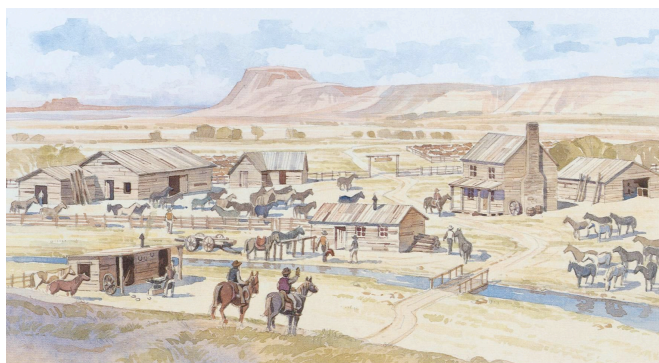
Life on the Ranches

In the 1870s, ranches on the Great Plains were set up causing many cowboys to move onto these. Most of the cowboys were in their 20s whilst the older cowboys moved onto new jobs. These ranches meant a considerable change for cowboys.

Cowboys now slept in bunkhouses with others, they had their own cookhouses

Dangers were fewer but still threat of Indians and rustlers (cattle thieves)

Cowboys had a variety of jobs on the ranches; rounding up the cattle, branding, cleaning and managing the fences.



Ranches banned drinking, gambling, guns and knives. Many struggled to get used to this.

Cowboys now had a full time job all year round, however there are less jobs available.

As the ranches were 'open range' (no fences) you still had to round up the cattle but you only had to drive the cattle short distances to market or railroad

Working in the winter on the Great Plains was dangerous and lonely – you could get stuck in a storm and cattle would struggle in the snow and ice

Exam Question



1. Explain two consequences of cattle ranching on the Great Plains (8 Marks)
2. Explain the importance cowboys in the cattle industry (8 marks)

Homesteaders vs Ranchers

With the development of cattle ranching on the Plains, there arose conflict between ranchers and homesteaders over the Plains

As **open range ranching** needed lots of land which the ranchers could not afford, they used public land for free to let their huge cattle herds graze. They did not pay for it but the government allowed them to use this land for free. The ranchers divided up this land between themselves.



Cattle Ranchers



Homesteaders

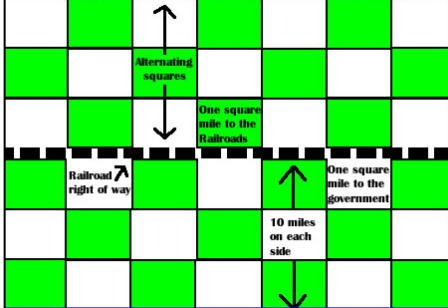


VS

Ranchers accused Homesteaders of cattle rustling (stealing their cattle) and complained that barbed wire fences harmed their animals.

Homesteaders complained that cattle trampled and ate their crops

Land Grants to the Railroads



Land issues on the Plains



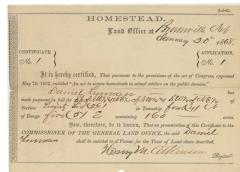
When the government gave out land, it was in a checkerboard style:

- Some of it was free public land that Homesteaders could claim and ranchers used for cattle grazing
- The other land was owned by the Railroad, which they sold to settlers or ranchers for profit.
- However, ranchers became unhappy that homesteaders bought land where they wanted their cattle to graze for free.

Rancher actions against Homesteaders

The rising tension led to ranchers and cattle barons using underhand tactics to block the Homesteaders

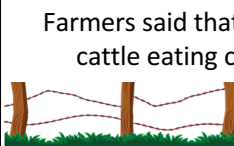
Cattle Barons would get every family member of those working on the ranches to file claims using the Homestead Act to take the best land on the Plains and give it to them



As all land was in a checkerboard sections, the ranchers would buy land from the railroad companies. They would then fence off the land so that there was no access to public lands



Ranchers took Homesteaders to court over claims to land, the Cattle Barons had the money to win the case so Homesteaders gave up



Farmers said that ranches should fence their land to stop cattle eating crops but ranchers wanted their cattle to roam free it was not their responsibility so it led to conflict

Tension leads to conflict

As wealthy cattle barons clashed with homesteaders, tension grew leading to open conflict between them.

These were called the **Range Wars**



The most famous range war was the **Johnson County War** in 1892



There was also considerable conflict between sheep farmers and cattlemen, leading to fighting in the 1870s

- Cattlemen fenced off pastures on public land for their cattle
- However, the sheep farmers cut the wire
- Cattlemen raided and killed hundreds of sheep and even some farmers

Exam Qs 1. Write narrative account analysing the main developments in cattle ranching on the Plains, 1864-76 (8 marks)

2. Explain two consequences of the development of ranching on the Plains, 1866-78 (8 Marks)

Impact of settlement on Indian way of life



As migration West increased due to the railroads, gold rush, cattle industry and homesteading the impact on the traditional Indian way of life. The Indian Appropriations Act and Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 introduced reservations, reduced Indian territory and began to affect Indian resources as white America expanded east, west and south.

Impact of the Gold Rushes

In the first Gold Rush in California, gold prospectors killed Indians, and forcibly removed them from the land where gold was found. This led to the Fort Laramie Treaty to reduce this conflict.



A second gold rush in the Rocky Mountains in 1859 led to whites trespassing on Cheyenne and Arapaho land. This broke the Fort Laramie but the government did nothing.

Impact of white settlement

New towns in California developed with churches, schools, and stores which were opposite to Indian culture.



White settlers also brought new diseases like Smallpox which devastated Indian villages.



The **Homestead Act of 1862**, directly led to settlement on the Great Plains, in states like Nebraska and Kansas, which led to conflict with new settlers.



In 1863, gold was discovered in Montana. The quickest route was through the Bozeman Trail through Lakota Sioux lands, breaking the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty which led to **Red Clouds War** against the whites in 1866



Impact of the railroads

The Pacific Railroad Act ended Indians' rights to the land. In 1870, the Pawnee tribe agreed to move onto **reservations**, this was followed by other tribes such as the Omaha and Winnebago.



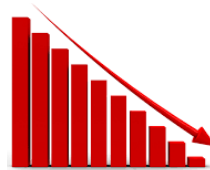
Impact of the cattle industry

In 1860 there were 130,000 cattle in the West (all in Kansas and Nebraska). By 1880 there were 4.5 million, half of those in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Dakota



The Northern Pacific Railroad ran through Dakota, where tens of thousands of Indians lived.

In 1870 the railroad was given 40 million acres to sell to settlers. This triggered conflict leading to the Great Sioux War in 1876.



This increase in cattle and growth of open range ranches impacted buffalo grazing areas. As cattle and buffalo had the same diet; grass. As cattle numbers grew, buffalo numbers declined.



Railroad land reduced grazing land for the buffalo whilst fences blocked buffalo migration and also the Indians' hunting grounds.



The railroad also hired Buffalo Bill to clear buffalo from the tracks, he killed 4280 in a year!



As Cattle trails crossed Indian lands, some paid Indians to allow them to pass but in Comanche lands they did not allow it. The Comanche attacked cowboys and stole horses and cattle. The US Army then had to protect the cattle drives.



In 1871, the buffalo leather industry boomed causing buffalo hides prices to rise. The railroad allowed thousands of hunters to flood the plains to kill buffalo. In 1873 over 750,000 hides were sent East. This helped lead to the extermination of the buffalo



Some Indians began to work as cowboys on ranches. This settled life took Indians away from their traditional lifestyle, meaning they became dependant on the ranchers.

Exam Question



1. Explain two consequences of westward migration on the Plains Indians' way of life (8 Marks)
2. Explain the importance of the railroad in the destruction of the Indians traditional way of life (8 Marks)

Government policy towards Indians 1851-71



Despite the agreements at the Fort Laramie Treaty, white Americans continued to settle on the plains and get into conflict with Indians and the government did nothing. However, the government did continue its policy set up in the 1851 Indian Appropriations Act which was to continue to move Indians onto reservations. This continued throughout the 1860s with the government making guarantees that the Plains Indians would:

- Not lose any more land
- Be protected from whites
- Be given yearly payments of money and also food, clothing, cattle and farming tools.

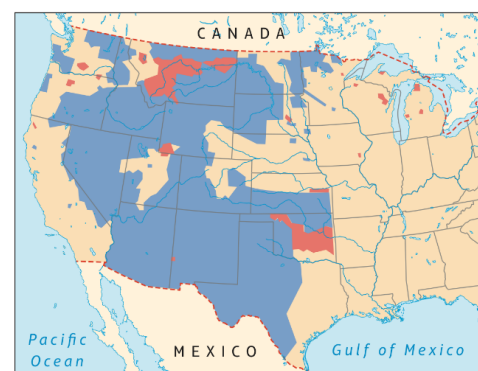


Reservations

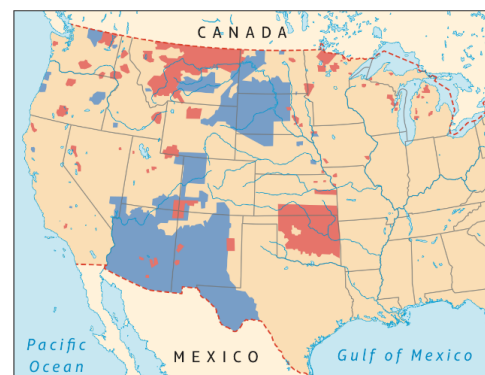
As you can see, gradually Indian homelands reduced and reservations increased between 1862-76



American Indian homelands and reservations 1862



American Indian homelands and reservations 1876



■ Reservation
■ American Indian homelands

Why did Indians move to reservations?

- Often Plains Indians tribes agreed to move to move to reservations as often the council felt it was the only way to survive. White settlement on the Plains has reduced their food supplies and hunting groups, so they were partially forced into this decision
- The government promised that tribes would be cared for on the reservations with regular food supplies and opportunity to go onto the hunting grounds to hunt buffalo.
- Some tribes actually sided with the US government against their enemies, whilst others actively refused to move leading to the US army to physically force the Indians onto the reservations

What was the impact of reservations?

- The government believed that reservations would benefit Plain Indians but it soon came apparent to the Indians that this was not the case.
- The reservations undermined traditional Indian way of life in three ways:

1. Reservations were small and did not include Indian hunting grounds, so Indians could no longer hunt. Also, reservation land was poor for farming, which Indians did not know how to do anyway. This meant they came dependent on good supplies from the government

2. The **Bureau of Indian Affairs**, who ran the reservations, were often corrupted and cheated Indians out of their supplies

3. The government used any excuse to accuse the Indians of breaking the treaty (such as going on the hunt) to take more land away from the Indians and reduce their reservation size. This often led to fighting.



President Grant's Peace Policy, 1868

President Grant realised that reservations were leading to conflicts between the US Army and Plains Indians – therefore he put forward his '**Peace Policy**' in 1868

His aim was to improve the reservation system, to do so he:

1. Appointed new reservation agents, religious Quakers who had a strong reputation for fairness and peace.
2. Made an Indian, **Ely Parker**, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
3. Agreed the government would spent \$2 million to improve conditions in reservations and create new ones



Any Indian who refused to go onto reservations as part of the 'Peace Policy' would be treated as hostile and force would be used against them

Indian Appropriations Act, 1871

The government then passed a new Indian Appropriations act of 1871 which now did not treat Indians as an independent nation, but people of the state who needed to be 'looked after'



Exam Question



1. Explain the consequence of reservations on Indians traditional way of life (8 Marks)

2. Explain the importance of Peace Policy 1868 for relations between Indians and whites (8 marks)

The Indian Wars, 1862-68

Tip!

Tension between the Plains Indians and the white Americans escalated into the first 'Indian Wars' of 1862-68. There were a number of causes for these; White settlers breaking the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty which stated whites would not settle in Indian lands, frustration over the reservation system and anger over government treatment.

Little Crow's War, 1862

In 1851, **Little Crow** chief of the **Santee Sioux** agreed to move his tribe to a reservation in return for a yearly \$80,000 and supplies.



However, reservation was a disaster for the Sioux

- The lands was poor, so farming failed
- The government money or supplies never arrived



As a result, the 12,000 Sioux began to starve causing them to steal from the reservation agency and get into debt with white traders. The government then took away half of the reservation land to pay off the Indians debts.



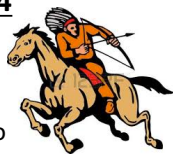
As a result, the US army captured and publically executed 38 Sioux. Little Crow was killed and the remaining Santee were put into poor Crow Creek reservation – thousands died.

In August 1862, the Sioux burnt down the agency warehouse, stole food and then attacked white settlements. In total, 600 settlers and soldiers were killed



The Sandcreek Massacre, 1864

During the 1858 Colorado Gold Rush many miners and settlers crossed and settled on Arapaho and Cheyenne homelands, this led to fighting between them.



In 1861, chief **Black Kettle** agreed the **Treaty of Fort Wise** to move all the Cheyenne and Arapaho onto a reservation.

However, warriors called '**Dog Soldiers**' refused to leave and continued the war.

On 29th November 1864, US army Colonel Chivington led a dawn raid on Black Kettle's camp at Sand Creek, believing they were the 'hostile' Indians. Over 130 men, women and children were killed.



The US government admitted it was wrong and in 1865 they agreed to move the Indians to a better reservation with the survivors receiving compensation. However, the US government never made any payments, so the war continued until the Cheyenne and Arapaho were finally beaten at the Battle of Washita in 1868 where Black Kettle was killed

Red Cloud's War, 1868

During the 1862 Gold Rush, the **Bozeman Trail** cut through Sioux hunting grounds which broke the 1851, Fort Laramie Treaty. As a result, the Sioux began to attack the miners and settlers on the trail.



In 1866, the government started discussions with the Indians, but **Red Cloud** (chief of the Sioux) stormed out of talks when he learned that two forts were planned on Indian land. Red Cloud and 3000 Sioux (and Crazy Horse) then went to war attacking forts and settlers.



The Fetterman Massacre

In December 1866, Captain William Fetterman and 80 soldiers rode into a Sioux trap of 1000 warriors, they were all massacred and scalped. The Sioux then blockaded the Bozeman Trail so no one could pass it.



This was a **major success for Red Cloud** and the Sioux and the worst defeat for the US army in the West. The government admitted defeat and changed its policy, leading to the 1868 **Fort Laramie Treaty**.

The government and the Sioux signed the second **Fort Laramie Treaty in 1868**.

The Second Fort Laramie Treaty 1868

The Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868

1. The government then agreed to close the Bozeman Trail and forts along it
2. Red Cloud would move his people to the Great Sioux Reservation in Dakota

However, not all those who fought with Red Cloud agreed with the treaty such as Chief Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse



Exam Question



1. Write a narrative account analysing the events of the Indian Wars, 1862-68. You may wish to use Little Crow's War (1862) and the second Fort Laramie Treaty (1868) (8 Marks)

Think of this as a narrative – Remember to connect each event!

Exoduster Movement & Oklahoma Land Rush



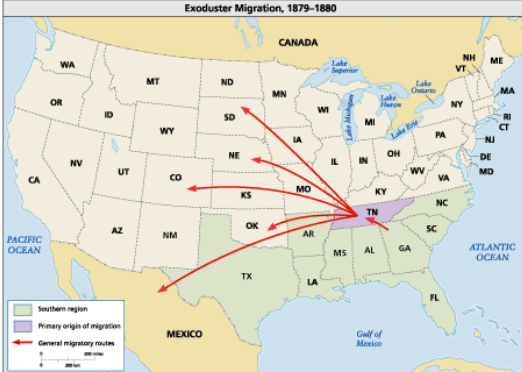
As a result of the **American Civil War**, 1861-65, over 4 million slaves were freed across the USA. However, many whites in the southern states did not accept this so they used violence, intimidation and racism to target free blacks. Groups like the KKK were set up in 1866 and

With this continued oppression after the Civil War, many black Americans in the South decided to move West and use the Homestead Act to claim land to settle on.

The Exoduster Movement, 1879

Ex-slave Benjamin Singleton first started the 'exodus' to Kansas, he promoted the state in newspapers and meetings in the South to encourage migration. This was tempting to Blacks who wanted better jobs, new lives in a area welcoming to ex-slaves

All Colored People
 THAT WANT TO
GO TO KANSAS,
 On September 5th, 1877,
 Can do so for \$5.00



By 1879, this news had spread and by the end of the year over 40,000 black 'Exodusters' had begun the Exodus to the dry, dusty West – the free state of Kansas which had fought to end slavery. It had biblical meaning to the religious black Americans, who linked it to the story of the exodus and felt God would guide them West.

Benjamin Singleton

'I am the whole cause of the Kansas immigration!'

Was he right?



Consequences of the Exoduster Movement

Problems with farming

- Other settlers had taken the best land already
- Most Exodusters could not afford to buy the land (they thought it was free or even set up a farm and buy equipment
- Exoduster homesteaders found it very hard to survive on the Plains

Responses to Exodusters

- Southern whites opposed and tried to block the migration
- Whites in Kansas did not think the Exodusters should be helped and should return to the South
- However, the Kansas governor set up money to help migrants and set up black colonies for them to settle.

End of the movement

- By 1880 mass migration had stopped, it was too hard and risky for large numbers to settle
- Eventually 43,000 settled in Kansas and 56,000 in Oklahoma.
- Exodusters typically stayed poorer than white migrants and had fewer rights – some even moved on

The Oklahoma Land Rush

As a result of the 1830 Indian Removal Act, Indian Territory was set up and split into different sections for Indian tribes with a gap in the middle.



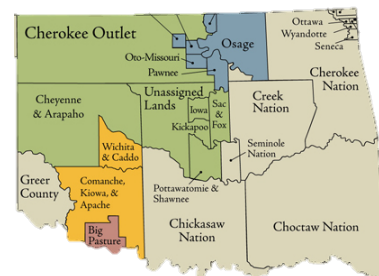
In 1883 the **Dawes Act** split up Indian lands down to 160 acres per family and then in 1889 they announced the remaining land would be up for late and could be claimed, 2 million acres

On **22nd April 1889** the boundary was opened and thousands of white settlers rushed to claim their piece – a land rush

In 1893, the government opened up a further 8 million acres called the Cherokee Land Strip, again a land rush claimed all this land.

There were 7 Oklahoma land rushes in total, the last in 1895.

This is a clear example of the government supporting white settlement over Indian rights to their land.



Oklahoma
 Coloured land could be settled on

Exam Question



1. Write an analytical narrative account analysing the ways in which settlement in the West developed in the years 1876-95 (8 marks) – You may use these as examples

Later developments to farming



The improvements in farming continued between 1870-90 with the introducing of machinery which could now be bought cheaply from the West transported by the railroads. This new mechanical equipment included binders, reapers and threshers and helped speed up the harvest and improving the success rate of homesteaders.

As a result of this machinery and other developments, by the 1890 the Great Plains had become a fertile farmland and Homesteaders prospered.

Continued developments in farming

Dry Farming







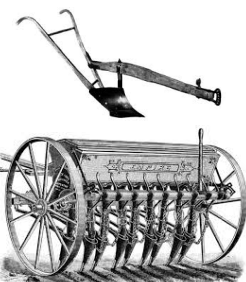
The government now began to sponsor experimentation into improving water levels in the soil, one of these methods was **Dry Farming** introduced by homesteader Hardy Campbell.

Dry farming prepared the soil so it trapped the rainwater underneath the surface by putting a layer of dust onto the soil after it rained. This would help the roots of the crops grow deeper to get more water so the crops would thrive. A successful crop was the **Turkey Red Wheat**.

Dry farming thrived from the 1880s onwards into the 20th century.



The impact of new technology

Development	Information	Impact
Windpumps 	Daniel Halladay's first windpump was created in 1854 but these wooden pumps struggled in the Plains weather and were expensive to repair. By the 1880s, strong metal windpumps that only needed oiling once a year were created. They could pump more water, were easier to maintain and could withstand the harsh weather.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind pumps solved the biggest problem in the west – how to get water. Windpumps were now used by cattle ranchers and farmers all over the West to get fresh water. 
Barbed Wire  	First introduced by Joseph Glidden in 1874 as there was a lack of timber on the Great Plains. It was first used by Homesteaders and then ranchers from the 1880s. Due to mass production, its cost dropped making it affordable fencing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbed wire had a huge impact, it was a cheap and effective way for farmers to fence off their claims and protect their crops from roaming cattle Cattle ranchers used it to keep their cattle in certain areas, to stop other cattle grazing on their pasture and to stop cattle rustling 
Mechanisation 	Manufacturers began to invent new agricultural (farming) machines to solve farmers' problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help those who wanted to dry farm a steel plough was created that ploughed the soil deep enough to allow rainfall to go in. Seed drills could plant seeds deep enough to help dry farming – it would be a machine that could be pulled behind a cart. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanization made farming faster, more efficient and more productive. It meant farmers could work on large areas, meaning they planted more crops. It helped the US economy, as manufacturers sold more to the farmers, they made money and so did farmers who produced more. This all led to the expansion of homesteading farms.

Continued problems - Climate

The one thing Homesteaders could not control was the weather and climate.

There were severe droughts in the 1870s and 1880s which led to crops failing, meaning many homesteaders went bankrupt and between 1889-93 over 11,000 homesteads were repossessed (taken by the bank).

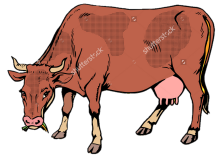


Exam Questions



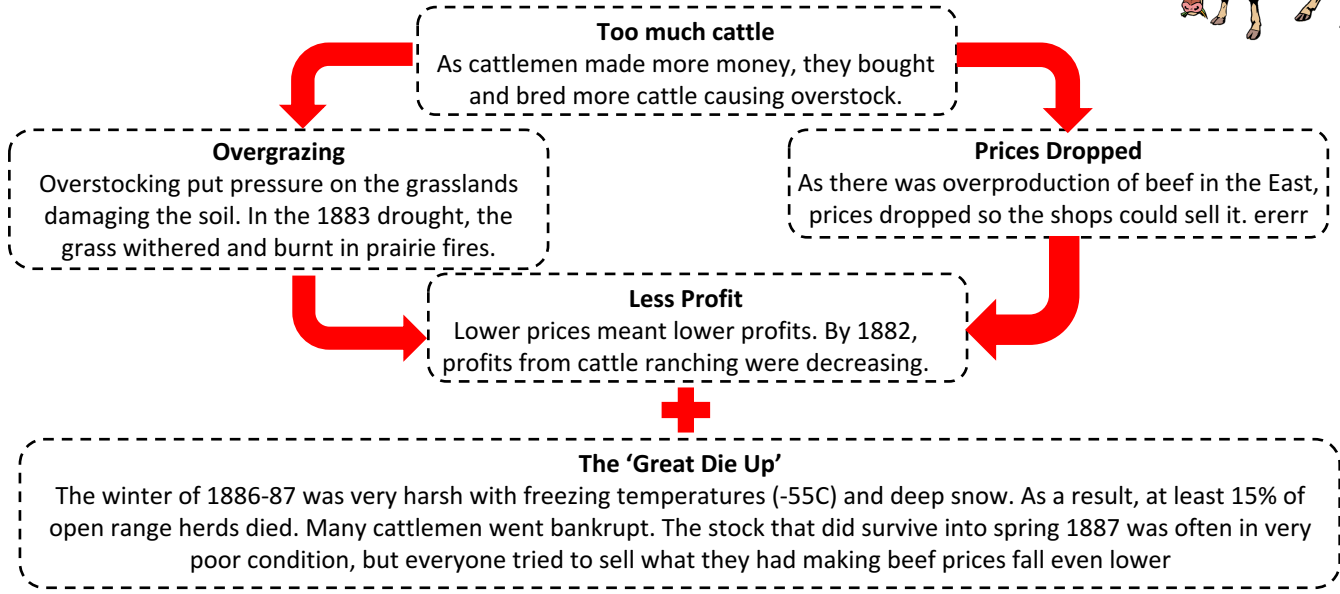
1. Explain two consequences of homesteading on the Great Plains (8 marks)
 Explain the importance of the invention of barbed wire in the West (8 Marks)

Changes in the cattle industry



Through the 1870s, so much money went into cattle ranching that the open range became overstocked (too much cattle for the available grass, meaning cattle went hungry). This situation had several serious consequences for the cattle industry in the 1880s

Consequences of overstocking the Open Range

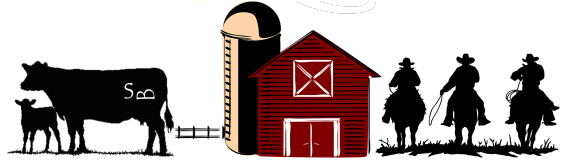


The decline of the large scale cattle ranching had **three main consequences**; the end of open range ranching, the move to smaller ranches and an impact on cowboys.

The end of Open Range ranching

The combination of these factors led to the end of Open Range ranching, huge ranches could not cope with the problems whilst the smaller ranchers could and this became a model for the cattle industry after 1887.

The move to small ranches

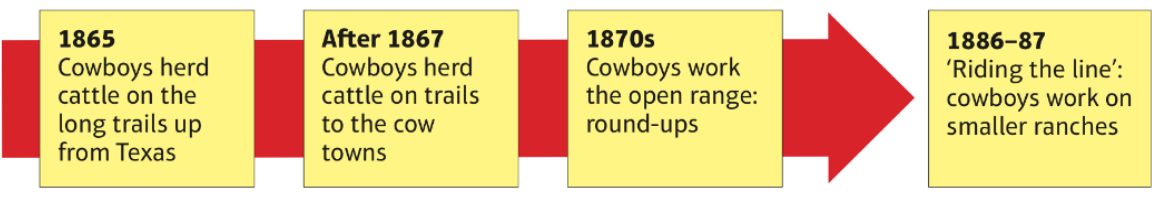
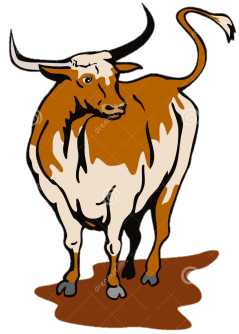


Impact on Cowboys

- Many cowboys died in the winter of 1886-87, trying to find cattle in the deep snowdrifts of the open range
- The end of the open range meant changes for cowboys, they now lived less adventurous lives and most became ranch hands: branding, de-horning and dipping cattle, mending barbed wire fences, repairing buildings, inspecting the grass in the fenced-off fields and harvesting the hay to feed the herd.
- Cowboys lived in bunkhouses, which were often not very comfortable, with leaking roofs, thin walls and beds full of lice
- There were schedules to keep to and rules to follow, which often included a ban on carrying firearms.
- The smaller ranches only employed a few cowboys, so cowboy numbers dropped



- From 1887, small ranching became the main type of ranching on the Plains
- Smaller herds were easier to manage and could be brought under shelter in bad winter weather
- Smaller herds in fenced pastures were easier to guard against cattle rustlers
- Ranchers brought in high quality breeds that produced better meat. These animals were kept separate from other breeds so their calves would be high quality too
- Smaller numbers of cattle reduced the supply of beef, which helped raised prices for beef again.
- This higher quality beef could also be sold at higher prices, meaning the cattle industry started to recover.
- It also led to more fencing as homesteaders moved onto the Plains, which caused tension between ranchers and settlers.



Exam Questions



1. Explain two consequences of the 1886-87 winter on the cattle industry (8 Marks)
2. Explain the importance of the winter of 1886-8 for the cattle industry (8 marks)

Law and Order; 1876-90

The later development of the West meant there was continued lawlessness in the West for a number of reasons:

There were conflicts between ranchers and homesteaders, cattle barons and ranchers and between Indians and settlers over resources.	There was conflict between people of different races (Indians Mexicans, Whites and Blacks).	The justice system was still weak. Governors, judges and officers were often corrupt and were bribed by the local gangs.	There was a shortage of reliable law officers, many were corrupt and criminals themselves. The geography still made it hard to police property.	Vigilantes continued to take the law into their own hands and often made problems worse. Sorting your own problems with violence was still common.
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There are two clear examples of lawlessness in the later settlement of the West.

Billy the Kid

Who was Billy the Kid?

- Born in 1859
- Grew up in the new mining town
- Became involved in the Lincoln County War between ranchers and settlers.
- Became famous across America as a 'gunslinger' who killed 21 men
- Declared an outlaw after killing police officers.
- Shot dead by a Sheriff in 1881

Key events in his life

Early life of theft and cattle rustling, later gained a reputation as a notorious jail escapist and skilled gunfighter. He even became famous in newspapers.



After the 1878 Lincoln County War, Billy swore to kill everyone who he blamed for his friends death.

His gang killed enemies and police, with the locals in New Mexico giving them hideouts.

Despite being caught and brought to court and sentenced to death, Kid escaped. He was finally tracked down by Sheriff Garrett and killed.



Why was Billy the Kid so important?

Billy the Kid highlighted the problem of law and order in the West

1. The powerless people (poor, ethnic minorities and small ranchers and homesteaders) liked the way he stood up for himself against the big businessmen and government.
2. He was used a 'hired gun' to fight the wars between the Cattle Barons and ranchers, showing how they had no faith in the law
3. He highlighted the weakness of the justice system, it was too weak and corrupt to deal with his gang.

Improving Law and Order

In general lawlessness decreased as settlements developed, as people needed their businesses and their families to be secure they took matters into their own hands, for example some residents passed laws to ban guns within the town. Towns were now connected to bigger towns and cities by rail and electric telegraph, which meant law officers and judges could keep in close contact the government and marshalls. Overall this increased law and order in the later development of the West.

Gunfight at the OK Corral

Causes – Lawlessness in Tombstone

The mining town of Tombstone, Arizona boomed in the 1800s alongside lawlessness. Within the town, there was rivalry between rich miners who controlled the town and cowboys and ranchers (the Clantons and McLaureys)



Wyatt Earp

In 1880, the rich businessmen hired Wyatt Earp as deputy sheriff to bring order to the town. Earp had a mixed history of fighting and running a brother but had served as deputy marshal in Wichita, Kansas.



The gunfight at the OK Corral

There were clashes between the Earps (Wyatt and his two brothers), and the Clantons and McLaurys, as the lawmen tried to recover stolen horses and mules.

This led to a gunfight on 26 October 1881 at the Ok Corral where the Earps kill two McLaureys and a Clanton.



Cowboys then kill Morgan Earp, so Wyatt then kills the two men he sees as responsible causing more trouble.



Results

Support for the Earps dropped and many saw them as murderers with no respect for the law, they were forced to flee Tombstone in 1882.

Law and order eventually came to Tombstone.



Exam Question



Write a narrative account analysing the development of Law and Order in the West, 1836-1890 (8 marks)

The Range Wars and Johnson County War



The range wars were major conflicts for the control of land and resources on the Great Plains, it began out of tension between the **Homesteaders and Cattle Barons**. The early ranches liked the open range style ranching but with the arrival of homesteaders, the available land was fenced off leading to open conflict and war. The best known of these was the 1892, **Johnson County War**, it highlights people still took the law into their own hands.

Background to the Conflict

The growth of the cattle industry in Wyoming

Wyoming, with its small population of 9000 and large areas of public land soon became under the control of wealthy Cattle Barons who bought large areas of land. By the 1870s, Wyoming was effectively under their control.



Impact of the winter 1886-87

Harsh winters caused large losses to the cattle herds on ranches in Wyoming, many ranchers went bankrupt which meant they lost wealth and power. Small ranches did better, causing the large ranchers to accuse them of stealing their cattle.



Tensions between big and small ranchers

Wyoming's population began to increase as Homesteaders and smaller ranches moved in, by 1884 10,000 acres had been homesteaded. The big ranchers were unhappy with the barbed wire fences that were put up, thinking they would hurt the cattle.

The new settlers disliked the powerful Barons who held all the power, whilst the Barons disliked that Johnson County courts let cattle rustlers get away with stealing their cattle.



The killing of Ella Watson and Jim Averill

Watson and Averill were homesteaders who claimed 640 acres that were currently being used by Albert Bothwell's cattle for grazing. They openly disliked each other. Watson got her own small herd of cows, Bothwell accused her of cattle rustling.

In 1889, Bothwell and his men hanged Watson and Averill and then taking their land. No-one was prosecuted, and over the next few months 3 small ranch owners were also killed.



As a result of the killing of Ella Watson and Jim Averill, the small ranchers announced they would hold an early spring round up of cattle earlier than the big ranchers (**WSGA - Wyoming Stock Growers Association**).

The WSGA ranchers were suspicious that the small ranchers would use this round up to steal more cattle from them!



The Johnson County War begins



The **WSGA** hired **22 gunmen** from Texas to 'invade' Johnson County and **kill 70 suspected rustlers**. They raided \$100,000 to pay the gunmen and legal costs, the Pacific Railroad company even lent them a special train.



The **invasion failed** as they got held up in a shoot-out with rancher Nate Champion who was killed.

Word reached Sheriff Angus of Johnson County, and residents of the county's main town, Buffalo who joined resistance against the 'invaders'. The **invaders were surrounded and arrested** despite being saved by the US army. **The war was over.**



Consequences of the Johnson County War

The **WSGA** had **powerful friends** (the Wyoming Governor, Senator and judges) and along with the \$100,000 they hired the best Chicago lawyers.

The lawyers got the trial moved to Cheyenne where the jury took the side of the WSGA, and they then kept delaying the trial until Johnson County ran out of money. The government refused to help so the **'invaders' were set free.**



The cattle barons continued their dominance of the cattle industry but the WSGA agreed to let small ranchers join in 1893

Significance of the Johnson County War

The Johnson County war showed that vigilantism continued throughout the West but it importantly showed people would not accept it and decided to fight back against the rich cattle ranchers.

Exam Q ?

1. Explain two consequences of the Johnson County War, 1892 (8 Marks)

The Battle of the Little Big Horn, 1876

The years 1876-77 were a huge turning point in the American West because of the Great Sioux War, which contained the Battle of the Little Big Horn. In this battle, the combined forces of the Sioux nation defeated the US army which led to the shocked US government changing their policy towards the Indians – civilise and become US citizens or die!



Causes of the Great Sioux War

In the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the Sioux were given a large reservation in South Dakota and could roam freely in the Black Hills (sacred for the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Sioux). Whites were not allowed to settle there or prospect for gold.



As the Northern Pacific Railroad got closer to Sioux land, **General George Custer** led cavalymen to protect the railroad builders and look for gold.



He found it so prospectors staked their claims to the land – breaking the Fort Laramie Treaty

The US government offered the Sioux \$6 million for the Black Hills or \$400,000 a year for the mineral rights.



They refused both offers and many bands left the Sioux reservation.

In December 1875, the Sioux were given 60 days to return to their reservation or be attacked

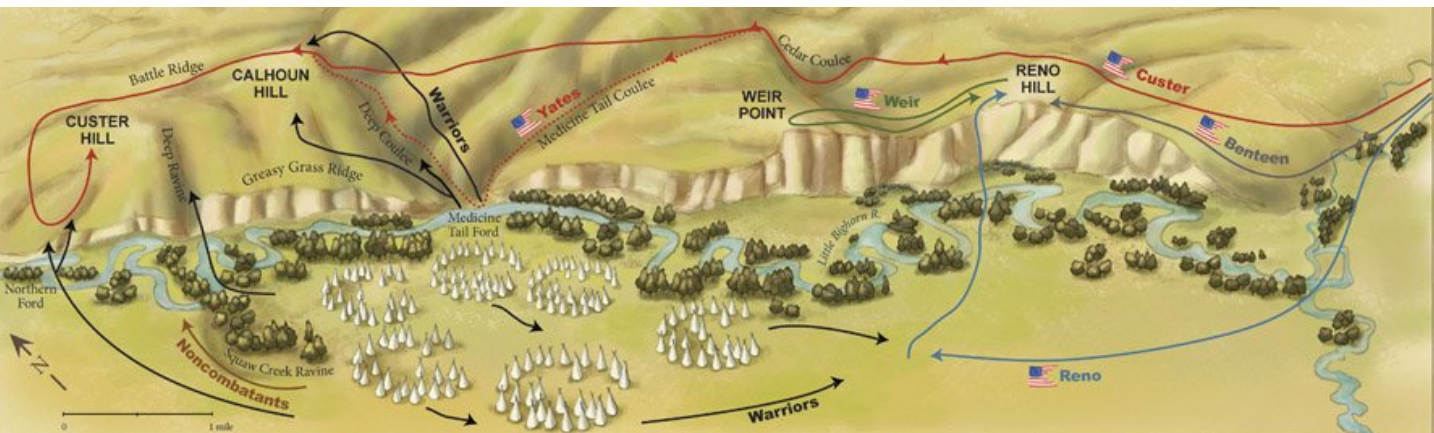
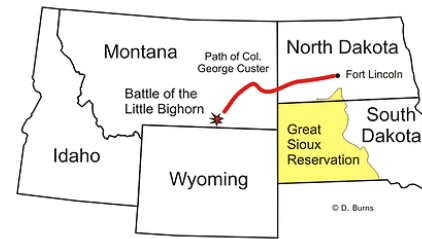
As it was winter, the Indians could not return so President Grant order the Sioux to be attacked. By spring of 1876, over 7000 Sioux Indians were prepared for war.



The US army then attacked the Indians at Rosebud River on 17th June 1876. They were defeated by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.

The Battle of Little Big Horn

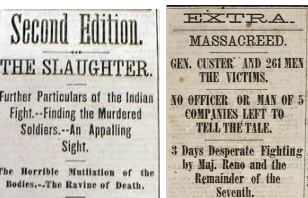
The US Army planned to attack the Sioux to force them back to their reservations. Custer's scouts found a camp of 2,000 warriors in the valley of the Little Bighorn. Custer only had 600 cavalymen with him and his orders were to find the camp and then wait for reinforcements but Custer recklessly split his forces and attacked. Crazy Horse's Indians easily defeated the outnumbered US army, Custer and all his 200 men were killed, mutilated and scalped.



Impact of the battle

Until Little Big Horn, public opinion had favoured trying to reach an agreement with the Indians.

Afterwards Indians were not seen as a threat and they pressured the government to crush Indian resistance.



Consequences of the Battle

In the **short term**, the battle was a huge failure for the US government but historians have argued in the **long-term** it was a success for the US against the Indians as the **Indian resistance ended here**. The government decided that:



Indians must live on reservations

The army pursued the Sioux and Cheyenne tribes. Within five years, almost all the Sioux and Cheyenne were put in reservations and became dependent on the government for food and shelter. Sitting Bull was forced to surrender.

All treaties were cancelled

All old treaties were ended and they must move to reservations or die. The Sioux told that if they did not give up the Black Hills, the US government would stop sending them food. Facing starvation, the Sioux gave up the Black Hills and their lands.

The US would have military control over the Indians

Sioux weapons and horses were taken and they had to live under military rule. Crazy Horse was captured and killed whilst trying to escape. The US built two new forts and 2500 soldiers were sent West



The Wounded Knee Massacre, 1890

By the 1890s, Indians on reservations were facing an increasingly bad situation – their rations were cut, the crops failed due to a drought in 1890 and they felt despair at the loss of their lands and way of life.

One Indian response to the situation was the **Ghost Dance**

The Ghost Dance

A Sioux Indian claimed to have had a vision telling him that if Plains Indians rejected white ways and danced the Ghost Dance, the Great Spirits would bring all the dead Plains Indians back and a great flood would carry away the white people.

The Ghost Dance spread rapidly through the reservations, which worried President Harrison who ordered the army in to the reservations to stop the



Sitting Bull, a Hunkpapa Indian was a holy man who lived on the Standing Rock Reservation.

In 1890, the police moved into arrest him at Pine Ridge as they believed he was planning to lead the Ghost Dancers into a rebellion. However, he was shot and killed in the struggle.

As a result, his followers fled the reservation and joined Big Foot's band of Indians.



The Wounded Knee Massacre

As the Indians fled, they were slowed down by the snow and the US army caught up with them. The Indians were taken to Wounded Knee Creek where the US army began to disarm them.



In the confusion, Indians started the Ghost Dance and a shot was fired, leading to the US army opening fire on the Indians. Within 10 minutes, **250 Indians** (men, women and children) were dead and 25 US soldiers had been killed.



The massacre was the end of Indian resistance to the whites.



The massacre confirmed white views that they needed to exterminate 'hostile' Indians



Impact of Wounded Knee

It ended the Ghost Dance, The American public were happy it was over and even praised the soldiers for their actions.

Wounded Knee became a symbol of Indian oppression by the whites.



It was the last clash between the Sioux and the US Army. It ended the resistance of the Sioux tribes

Exam Question



1. Write an analytical narrative account analysing the ways in which settlement in the West developed in the years 1876-95 (8 marks) – You may use these as examples

Destruction of the Plains Indians way of Life

The Extermination of the Buffalo

By 1885 the once huge herds of buffalo (3 million) were down to just 200 as the government actively sought to encourage the destruction of the buffalo. This was part of the government policy towards Indians to push them into reservations and 'civilise' them.



Between 1872-74 over 4.5 million buffalo were killed by white hunters in the southern herd and between 1876-83 the northern herd was wiped out.

The extermination of the buffalo was a further destruction of the Plains Indians way of life.

Why were the Buffalo exterminated?

Government Policy	Economic Causes	Benefits to the Railroad and Cattle Industry
<p>The government wanted to force Indians onto reservations and destroy their food supply, without their main source of food they would not be able to go hunt and cause problems and they would have to learn to farm on reservations.</p> <p>This would mean they would become less independent and more reliant on the US government, giving them more control over the Indians.</p>	<p>From the 1870s, buffalo hide was used for leather in machine belts, so when prices for hides rose to \$3 thousands of hunters travelled to the Plains.</p> <p>These hunters would skin the buffalo and discard the rest, wasting the remains which angered the Indians.</p>	<p>Clearing the Plains of buffalo would make it easier for Railroads to be built, this is what Buffalo Bill was hired for.</p> <p>Cattle Barons supported the extermination of the buffalo, as it would open up the grasslands for their cattle.</p>

Impact on Indians

The loss of the buffalo ruined Indian way of life.

IMPACT

Reservation Indians became dependant on government food supplies. However, to punish Indians they reduced food handouts resulting in starvation, diseases like flu and often death.

Some tried cattle ranching and farming crops, however cattle herds did not thrive and many died of disease. Whilst crops continued to fail every year, causing further starvation and death.

Impact of reservations on Plains Indians



By the mid 1870s, the government had forced most Indians onto reservations, the Indians were virtually prisoners there which effectively took away their independence.

The reservations were usually lands not wanted by whites. It was not fertile, did not contain minerals and would make survival difficult. These lands were gradually made smaller as whites took over more land.

Living Conditions

Indians were no longer allowed to leave reservations to hunt the buffalo meaning they couldn't independently feed, clothe or shelter themselves.

Indians struggled to learn to farm and as the lands were unfertile, most of the crops failed due to droughts, pests and diseases. Indian skills were lost

Disease (Flu), alcoholism and depression spread through the reservations

Control

The government removed the power of Indian councils and chiefs by setting up US federal law courts in 1885. This meant that Plains Indians lost the power to govern themselves. Some Plains Indians were bribed into joining the Indian Agency Police to keep order amongst the Indians

Feast, ceremonies and dances were banned to end their spirituality and reliance on medicine men. Christian missionaries were sent to convert

Civilising Indians

Plains Indian children were sent to schools off reservation, if they refused food was cut off. At school they were taught Christianity, punished if they spoke Indian or danced. By 1887 there were over 2020 Indians in 110 boarding schools. The motto was 'Kill the Indian in them, save the man'



Indian Reservations on the Plains



Reservations destroyed the remains of the traditional Plains Indian way of life

Changing Government attitudes to Plains Indians



The government had a range of attitudes towards Plains Indians over the years:

- Encouraging Indians to become part of US society
- Protecting whites from hostile Indians and exterminating threats

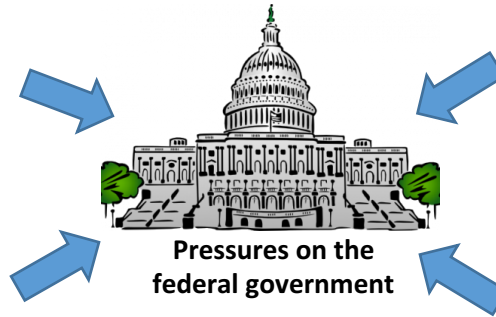
By the 1870s, the government wanted to use the reservation system to keep Indians away from white settlers and encourage Indians to 'civilise'

Pressures on government Policy

By the 1880s, the government faced a number of pressures which affected their attitude to Plains Indians.

Many whites felt the 'hostile' Indians should be removed to protect settlers - 'The only good Indian is a dead Indian'

Others believed that Indians should be protected from whites and given their own territory and government support.




Settlers pressured the government for more land to farm and to mine for minerals

Some believed that Indians should become part of white America by becoming farmers, Christians and ending their nomadic lifestyle

By the 1880s, thinking had changed as the government decided reservations were causing a problem and that Indians were still living like tribes within the reservations and following their chiefs, who wanted to return to the old life. They were simply not become 'white' enough

The Dawes Act

In 1887, the government passed the Dawes Act, it was like the Homestead Act for Indians which aimed to end reservations



The Dawes Act, 1887

- Each Indian family would be given a 160 acre share of reservation land
- 80 acres for single Indians and 40 for orphaned Indians
- These Indians who accepted this land and left the reservation would become American citizens
- Indians were not allowed to sell this land for 25 years
- All reservation land left unclaimed would be sold to the whites.



The aims of the Dawes Act were:

1. Break up the power of tribes and chiefs by encouraging Indians to live individually
2. To encourage Indians to farm for themselves and not work together or rely on the tribe for food
3. To encourage Indians to 'civilise'
4. To free up land for settlers to purchase Indian lands
5. To reduce the cost of running the reservations

Example newspaper advert produced after the Dawes Act

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME
OF
YOUR OWN
EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE
POSSESSION
WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED GRAZING AGRICULTURAL
IRRIGABLE DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

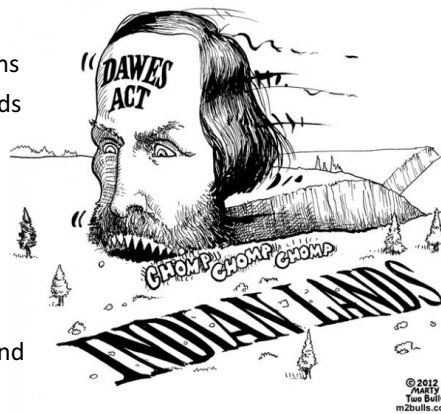
Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre	Location	Acres	Average Price per Acre

Impact of the Dawes Act

The Act **failed** to improve conditions for Indians

- By 1890, the Indians had lost 50% of the lands they had in 1887
- The land given to Indians was impossible to farm on (poor soil) and there was too little land
- Most Indians sold their land for money, meaning they had nothing
- Whites cheated many Indians out of their land

Overall, the Dawes Act made life even harder and worse than it was ever before – it failed



The closure of the Indian Frontier

In 1890, the US government declared there was no longer an Indian Frontier separating whites and Indian lands

This meant that the USA now had complete control over all the land, there was no Indian land, they owned all the West



Exam Questions

1. Write an analytical narrative account analysing the decline of the Indian way of life 1872 to 1893 (8 marks) You may include: – Reservations – The Dawes Act, 1887
2. Explain the importance of reservations in the reduction of Indian independence (8 marks)
3. Explain the consequences of the Dawes Act, 1887 (8 Marks)

