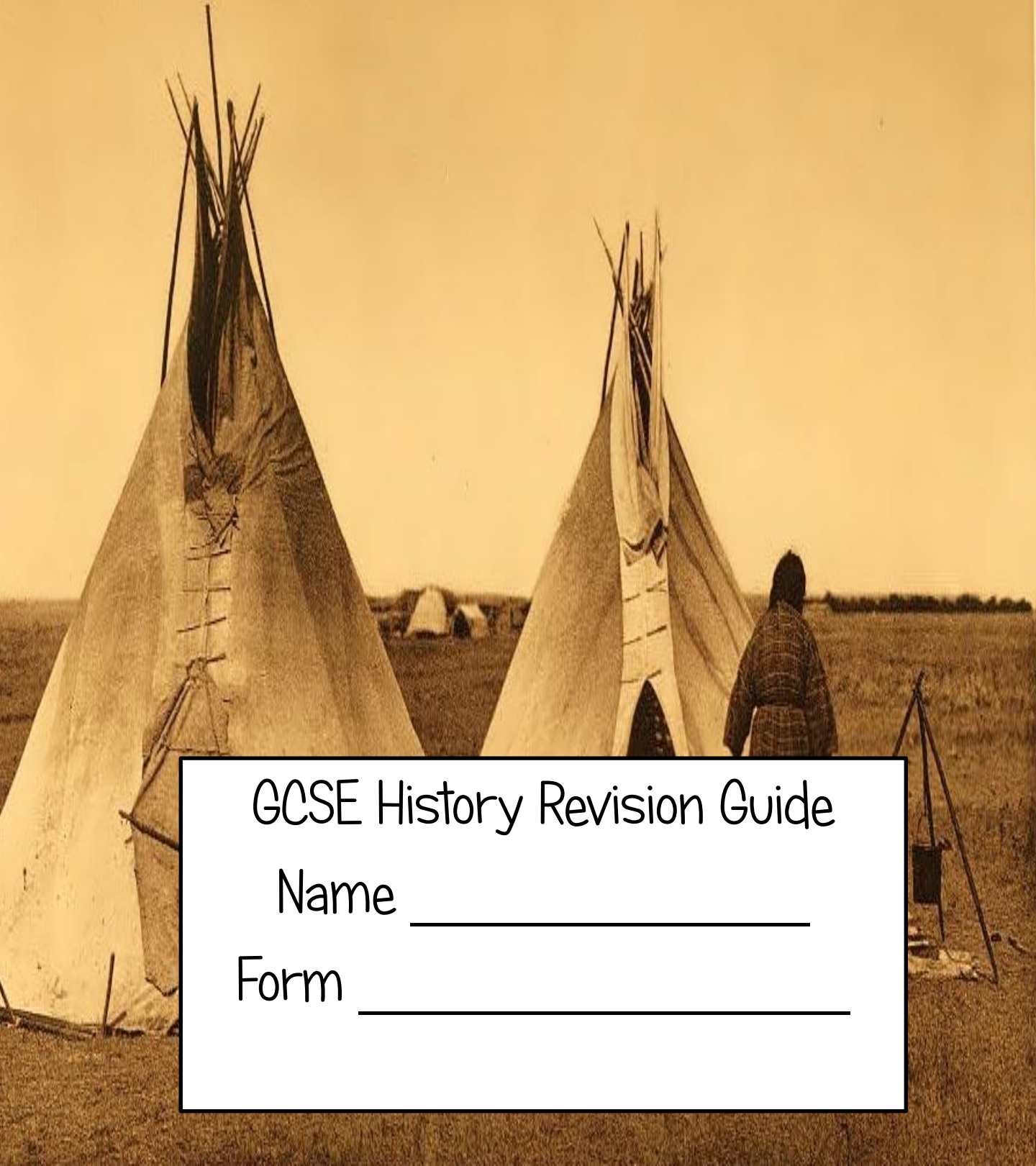


American West c.1836 – c.1895






GCSE History Revision Guide

Name _____

Form _____

Unit 1 – Inhabitants and early settlers – How confident are you on these topics?


Section 1:	Key Questions			
Inhabitants and early settlers				
	Explain the culture of the Plains Indians.			
	How were the Plains Indians adapted for life on the Great Plains?			
	How important was the buffalo to the Plains Indians?			
	Why did people migrate west and what where the dangers?			
	How did mining towns develop?			
	What were the problems of law and order in mining towns?			
	What were the problems faced by homesteaders on the Great Plains?			
	How did the Mormons travel and adapt to the west successfully?			
	What solutions were found to the problems homesteaders faced?			
	How did attitudes change to settlement on the plains?			
	Explain the concept of manifest destiny?			
	What role did the Government play in the settlement of the Great Plains?			

How important were horses and buffalo to the Sioux?

Plains Indians depended on each other, the land and animals for survival:

Role of Buffalo and Horses

The Indians needed buffalo and horses to survive. Buffalo lived on the Plains. Horses had been introduced by Spanish invaders. The Indians bred and traded (or even stole) them.



Catching buffalo was quicker and easier on horseback

Indians could not live on the Plains without horses because they would not survive.

Every part of a buffalo (except its heart, which was left on the Plain) was used for food, clothing and equipment.

Wealth and status were measured by how many horses an Indian or tribe had.

The Indians believed a buffalo's heart gave new life to a herd.

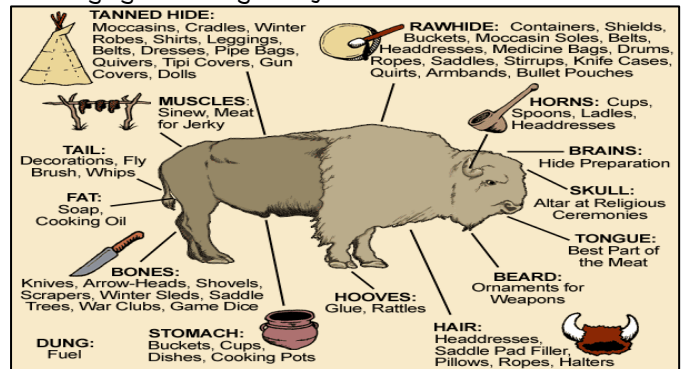
Plains Indians were nomads. They ate wild fruits and plants but did not settle long enough to grow crops.

Women and children cut up the buffalo meat. It was eaten raw or cooked. Some (known as jerky) was stored for winter.

Horses carried the Indians and their belongings on their journey to find buffalo.

Arrow Heads
Buckets
Clothing

Bones
Intestines
Tanned Hide



Why did Indians fight?	How did they fight?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate skills, bravery and courage. To protect hunting ground. For revenge or honour To capture horses or weapons To help tribal unity So that chiefs could test their power and position So that elders could control the younger braves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In short raids with small groups of braves. Warriors gained honour by 'counting coup' – this meant performing feats such as touching the enemy with a hand or stick. Killing was rare. A few tribes scalped dead enemies so their spirits could not fight in heaven. Retreating (to stay alive for their families) was seen as a responsible action. They would refuse to fight if they couldn't win.

Fighting and War

Plains Indians had very different attitudes to war from Europeans. They never fought to own land or to conquer/ destroy other tribes. Bravery was about being responsible and staying alive to provide for your family, not about fighting against all odds.

How was Plains Indians Society and way of life organised?

Indians lived in groups known as 'bands'. Each band had a chief and a council, and was part of a tribe

1) Bands

Most people were in a band and were related to each other. Bands were led by chiefs and had councils of advisors. Council members agreed everything the band did. The survival and protection of the band was seen as more important than the individuals within it.

2) Chiefs and Councils

Chiefs were chosen because of their wisdom and skills as warriors/ hunters. They were rarely chiefs for life. Chiefs and councils decided where their band would go and what should happen to those who broke with customs and traditions.

3) Tribes

Bands in the same tribe supported each other during crises. Tribal meetings of all the bands were held each year to arrange marriages, trade horses and discuss issues. Chiefs and elders formed the tribal councils that advised tribal chiefs. Some tribes (e.g the Sioux) were part of larger groups called nations.

4) Warrior societies

The best warriors from each band formed its society. Members of the warrior societies supervised hunting and protected their bands from attack. All short raids and wars were led by the warrior society and the band's council would always consult them before they made decisions.

Tipis

Every Indian family lived in a tipi, made of wooden poles and buffalo skins.

- Tipis were cone shaped, to protect against strong winds.
- Tipis could easily be taken down, so were ideal for life on the move. A collapsed tipi could form a travois and be pulled by a horse.
- The bottom was rolled up in summer to let air in and was banked with earth in winter to keep the inside warm.



Family roles

A band saw every member as being equally important to its survival.

- Men (braves) hunted and fought enemies. Women (squaws) made clothing, fed the family and looked after their tipi.
- Everyone looked after children, who were taught the skills of their parents.
- Elders were respected for their wisdom but were left behind to die if they threatened the survival of the band.

How did the tipi design solve the following problems facing Indians living on the Plains:

Very little wood _____

Extremes of temperatures _____

Strong Winds _____

The need to move quickly and often _____



Create a mind map on Sioux religion

Include The Great Spirit, Circles, Sacred land etc. :



American West – US Government Policy 1930–51



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



As the US population grew and began to expand Westwards, the bureau began to have more '*negotiations*' with the Indians over their lands



Conflicts over land




Whilst some whites recognised Indians had rights to the lands, they still saw them as savages who did nothing to improve the land – it was wasted by them. 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

Event	What happened/terms of the Act	Impact/Consequences
Indian Removal Act, 1830	<p>President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. This forced 46,000 Indians (like the Cherokee) living in the east of America to move to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. This would allow whites could settle on their land. This was known as the '<i>trail of tears</i>' for Indians – thousands died.</p>  <p>He promised they would have this Indian Territory forever</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clash of eastern Indians moving into the territory of Plains Indians • Eastern Indians forced into moving so whites could take their land – sign of government intentions • Indians have been promised land for good – showed government respected right to land
Indian Trade and Intercourse Act, 1834	<p>Defined Indian Territory as the lands <i>west of the Mississippi</i>, on the Great Plains</p> <p>To keep whites and Indians apart, the government set up the Permanent Indian Frontier – a border between Indian Territory and the white states. It would stop whites from settling on Indian land and vice versa.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government passed a law which gave Indians their own territory • Clearly split white and Indian territory • Showed government respected Indian Territory and they would stop settlers
US gained territory in the West 1840s	<p>Between 1845 and 1848, US territory grew with Texas and Oregon Country becoming part of the USA and the victory against Mexico giving huge new territories in the west, including California</p>  <p>The government encouraged its citizens to move to these new territories and the quickest way was through trails through the Plains – Indian Territory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Territory was now surrounded by American territory on all sides • The government was supporting the breaking of the frontier laws as it encouraged and helped settlers travel through Indian Territory. • This would cause tension between Indian and white settlers
Indian Appropriations Act, 1851	<p>A government plan to move Indians in Indian Territory onto 'reservations'. These were lands controlled by the government. These reservations were often far from tribes' sacred places, contained few buffalo and were often close to burial grounds – Again this was reducing Indian land.</p> <p>However, efforts were to be made to '<i>civilise</i>' the Indians and encourage them to farm and go to school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This reduced Indian hunting grounds and would affect their survival • Trying to '<i>civilise</i>' Indians would lead to tension as it was too opposite Indian culture • The government hoped that by reducing the amount of land the Plains had for hunting, they would take up farming.

Exam Q.

1. Write narrative account analysing the main developments in US Government policy towards the Plains Indians in the period 1836–61.
2. Explain the importance of the Indian Appropriations Act 1851 to the way of life of the Plains Indians.



Why move West?

Push and pull factors for moving west

Pull factors:

- ✓ Freedom and independence
- ✓ Fertile Land
- ✓ Space
- ✓ Furs and Fish
- ✓ Gold



Push factors:

- ✓ Collapse of wheat prices
- ✓ Overpopulation
- ✓ Persecution
- ✓ Unemployment
- ✓ Financial Collapse

Manifest Destiny

The US government needed to populate their territory to defend it from foreign powers. This aim was reflected in the concept of Manifest Destiny: that it was God's will that white Americans should settle in all of America, because it was right and natural that it be so.

This idea was enforced by the government and the idea of their 'God Given Right' put forward to the people of the east.



Financial Panic in the East

Boom years in the 1830's came to an end in 1837 with the financial crisis and a collapse in the price of cotton. Banks ran out of money, people lost their savings, businesses closed and many people lost their jobs. Unemployment reached 25% in some areas.

Farming Crisis

In 1837, corn prices collapsed leaving farmers facing ruin. This was not helped by overcrowding in this fertile farming region, in particular along the Mississippi valley. These were push factors for farmers to travel west.



Complete the table of the different groups that moved west and why they moved.

Group	Why did they move	Push or pull?
Pioneers		
49ers		
Homesteaders		
Mormons		

What was the journey West like?

The journey west began at Independence, Missouri. Here, wagon trains (usually made up of 20 wagons or more) gathered for the trip, which took eight to nine months.

Between 1840 and 1860, around 34,000 people died on the journey west

The wagon trails usually began in April or May

Prairie grass was good for animals at the right time of year

Each trail crossed two mountain ranges: the Rockies, and either the Blue Mountains or the Sierra Nevada. They were steep, there was little to hunt, and the weather could be bad. Wagons were hauled across using chains, ropes and pulleys. Injuries were common.



Early migrants used mountain men or Indians as guides; later ones relied on pamphlets.

Crossing the Great Plains as made dangerous by: sandstorms, quicksand, extreme heat, storms, disease, stampeding buffalo, hostile Indians and a lack of supplies.

First successful wagons arrived in Oregon in 1843 and California in 1844.

The Donner Party

The Donner Party, led by Jacob and George Donner, left Missouri for California in May 1846 with 60 wagons and 300 people.

- This wagon train was well equipped but had more women, elderly people and children than normal.
- At Fort Bridger, a smaller group of about 80 people tried to take a 'short cut' (they were using a leaflet, the Emigrants Guide' to travel west, the 'short cut' did not exist)
- Four wagons broke, 300 cattle died and one man killed another.
- They arrived late in Sierra Nevada and were trapped by heavy snow.
- A group, sent for help, took 32 days to reach Johnson's ranch
- To survive, both groups ate their dead. Rescue parties found them in January 1847.

? List as many dangers that the Pioneers could face, and how they could prepare for the journey

? Why was the Donner party's journey unsuccessful?

The Gold Rush – the 49ers

Gold was found in California in 1848. Many migrants were attracted to the benefits this discovery could offer them

	Who were they?	Where did they live and what were these places like?
Surface gold miners (e.g the forty niners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Men without families from different backgrounds (including Europe and eastern US states) who planned to go home when they were rich• They panned for gold in rivers, digging down a few meters to look for it.• Few succeeded in their dreams of wealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They set up shanty towns of tents and small cabins. Disease (dysentery, typhoid, scurvy) was common.• Saloons emerged where miners drank alcohol, gambled and found prostitutes• Violence and crime were high. Claim – jumping was common and often led to murder.• There were no formal state laws, so miners formed their own courts for crimes. But these were often corrupt and unjust

Impact of the Gold Rush

The Gold Rush stimulated movement of people and money west in the 1850s, made California rich, made San Francisco an important port and financial centre, resulted in a new railroad from east to west and made the USA a world leader in trade. However, the native Indians of California were virtually wiped out, and racial conflict caused workers from China and Mexico (for example) to suffer at the hands of white Americans.



Exam Tip!

Make sure you know the differences between the gold discoveries in 1849, 1854 and 1874!



? Why was law and order a problem in Mining towns?

? Why did many of the 49ers not achieve what they had set out to the west for?



Exam Focus – Explain two consequences of the Gold Rush in 1849

Question Hints

- Do not spend more than ten minutes on this question task
- Focus on the consequence – do not just describe what happened.
- Think about two different consequences. social, economic, law and order etc.
- Watch for repetition.
- Spend equal time on each consequence, as each is marked out of 4.

Consequence 1: _____

Consequence 2: _____

Level Mark Descriptor

0 No rewardable material.

Level 1 1–2 Simple or generalised comment is offered about a consequence. [AO2]

Generalised information about the topic is included, showing limited knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]

Level 2 3–4 Features of the period are analysed to explain a consequence. [AO2]

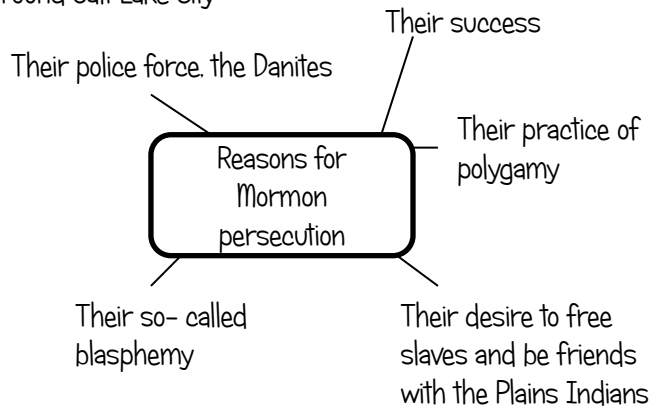
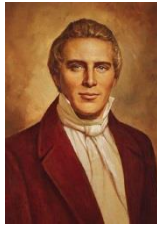
Specific information about the topic is added to support the explanation, showing good knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]

How did the Mormons make a success of Salt Lake City?

The Mormons were religious people who settled in Utah, initially around Salt Lake City

Joseph Smith

Smith Founded the Church of the Latter Day Sainte – his followers are known as Mormons. His persuasive public speaking meant numbers grew to several hundred by 1830. He taught Mormons to obey him because he said that his decisions were inspired by God. He was murdered in Illinois, 1845.



Moving from state to state



Journey to the Great Salt Lake

When Smith died in 1845, Brigham Young became leader. The Mormon's persecution in Illinois forced him and 1500 others to find land that no one else wanted – near the Great Salt Lake. To make the journey, he:

- Split everyone into groups, each with a leader
- Gave everyone a specific role
- Taught them how to form their wagons into a circle for safety
- Insisted on discipline and regular rest

He was the first of many Mormon wagon trains to make the 2250km journey

A Mormon state?

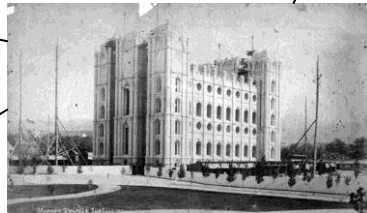
Utah first belonged to Mexico. It became US territory in 1858, with Young its first governor. Mormons ignored some laws made in Washington. This annoyed non-Mormon settlers, but the Danites crushed their opposition. In 1857, a non-Mormon governor and 1500 federal soldiers arrived. Non-Mormons were killed (Mormons blamed Indians, non-Mormons blamed Danites) and tensions rose. Utah was finally allowed to become a state in 1890 as long as the governor wasn't a Mormon and polygamy was banned.

Why were the Mormons successful in Utah?

Their religious faith encouraged them to work very hard and prevented them giving up in the face of terrible hardship.

Brigham Young was in control and made good decisions.

They dug irrigation ditches which meant farm land had enough water.



A Perpetual Emigration Fund allowed thousands of Mormons to emigrate to Utah

Young attracted settlers with varying skills and occupations to live in the new towns he founded.

The Mormon Church owned all land, water and timber, which were allocated to families. Towns ran efficiently.

How did the Homesteaders solve their problems on the Plains?

The Homesteaders were farmers who moved West for the cheap farm land provided by government acts

Problem	Explanation	Solutions
Lack of timber (not many trees on the Plains)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was nothing to build houses with There was nothing to make fences to contain cattle and protect crops from buffalo There was nothing to use for cooking and heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People built sod houses made from blocks of earth In 1874. Joseph Gidden invented barbed wire, which was quick and cheap to erect. Women collected buffalo and cattle dung, which was used for fuel.
Lack of water (not enough to store)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was low rainfall and few rivers and lakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drills were developed to find underground water, then wind pumps built to bring it to the surface
Hard, arid land (crops wouldn't grow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ploughs often broke going through deep – rooted grass. Low rainfall prevented growth of crops like maize and wheat, which farmers were used to growing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass produced and stronger machinery from eastern factories helped cultivate land more easily. New techniques like dry farming (which conserved rainfall) were used. Migrants from Russia brought Turkey Red Wheat, which thrived on the Plains.
Natural disasters (prairie fires and pests destroyed crops and land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pests such as grasshoppers could destroy a whole season's crop. Fire spread quickly and burned everything. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There would be no solutions. Homesteaders could be bankrupted by such disasters.
Land holdings were too small	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 160 acres allocated in the Homestead Act could not support the average family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Timber and Culture Act 1873 let homesteaders have another 160 acres if they promised to plant trees on half of it. The Desert Land Act, 1877 let settlers buy 640 acres of desert land cheaply.
Disease and lack of medical care (people were often ill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sod houses were hard to keep clean and had no sanitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women cared for the sick, using their own remedies. As communities grew, doctors arrived.
Lack of education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most homesteads were too far from towns with schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women taught the young. As communities grew, single female teachers arrived and schools developed.
Isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life was lonely and tough on the Plains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Railroads improved travel and brought much needed supplies to Homesteaders. Communities worked together to build schools and churches Women homesteaders formed valuable social networks.



Write a narrative account analysing why Americans went west in the years, 1836 – 49 (8)

What happened first?

In 1836, the Oregon Trail was discovered by Jed Smith. This was the first safely mapped trail west for pioneers or settlers.



How did this encourage migration?



How did this lead to more migration (link to next event)?

What happened first?



How did this encourage migration?



How did this lead to more migration (link to next event)?

What happened first?






How did this encourage migration?






How did this lead to more migration (link to next event)?

Unit 1 – Inhabitants and early settlers – How confident are you on these topics?

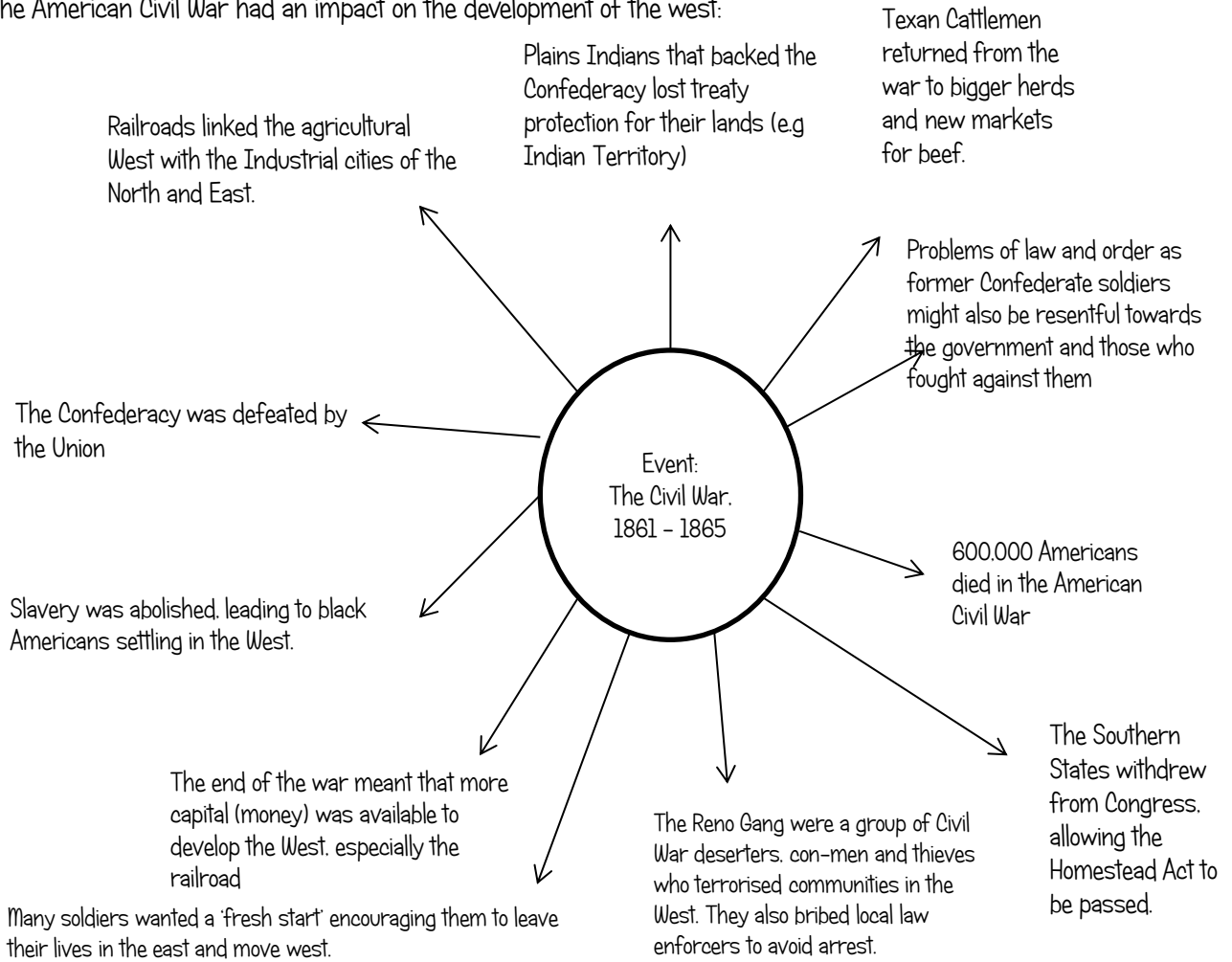
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	How did attitudes change to settlement on the plains?			
	Explain the concept of manifest destiny?			
	What role did the Government play in the settlement of the Great Plains?			

Unit 2 – Development of the Plains – How confident are you on these topics?

Development of the Plains	Key questions			
	How did the American Civil War impact on the development of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	How important were the railroads in the development of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the role of the government in the development of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the impact of the railroads on the homesteaders, cattle ranchers and Plains Indians?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did the cattle industry grow after 1865?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did the cattle industry move on to the plains?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did cow towns develop?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the causes and consequences of the boom and bust in the cattle industry?	Green	Yellow	Red
	How did the role of the cowboy change?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did cattle ranching change?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the contribution of Charles Goodnight, Joseph McCoy and John Iliff?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the problems of lawlessness in early settlements?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the role of the government and local communities in tackling this?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the significance of Wyatt Earp and Jesse James and Dodge City?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the Exoduster Movement and the Oklahoma land rush and how did this affect the settlement of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What caused the Johnson County War?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the reasons for conflict between homesteaders and cattle ranchers?	Green	Yellow	Red

How did the American Civil War impact on the development of the West?

The American Civil War had an impact on the development of the west:



Explain two consequences of the American Civil War in the development of the west

Consequence 1: _____

Consequence 2: _____

Why were the railroads so important to the development of the West?

Between 1860 and 1890, more than 300,000 km of railroad track was laid across the USA. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869. You need to know the aims behind this development, and the impacts that the railroads had:

Railroads would allow all Americans to keep in touch, creating national unity

Why did the US government need railroads to connect the east and west coasts?

Railroads would enable troops to be moved around to control Indian uprisings



Railroads would let federal law officers reach new settlements that were having problems with law and order

Railroads would help to fulfil white Americans' Manifest Destiny by making it easier to migrate and secure more areas of the country

Railroads would transport goods to ports in Oregon and California, which were well positioned to trade with the Far East.

Government action

Pacific Railways Act, 1862

This set up the Union Pacific Railroad Company to lay track east to west, and the Central Pacific Railroad Company to lay track west to east.

Township land parcels

These were given to railroad companies next to the tracks to help finance railroad building.

Railroad Companies

Laying track across the USA would be very expensive.

Railway companies could sell the land next to the track to raise more money or use it as security for borrowing money.

Problems of Construction

Raising money for construction

Difficult terrain including mountains and deserts

Hostile Indians attacking railroad workers

Finding enough people to work

Dreadful living and working conditions for people building the tracks.

Solutions

Largely solved by the government's gift of free land

Solved by great engineers and the extreme hard work of the labourers

Remained a problem throughout the process

Used immigrant labour from China and Ireland

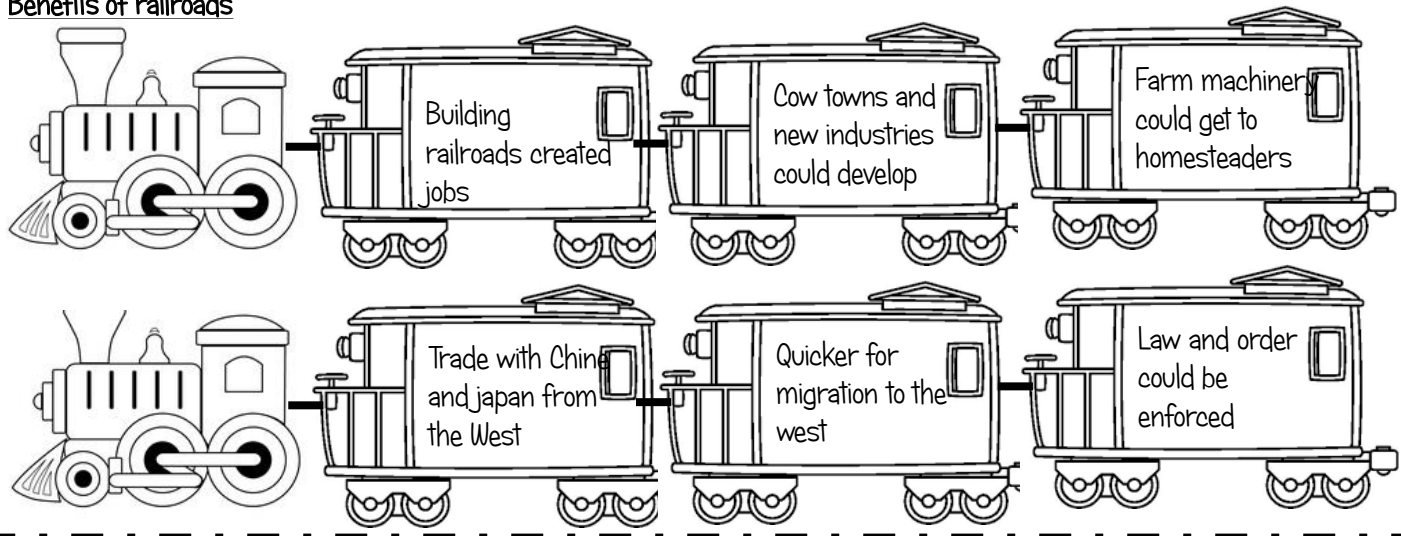
Terrible weather, difficulties getting food to workers and extremely hard work remained a problem – labourers died in their hundreds.

? List 3 benefits of the railways in the West

? What were the problems of railway construction and how were they solved?

What was the impact of the railroads on the West?

Benefits of railroads



Impact on Plains Indians

The railroad created a number of disadvantages for Plains Indians

- They brought in Homesteaders (settlers), goods and machinery, which meant crops were sown and houses built where Indians used to roam. This land was fenced to Indians and buffalo could no longer roam across it.
- Plains Indians depended on buffalo, which were no longer easy to hunt with fences and homesteads in the way. Also, the railroads brought white hunters who killed the buffalo for sport.
- Railroads criss-crossed the Plains, stopping Indians and buffalo roaming freely.
- Indians believed that the railroads and settlers were working against nature and ruining sacred land. The Indians had often been on good terms with white Americans before the railroads; but now they became hostile, attacking those building them. This provoked white men to become hostile towards them in turn.

A turning point?

Many historians see the construction of the railroads as a turning point in developing the west because railroads:

- Helped start the USA's industrial revolution by creating increased demand for materials to build the railway and stimulating economic growth by improving access to goods and markets
- Improved communications and therefore helped ease the sense of isolation felt by settlers and create communities, as well as improving national cohesion.
- Led to more people successfully settling in the West, as railroads made it easier to supply the goods and services people needed, and improving law and order.
- Played a large role in destroying the Plains Indians way of life.



What led to a 'boom' in the cattle industry?

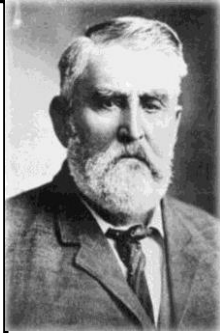
Cattle trails first began in 1845 when Texas joined the USA. After the Civil War they increased more because more people in the cities could afford to eat beef.

Cattle Trails

- White American Texans drove herds of longhorn cattle to markets in New Orleans, California and Chicago.
- When they returned from the Civil War (1861 – 65), they found huge herds of cattle running wild.
- They drove them to northern and eastern cities where beef was worth ten times more than in Texas.
- Railroads shortened the journey. Cattle were driven to railheads and finished their journey on trains.

Charles Goodnight

Goodnight, a Texan, returned from the Civil War to find his herd of cattle had increased. He teamed up with Oliver Loving, an experienced cattle driver. Together, they established the Goodnight – Loving Trail to supply meat to the army and Indian reservations.



Problems with cattle trails

- Rustlers and Indians could steal the cattle being driven
- Grass on some trails was poor, so the cattle arrived in bad condition
- Some trails had little access to water
- The cattle could stampede and be hard to control on the trail.
- The cattle trail offered no protection from the dangerous wildlife such as wolves, scorpions and snakes.
- Crossing rivers could be dangerous
- Quicksand could sink humans and animals in minutes.
- Armed mobs might try to stop cattle crossing their land in case the cattle on the trail had a deadly tick which could infect their own cattle.
- Waiting for dangers day and night was exhausting

Joseph McCoy and Abilene

Joseph McCoy had the idea of cattle dealing at railheads in the west, rather than in the cities where the beef would be consumed. This meant buyers and sellers would meet on neutral ground, undisturbed by mobs, rustlers or Indians. McCoy built Abilene, the first cow town, and became very rich from taking a commission on every head of cattle sold in his town.

Cow towns

As the cattle industry grew and railroads moved westwards, cow towns appeared at railheads where cattle were bought and sold. Cow towns like Abilene, Dodge City and Newton had plenty of water and grass for cattle. They were most successful between 1867–85 when beef prices were at their highest. Cattle dealers, cowboys and saloon and hotel owners all made money.



Complete the spider diagram

Cattle Industry
'Boom'

What led to the cattle industry going bust?

Permanent ranches had a number of advantages over cattle trails

John Iliff

Iliff decided to graze cattle instead of driving them from Texas, so his was the first large ranch on the Plains. His breeding experiments produced better tasting meat. Railroad workers and Sioux Indians bought his beef. New refrigerated railroad cars meant he could slaughter cattle before transporting them.



The Benefits

Permanent ranches meant that cattle survived longer and grew fatter than on trails. After the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851), cowboys had to pay Indians to drive cattle across their land. Ranching generally avoided clashes with Indians and homesteaders, as there was no need for cowboys to cross their land.

What were ranches like?

The first ranches on the Great Plains were 'open range' – ranchers claimed rights to land and water but didn't own anything. At the centre were bunkhouses for cowboys, stables for horses and barns for storage. Land was unfenced and cattle roamed freely, so every cow was branded to show who it belonged to. The peak of the beef industry was between 1800 and 1885.

What led to the cattle bust?

Too many cattle

As cattlemen made more money, they bought and bred more cattle.

Overgrazing

There was little grass, especially in the 1883 drought

Prices Dropped

An oversupply of beef meant prices dropped

Less Profit

Lower prices meant less profit. Some cattlemen sold up, others became bankrupt

Winter of 1886

Temperatures dropped as low as -55°C and at least 15% of cattle and many cowboys died. More cattlemen went bankrupt.

New ranches

After the bust, ranches had to change.

- They were smaller fenced – in areas producing fewer but better quality cattle.
- They were less dependent on the weather as small herds could be brought closer to buildings for shelter
- They were more sustainable, as fewer cattle needed less grass and water.



Exam Tip!



Make sure you do not confuse the people involved in the cattle industry! If an exam question asks you about one individual and you talk about another, you will not be awarded any marks!

What was the role of the cowboy in the west?

Cowboys were often tough loners who worked hard and had a wild lifestyle

The hat (Stetson) gave protection from the sun, rain and cold



The bandana, pulled over the nose and mouth gave protection from dust when driving cattle

A saddle was a cowboy's most important possession

A lariat or lasso was used to catch cattle

High heeled boots meant their feet couldn't slip through stirrups

Spurs were worn at all times

Chaps protected cowboys' legs from vegetation and the weather

Who were they?

Cowboys were mostly young, single men. They were black American, Indian, Spanish and Mexican as well as white American. Many were former soldiers or drifters. Some were criminals on the run.

What were they like?

Cowboys were tough, hardworking and hard drinking. On long trails they could ride for between 12 to 24 hours a day in all weathers. Cowboys on the same cattle drive often worked miles apart, so life could be lonely.

A changing role

Cowboys on trails	Cowboys on ranches
Work was seasonal, from spring round – up to the long drive in Autumn	Work was year round and full time, but fewer were needed
Work included rounding up, branding and driving cattle hundreds of miles. They also looked out for sick and injured cattle. They started fast, then slowed to about 20km a day for grazing.	Work included rounding up, branding and driving to market, but over much smaller distances. They also checked ranch boundaries, mended fences and looked out for sick and injured cattle.
Dangers included stampeding cattle, wild animals, crossing rivers and quicksand, rustlers, hostile Indians and extreme weather	Dangers were fewer than on the trails, but wild animals and Indian attacks were still threats.
They slept in the open air and cooked on campfires	They slept in bunkhouses and used cookhouses
In their free time, cowboys might visit saloons and brothels in cow towns.	Drinking, gambling, guns and knives were banned. Many struggled to adapt to this lifestyle.

Did life get better or worse for cowboys? Explain your answer.

What were the problems of law and order?

Mining and cow towns sprang up very quickly without any law enforcers. Those who lived there thought they should sort out their own problems.

Why so violent?

Most people carried guns and few respected the law. Law enforcers (like Sheriffs) had to travel long distances to these towns, and were often criminals themselves. There was lots of conflict between ethnic groups (Europeans, black and white Americans, Chinese, Indians) living on the same land because of differing ambitions. Many former Civil War soldiers went west and found civilian life difficult.

Crime

Here are some common crimes in mining and cow towns:

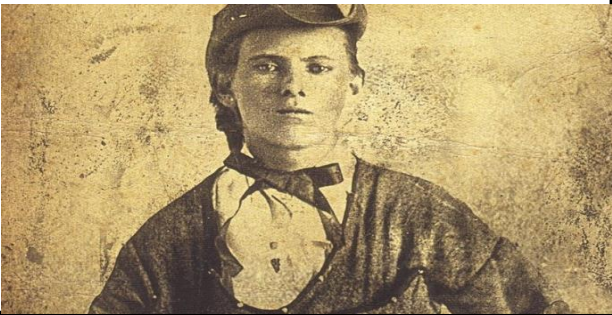
- ✗ Bank robbery
- ✗ Cattle rustling
- ✗ Claim Jumping
- ✗ Fence cutting
- ✗ Horse stealing
- ✗ Racial Attacks
- ✗ Trail or train robbery
- ✗ Murder

Dodge City

Cowboys often let off steam in cow towns. Dodge city, for example, had a terrible reputation for gambling, womanising and shoot outs. However, although there was violence and lawlessness, their reputations were often not fully deserved.

Famous lawbreakers and law enforcers

There were numerous small time thieves and gangsters who lived and died violently and whose exploits were largely unrecorded. However, some gangs and gangsters became so notorious that their 'fame' reached the east coast of America and beyond. These included legendary figures such as Jesse James, Billy the Kid and Belle Star. Some law enforcers like Wyatt Earp and William Tilghman also gained a similar degree of notoriety.



The Johnson County War, 1892

This is an example of a conflict between rival groups – The Wyoming Stock Growers Association and cattle rustlers. The WSGA was formed by large cattle ranchers. In the mid 1880s many ranchers went bankrupt, so homesteaders moved in and fenced the land.

- The WSGA said homesteaders were cattle ranching
- Albert Bothwell and friends lynched storeowners for rustling cattle. More violence followed.
- Ella Watson and Jim Averil were hanged for their 'crimes'.
- The WSGA hired gunmen to capture the town of buffalo.
- They invaded in April 1892, but the sheriff knew about the attack, so held them off until the US cavalry arrived. The attackers were tried but never convicted.



? Explain two consequences of the Johnson County War in 1892

Consequence 1: _____

Consequence 2: _____

How was law and order enforced?

Maintaining law and order was sometimes undertaken legally and sometimes undertaken by groups working outside the law.

Vigilante Communities (outside law)

People joined vigilante committees, usually run by community leaders. These groups caught criminals, held instant trials and lynched (hanged) culprits or ran them out of town.

Private agencies

Non government agencies like the Texas Rangers worked within the law. Banks, railroad and stagecoach companies used agencies to find criminals and bring them to justice

Legal law enforcement

In the 1860's, most areas in the West were territories, not states. This meant the federal government in Washington DC was responsible for law and order.

In territories, there were so few judges that justice could take months, so local vigilantes would try to resolve matters. By contrast, states could appoint their own judges to try state lawbreakers.

Us marshals

Appointed by the President to be responsible for a state or a territory. States and territories were very large so they needed deputies



Deputy marshals

Assigned to specific towns and countries in the federal territories



Sheriffs

Appointed in the countries for a two – year period of office. They could force local people to form into a posse to chase local lawbreakers. They could appoint deputies if necessary



Town Marshals

Appointed by townspeople on a yearly basis. Their job was to deal with local outbreaks of lawlessness, like saloon brawls and drunken shootings. They could appoint deputies if necessary. There were fewer town marshals than sheriffs but they did much the same work.

What was the Exoduster movement?

The Exoduster Movement (1879)

The Civil War between the Northern anti-slavery states and the southern slave states was won by the North in 1865. When the war was won, four million slaves were freed across the USA.

However, many white people could not accept that black Americans should be free or were capable of being free. Southern whites did everything they could to keep black Americans from becoming independent. They used violence and intimidation to stop black Americans voting. They also refused to sell land to black Americans and forced them into sharecropping, which kept black workers working for free on white plantation farms.

The 'Exodus'

Because the oppression of black Americans continued in the South after the Civil War, some black Americans decided to move West and take up Homestead Act claims to their own land. A former slave called Benjamin Singleton pioneered the move to Kansas. Having set up a settlement there in 1873, he promoted Kansas at meetings and in newspaper adverts in the southern states, and helped many hundreds of Black Americans to move there. He helped create the foundations for an extraordinary, large-scale migration of black Americans to Kansas in 1879.




In 1879, a rumour spread that the federal government had given the whole state of Kansas to ex-slaves for them to settle. This was not true, but the rumour was significant in giving thousands of black Americans the incentive to start new lives in Kansas, causing a massive migration. By the end of 1879, 40,000 had set off west, heading for Kansas and also Missouri, Indiana and Illinois. The black settlers were called the Exodusters: an Exodus to the dry, dusty west.

While Singleton declared 'I am the whole cause of the Kansas immigration', his important work was in fact not the only reason for the huge scale of migration.

- Other individuals were important too, including Henry Adams, who also promoted the idea of black emigration. There was widespread interest within black communities in the ideas of migration generally, including migration to Liberia, a new state in Africa.
- Many black Americans had also started moving within the southern states since the Civil War, looking for better jobs and the opportunities of building new lives.
- Kansas had a historic reputation as an anti-slavery state and it became a 'free state' in 1861 – free of slavery. As a result, black Americans had reasons to believe that Kansas would welcome black people and view the state in a positive way.
- The Homestead Act offered the promise of free land: a significant 'pull' factor for the migrants.
- The Biblical story of the Exodus also provided a religious 'push' factor: some migrants felt able to trust that God would provide for them and help them escape oppression.



Unit 2 – Development of the Plains – How confident are you on these topics?

Development of the Plains	Key questions			
	How did the American Civil War impact on the development of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	How important were the railroads in the development of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the role of the government in the development of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the impact of the railroads on the homesteaders, cattle ranchers and Plains Indians?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did the cattle industry grow after 1865?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did the cattle industry move on to the plains?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did cow towns develop?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the causes and consequences of the boom and bust in the cattle industry?	Green	Yellow	Red
	How did the role of the cowboy change?	Green	Yellow	Red
	Why did cattle ranching change?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the contribution of Charles Goodnight, Joseph McCoy and John Iliff?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the problems of lawlessness in early settlements?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the role of the government and local communities in tackling this?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the significance of Wyatt Earp and Jesse James and Dodge City?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What was the Exoduster Movement and the Oklahoma land rush and how did this affect the settlement of the West?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What caused the Johnson County War?	Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the reasons for conflict between homesteaders and cattle ranchers?	Green	Yellow	Red

Unit 3– Conflict on the Plains– How confident are you on these topics?

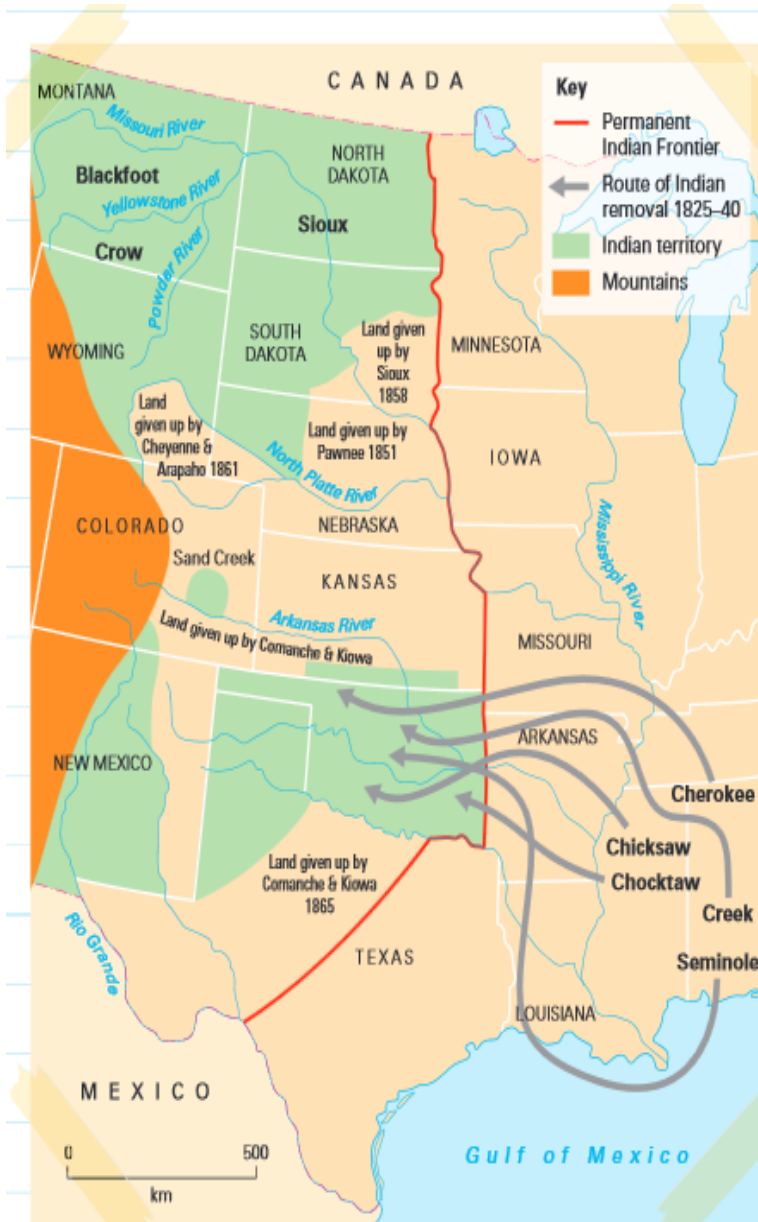
Conflict on the plains				
	What were the key events that led to open conflict on the plains?			
	What role did the Fort Laramie Treaties, Little Crow's War, the Sand Creek Massacre and the completion of the transcontinental railroad play?			
	What were the reasons for Red Cloud's War and the Great Sioux War?			
	What was the significance of the Battle of Little Bighorn?			
	Why did attitudes to the Plains Indians change after 1876?			
	What was the role of the Government, army and railroads in the destruction of the Plains Indians way of life?			
	What was the significance of the Dawes Act and the Battle of Wounded Knee?			
	How did the Plains Indians culture change because of White settlers?			
	When did the Plains Indians lose control of the Plains?			

What was the Permanent Indian Frontier?

The Bureau for Indian Affairs, established in 1832, decided that the Great Plains should be a reservation for all Indian tribes where they could freely roam and hunt.

Permanent Indian Frontier

The 95th meridian became the 'Permanent Indian Frontier' and by 1840, all tribes had been moved to the west of this line. However, this settlement soon came under threat.



Wagon Trails

From the 1840's, Americans increasingly migrated west using wagon trails that crossed Indian territory. Some Indians attacked those on trains.

First Treaties, 1849

Us government treaties with the Comanche and Kiowa promised Indians land if they did not attack travellers on the Santa Fe trail.

Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851

This ended the Permanent Indian Frontier and moved towards concentrating Indians in certain areas.

- The government gave the land in the Rocky Mountain foothills to the Cheyenne and Arapaho promising protection and payment of \$50000 a year for 10 years
- The Cheyenne and Arapaho agreed to stop attacking Oregon Trail travellers and to allow roads and military forts to be built.

Gold in the Rockies, 1859

When gold was discovered on Indian land, thousands of white men moved in and railroad companies started building. This broke the Fort Laramie Treaty

Cheyenne and Arapaho retaliate

Indians responded by also breaking the treaty. They attacked travellers and railroad surveyors on the land.

Fort Wise Treaty, 1861

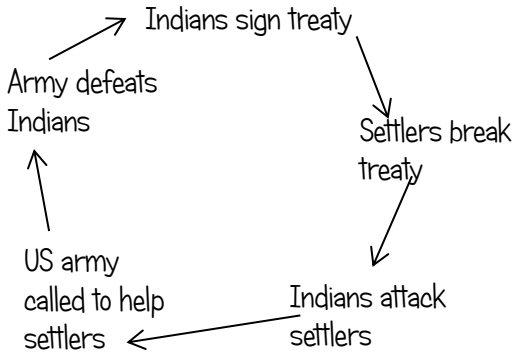
This treaty, forced on chiefs, removed the land given in the Fort Laramie Treaty. It set up a smaller reservation between the Arkansas River and Sand Creek in Colorado

On the warpath!

Indian warriors refused to accept the fort wise treaty. They went on the warpath, raiding white settlements and attacking male coaches.

What were the wars between the Plains Indians and US government?

Conflict between the Plains Indians and the US government and settlers can be described as a 'vicious circle'



Little Crow's War, 1862

Little Crow, a chief of the Santee Sioux Indians, lived on their reservation in Minnesota. In 1861, crops failed and food promised by the government didn't arrive – they faced starvation. In August 1862, Little Crow and others attacked the agency that ran the reservation. They stole food to share, they burned the agency buildings. They also killed several US soldiers. By October, most Santee had surrendered or been captured. They were then moved to a smaller reservation, Crow Creek. Its barren landscape caused many deaths that winter.

1

The Sand Creek Massacre, 1864

The Cheyenne on the Sand Creek reservation were starving after crop failures. Led by their chief, Black Kettle, they attacked wagon trains and stole food but didn't harm travellers. After three years of attacks, Black Kettle negotiated with the government officials and the army. On 29th November 1864, Colonel Chivington led a dawn raid on their camp. More than 150 Indians were massacred even though they waved white flags. Some, including Black Kettle, escaped and told other tribes what had happened. A US Senate Committee of Enquiry condemned Chivington. Both white men and Indians were horrified.

2

Red Cloud's War, 1865 - 8

Miner John Bozeman established the Bozeman Trail, connecting the Oregon Trail to gold in Montana. Bozeman's trail broke the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 because it crossed the hunting grounds of the Sioux. Red Cloud (a chief of the Lakota Sioux) led attacks on the trail travellers. In 1866, the government talked with him but he stormed out when he learned that two more forts were planned along the trail. In December 1866, Captain William Fetterman and 80 soldiers rode into a trap and were massacred by the Sioux, who blocked the route so no traveller could use it. The US army then negotiated a second Fort Laramie Treaty.

3

The Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868

- US Government agrees to abandon three forts and the Bozeman Trail.
- Red Cloud agrees to move his tribe to a reservation stretching from the Black Hills of Dakota and the Missouri River
- Both parties are in favour of the treaty. However, the Indians now split into reservations on separate sites, find it hard to act together.

Red Cloud was successful because he joined with other Sioux tribes led by Crazy Horse, plus some Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes. He managed to keep fighting through the winter (not their custom)



? What were the main causes of conflict between the Plains Indians and the US government?

? Why did responses to the Indians change after the Sand Creek Massacre?

What was the Great Sioux War?

Events 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 cavalrymen to protect railroad builders and look for gold. He found it!



Prospectors staked their claim to the land. The US government offered the Sioux \$6million for the Black Hills or \$4000000 a year for 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. It was deep snow and impossible to travel.



By spring, over 7000 Indians were ready for war



Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and their people defeated General Crook at Rosebud river on 17 June 1876. Then they travelled west towards Little Big Horn River.



On 25 June 1876, Custer attacked the Indian camp at Little Big Horn. They were badly defeated – 225 men died and many were stripped, disfigured and scalped.

Custer's Role

Some blame Custer for the army's defeat.

- He should have waited for back-up (but if the Indians had spotted them he might have had no choice but to attack)
- He only had 600 men and split them to try and surround the enemy – this actually meant it was easier for the much greater Indian forces to attack them.
- He refused extra men and reinforcements.
- He pushed his men too far, too quickly.



A change in attitude?

The massacre of General Custer and his men shocked and appalled most white Americans.

- Beforehand, public opinion favoured trying to reach agreement with the Indians
- Afterwards, white people wanted to destroy the Indians, or at least their way of life.

Success or failure?

In the short term, the Battle of Little Big Horn was a huge failure of the US army. However, because of the way in which they were defeated, some historians argue that it was actually a long-term success because the defeat led to:

- Two forts being built and 2500 army reinforcements sent west.
- The pursuit of the Cheyenne and Sioux until most were in the reservations.
- The capture of Crazy Horse, who was later killed trying to escape.
- Sitting Bull moved his tribes to Canada; however, food shortages forced his return and surrender in 1881.
- The Sioux being forced to sell the Black Hills and other land, give up their weapons and horses, and live under military rule.

All of these were reasons for the Indians' eventual defeat.

How did the US army defeat the Plains Indians?

Defeating the Plains Indians military was just on part of destroying their way of life.

US army

Trained to full scale battles until death if necessary.

Carried rifles and ammunition and had access to other guns

Based in forts



Had fewer men and fought in territory they did not know

Mostly infantry (so were on foot, not horseback)

Soldiers fought as a unit, with set tactics.

Indian Warriors

Guerrilla fighters – lived off the land. Skilled at hiding and ambushing.

Used short, sharp raids, not full-scale battles

All warriors were excellent horsemen



Relied on traditional weapons, though some did have guns

Knew the land very well

Many tribes were enemies and would not unite to fight against the whites.

They recruited spies (or scouts) from tribes that were hostile to other tribes. These scouts passed on valuable military details about Indian positions and tactics.

They built forts along trails and near reservations. This gave them safe places within Indian territory. Indians never managed to capture a fort.

They attacked Indians during the winter months when they were most vulnerable. The army had good food and shelter, and could use railroads to move around.

How the US army used military tactics to defeat the Indians

Every soldier had a rifle. The Indians had some guns but relied on traditional weapons – bows and arrows, clubs, spears and knives.

They used total war – against the whole tribe (women, the elderly, children, animals and other belongings). This forced Indians onto reservations. .

What were the Indian reservations?

Reservations were first set up to keep Indians and whites apart. Later, they became places that tried to destroy Indian culture by forcing the Indians to behave like white men.

How reservations changed the Indian culture.

Tribal Chiefs lost their power

The government slowly removed their power so they could no longer govern themselves.

- 1871: chiefs no longer signed treaties
- Early 1880s: Chiefs no longer looked after reservations, councils did.
- 1883: Indians were judged and punished in special courts. These were abolished in 1885 and replaced with US federal law courts/

Indian children were taught white American values

They were sent to schools where they were punished for using their own language and respecting their culture. They no longer fitted in with their families, but they weren't accepted by the whites, either.

Indian beliefs were banned

Putting an end to feasts, dances and ceremonies reduced the power of medicine men, who were an important part of Indian life. Christian missionaries were sent in to 'civilise' them.

Indians were not allowed to hunt

This affected their whole social structure and removed men's traditional role. It also affected their clothing and lifestyle.

Indians were de-skilled

They were excellent horsemen, hunters and warriors. However, they had no horses on reservations, so they could not hunt buffalo or fight. They refused to learn 'white' skills like ploughing, sowing and reaping.

Life on reservations

Reservation Land

Indian reservations were created on land that was least wanted by white Americans. It was not very fertile, didn't contain minerals and would make survival difficult.

Indian agents

The government appointed Indian agents to look after the reservations, but they were often corrupt. Money or rations intended for the Indians often disappeared.

Life on reservations

Living conditions

Rations were poor and crops often failed. Medical care was very poor. Measles and 'flu were common. Many reservation Indians died from them.

Indian Agency Police

Some Indians joined this force to control reservations. In return, they had better food, clothing and shelter than others on the reservation.



 **Exam Focus** – Explain the importance of the reservations in the destruction of the Plains Indians way of life.

Impact – Removal of tribal structure and beliefs

Describe



Explain how this led to the destruction of their way of life.

Impact – Indian children taught white American beliefs

Describe



Explain how this led to the destruction of their way of life.

How was the buffalo destroyed?

Source of life

In 1840 there were around 13 million buffalo on the Great Plains. By 1885 just 200 survived. Buffalo provided Plains Indians with almost all they needed to survive. Their destruction meant the destruction of this way of life.

Buffalo Bill

William Cody was employed by the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company to clear buffalo from the tracks and supply workers with meat. He claimed he had killed 4280 buffalo in 17 months – hence his nickname.

How buffalo were destroyed.



Their habitat was crossed by railroads. Railroad companies used hunters to kill them to feed construction workers.



They were killed by tourists. special excursion trains brought people onto the Plains to hunt them for sport.

Their hides were made into quality leather goods. White hunters earned good money supplying them.



The grassland they fed on was destroyed or eaten by other animals when settlers built houses, towns, trails and railroads. They also caught diseases spread by the settlers' cattle and horses.



Who was responsible?

Some people suspected that the government encouraged the destruction of the buffalo to control the Indians.

- Early on, Indians could leave reservations to hunt, but this was banned in the late 1860's to encourage Indians to live like white people.
- Destroying the buffalo meant Indians were less likely to protest about the loss of their nomadic lifestyle.
- Neither the government nor the army did anything to stop the destruction. In fact, they seemed to have encouraged it.
- White Americans enjoyed buffalo hunting and the wealth that hides brought them.

 As you go through this, and the next few pages. Complete the information table on the destruction of the Plains Indians way of life.

Factor	Explanation – how did this lead to the destruction of the Plains Indians way of life?	How important /10
Railroads		
Destruction of buffalo		
Reservations		

What was the end of Indian resistance?

The way that Indians lived their lives was incompatible with white American society

What led to the end?

Factors leading to the end of the Indians' way of life include:

- The destruction of the buffalo
- Railroads
- Government reservation policies
- US army actions
- Cultural differences with white Americans
- Discovery of gold
- Cattle trails and ranching
- Homesteads on the Plains.

Cultural Differences

Remember that Plains Indians were very different from white Americans. They had different:

- Attitudes to land, believing that no-one can own land, so land could not be bought or sold.
- Views about farming, nature and the earth, believing that it was vital that humans lived in harmony with nature.
- Lifestyles (Indians were nomads)
- Beliefs and ways of worship
- Methods of warfare
- Customs (e.g whites thought it was barbaric that Indians left behind their elderly to die)
- Attitudes to leadership (chiefs could not force tribes to obey them)



The role of the railroads

The railroads played a large part in the destruction of the Indians and their way of life both directly and indirectly.

Directly

- They were built across Indian land.
- They made it harder for Indians to hunt buffalo and roam freely.

Indirectly

- They took homesteaders to the Plains and cattle to cities – both helped settlement on the Plains to be successful.
- They created tension – Indians attacked the whites working on them; the whites grew hostile
- They brought in the army to protect the railroad workers
- They brought in buffalo hunters
- They helped the US government fulfil its 'Manifest Destiny'

The Ghost Dance

In 1890, Sioux rations were cut and a drought meant their crops failed. An Indian had a vision that if they all kept dancing, the Great Spirit would bring back the dead and a great flood would carry white people away. More and more Indians began to dance, which worried Indian agents and whites. The army moved in to stop them. Sitting Bull, who supported the dancing, was killed when Sioux police tried to arrest him. His followers fled south to join the band of Big Foot, who had also fled when the army moved in.

Battle of Wounded Knee, 29 December 1890

Snow and pneumonia slowed Big Foot's band down and the army caught them. They were taken to Wounded Knee Creek where the army began to disarm them. The Indians started dancing and shooting broke out. After ten minutes 250 Indians (men, women and children) and 25 soldiers were dead. It was the end of Indian resistance.



Unit 3– Conflict on the Plains– How confident are you on these topics?

Conflict on the plains		Green	Yellow	Red
	What were the key events that led to open conflict on the plains?	Green	Yellow	Red
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	How did the Plains Indians culture change because of White settlers?	Green	Yellow	Red
	When did the Plains Indians lose control of the Plains?	Green	Yellow	Red

Now that you are at the end of your booklet, anything that you cannot tick as green, go back and revisit, or focus this area on your revision!

