

The West

Essential Question: What factors encouraged American economic growth in the decades after the Civil War?

TEKS and Objectives

We will...

(3A) analyze Indian policies.

(3B) analyze growth of railroads, farm issues, and cattle industry boom.

(12A) analyze impact of physical and human geographic factors on the settlement of the Great Plains and the Klondike Gold Rush.

(13A) analyze the causes/effects of western expansion.

(15A) describe how the Transcontinental RR and the Homestead Act contributed to the close of the frontier.

(23B) evaluate American Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.

(26B) discuss the Americanization movement to assimilate American Indians into American culture.

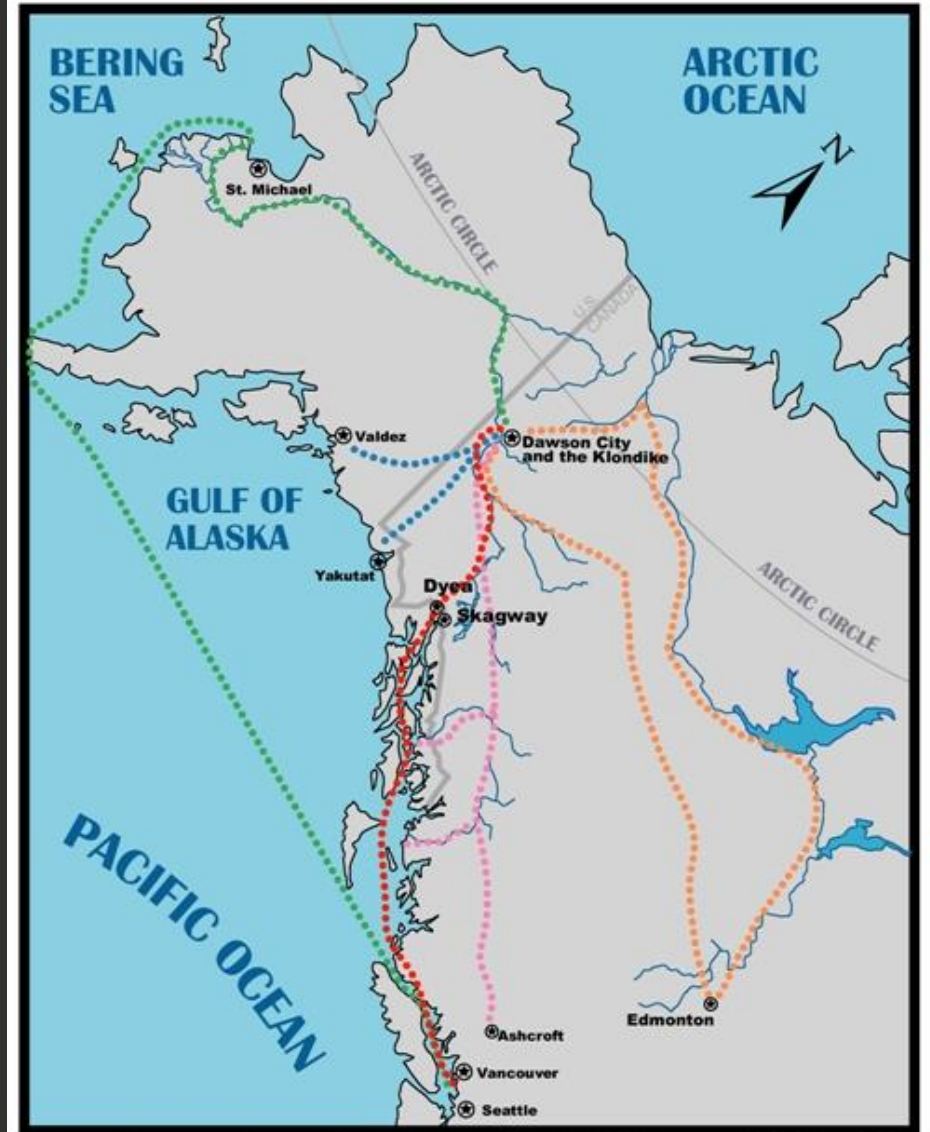
I will...

- Analyze the language from the Homestead Act

Causes of Settlement in the West

Lure of Precious Metals

- California Gold Rush (1848-1849)
- Klondike Gold Rush (1896)
 - Alaska
 - Many died on the way



Trails to the Klondike Gold Fields 1897-98

- EDMONTON "BACKDOOR ROUTES"
- ALL AMERICAN "GLACIER ROUTES"
- ASHCROFT ROUTE
- ALL WATER ROUTE "RICHMAN'S ROUTE"
- CHILKOOT AND WHITE PASS ROUTES

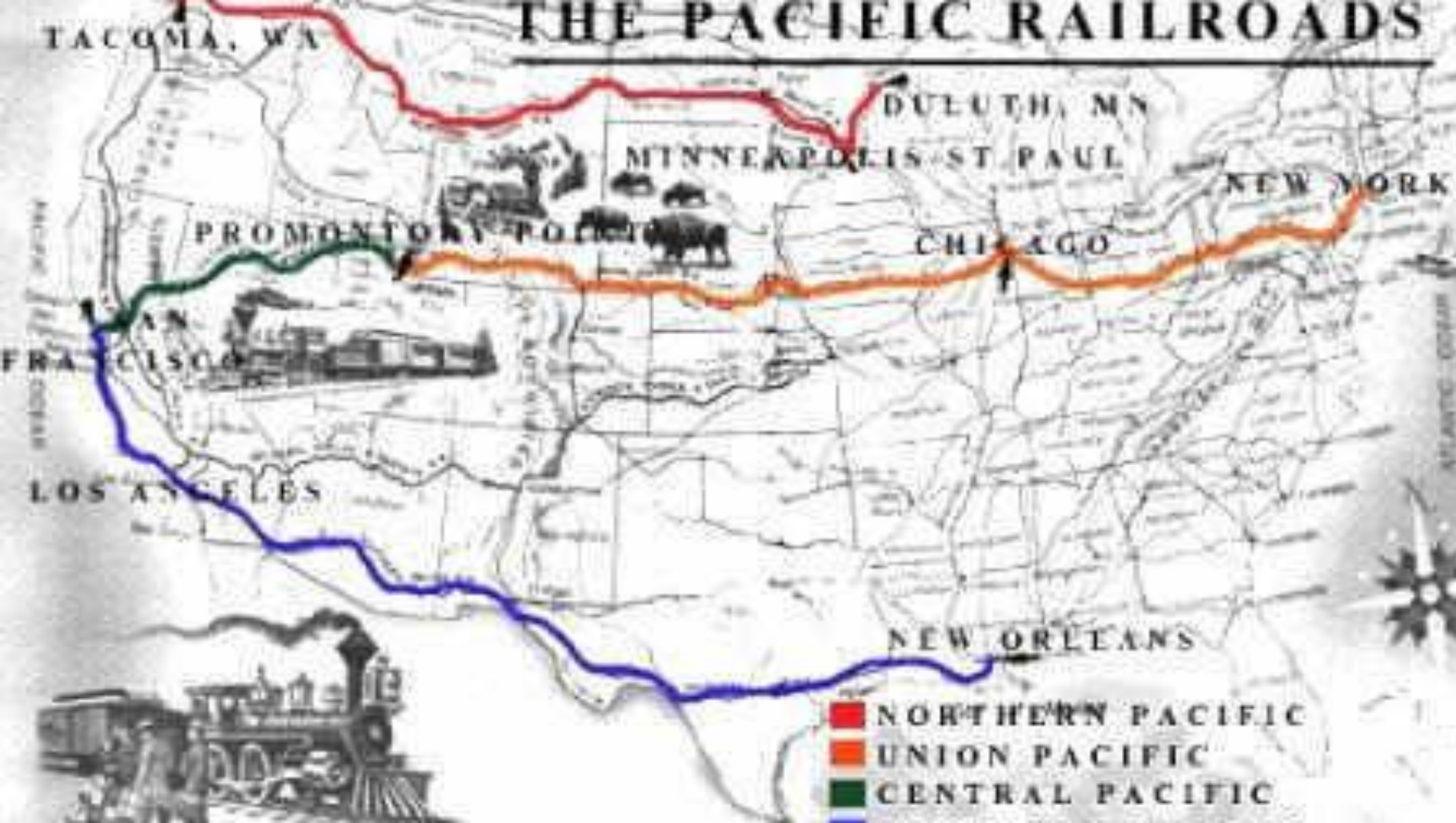
Transcontinental Railroad



- Encouraged settlement in West
- Completed in 1869
- Crops could be shipped East

TACOMA, WA

THE PACIFIC RAILROADS



Cheap Land

- Homestead Act (1862)
 - Any citizen could occupy 160 acres of government land
 - Must “improve” land (build home; grow crops)
 - Homesteaders own land after 5 years
- European Immigrants
 - Attracted by free land



Homestead Act Requirements

Under the Homestead Act, the government offered public lands to settlers. This section lays out what was required for a settler to buy land:

“Be it enacted, that the person applying for the benefit of this act shall register that he or she is the head of a family, or is 21 years or more, or performed military service in the army, and that he has never borne arms against the U.S. government or given aid to its enemies, and that such application is made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not either directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of another person or persons; and upon filing the said affidavit with the register, and on payment of ten dollars, he or she shall be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified.”

List the requirements that a settler had to meet to settle on federal land.

The Cattle Industry



- **Cattle Drives**
 - Cattle driven to RR lines in Kansas (open land; no fences)
 - Shipped to Chicago for slaughter
- **Cowboys**
 - Learned to ride, rope, and brand from Mexican *vaqueros*
 - One in five were African American

Cattle Industry (Continued)

- End of Cattle Drives
 - Owners enclosed land with barbed wire
 - Severe winters/summers killed millions of cattle



Fate of Native Americans

Destruction of Natural Environment



- Over-farming and overgrazing destroyed their land
- Bison hunted nearly to extinction



Indian Wars

- **Battle of the Little Big Horn (1876)**
 - Black Hills of North Dakota
 - Sioux asked to move
 - Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse defeated General Custer
 - Crazy Horse captured and killed
- **Wounded Knee Massacre (1890)**
 - 300 unarmed Sioux men, women, and children killed by machine guns



Forced Removal and Assimilation



- Trail of Tears
 - Congress ordered removal of Indians to west of Mississippi
 - 25% of Cherokees perished on the journey
- Dawes Act (1887)
 - Americanization (adopting American culture)
 - Promised citizenship and right to vote
 - Destroyed Native American Culture

Reservations

- Hunters not Farmers
 - Native Americans were hunters by lifestyle and tradition
- Infertile Lands
 - Land was not good for farming
 - Government did not provide equipment or education for farmers
- Life of poverty on Reservations
 - Malnutrition, poverty, and untreated health problems
 - Schools provided inferior education



Alaska State Library PCA 20-62



*Sioua Squaws waiting
for rations.*

Native American Citizenship



- Status before 1924
 - Most Native Americans not citizens
 - Some became citizens through marriage, military service, or treaties
- American Indian Citizenship Act (1924)
 - Law granting immediate citizenship to all Native Americans born in U.S.
 - Did not need to give up tribal lands/customs