

The West Transformed



Bell Ringer

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

1. Westward expansion was an inevitable and positive process.
2. Westward expansion was immoral and unfair because of the way it affected Native Americans.
3. Westward expansion was a process of its time and cannot be judged by modern standards.

Explain why you agree.



Essential Questions

What were the contributing factors to westward settlement?

Describe innovations in agricultural technology and business practices and assess their impact on the South and West.

Compare and contrast the different groups of people who migrated to the west and describe the problems they experienced.



1862

Homestead Act (1862): Government sold 160 acre plots—you could have it if you made improvement (lived there for five years, dug a well and built a road)

Morrill Land Grant Act (1862): Gave states grants to found agricultural colleges

NC State is a land grant college



I WANT
YOU TO
GO WEST
YOUNG
MAN!!!



Box #1

Diversity in the West:

The West had 20% of the population - 80% of that population were minorities.

This caused fear, distrust and competition over land

- Farmers v. Ranchers
- Native Americans v. White Americans



1864 - Sand Creek Massacre

- Cause: increasing hostility between Natives and new settlers (treaties were signed and immediately broken)
- US led an attack on a camp of unarmed Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians
- 500 Native Americans are killed
- Impact: Native Americans respond with force



Thought Bubbles

- If you were Col. Chivington what would you think about the Sand Creek Massacre?
- If you were Black Kettle what would you think about the Sand Creek Massacre?



1866 - The Open Range and the Cowboy

Cattle Kingdom - built by Ranchers in the west

- Causes:
 - Increase demand for meat in the east after the Civil War
 - Railroad was used to move meat (invention of the refrigerated box car) - Cow Towns like Dodge City, Kansas



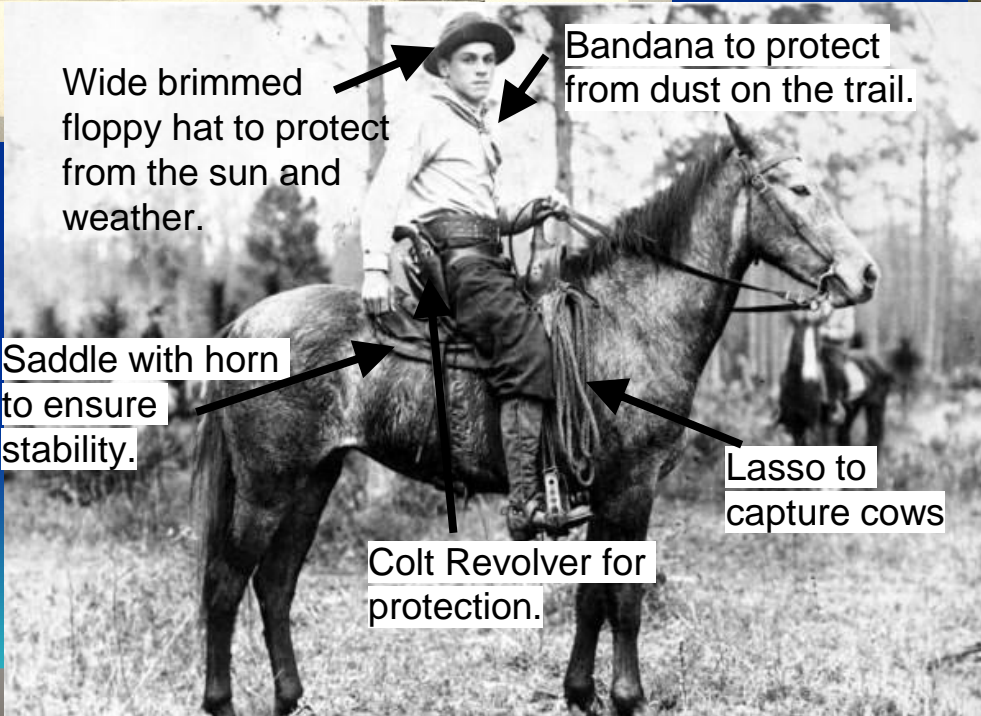
Box #2

- Characteristics of the Open Range:
 - Open-range system (no fences the cattle graze freely)
 - Stereotypical cowboy emerges with cattle drives
 - Legendary figures: Wild Bill Hickock, Wyatt Earp, Doc Holiday, Jesse James





The American cowboy was modeled after the Mexican Vaquero - ranching had been introduced in the west by the Spanish..



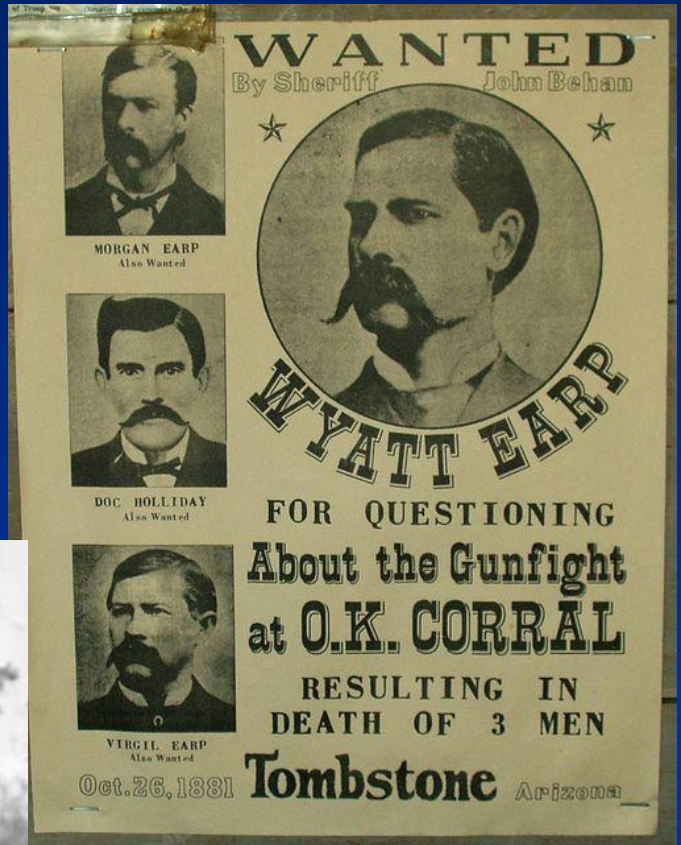
Wide brimmed floppy hat to protect from the sun and weather.

Bandana to protect from dust on the trail.

Saddle with horn to ensure stability.

Colt Revolver for protection.

Lasso to capture cows



1869 - Promontory Point Utah

Transcontinental Railroad

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graph TD; A[Transcontinental Railroad] --> B[Encouraged industrial development by consuming steel, wood and other resources.]; A --> C[Tied the nation together with transportation and encouraged interdependence.]; A --> D[Moved products and people encouraging settlement.];
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Encouraged industrial development by consuming steel, wood and other resources.

Tied the nation together with transportation and encouraged interdependence.

Moved products and people encouraging settlement.

Promontory Point, Utah (1869): the physical place at which the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railways were joined with a golden spike. This signalled the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

Box #3

The Irish

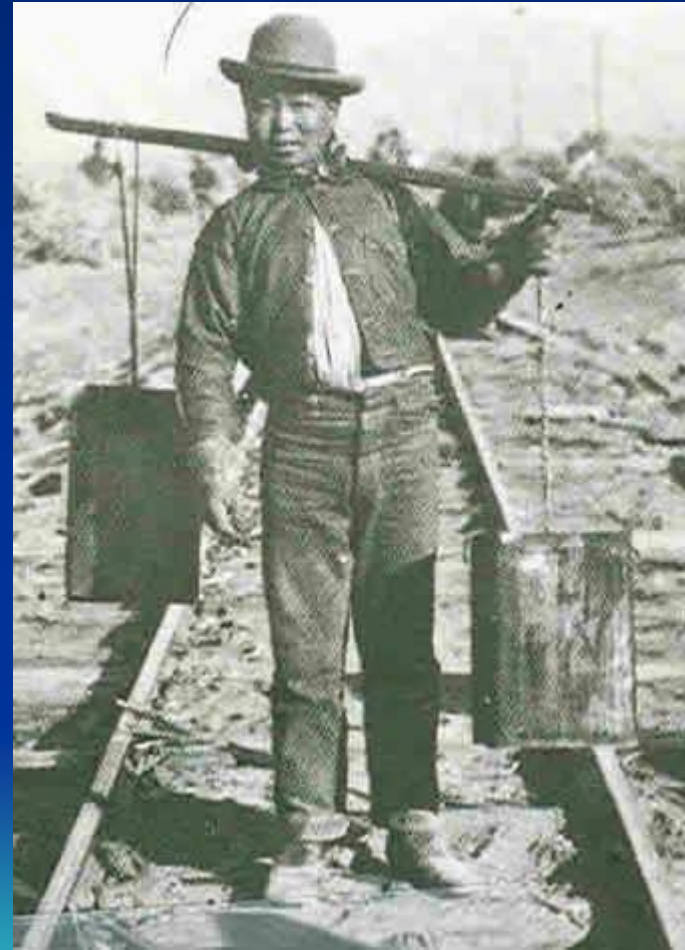
- Build the railroad from the East to the West (Union Pacific)
- Pushed to America by the Irish Potato Famine and worked west for better opportunities.



Box #4

The Chinese

- Built the railroad from the West to East (Central Pacific)
- Pulled to the American west by promises of riches (Gold) and a better life.



1874 - Red River War

- Causes: decimation of the buffalo in Texas and the relocation of Native Americans to reservations to open the area for white American settlement
- Effects: Destroyed the way of life for the plains Indians in the southwest



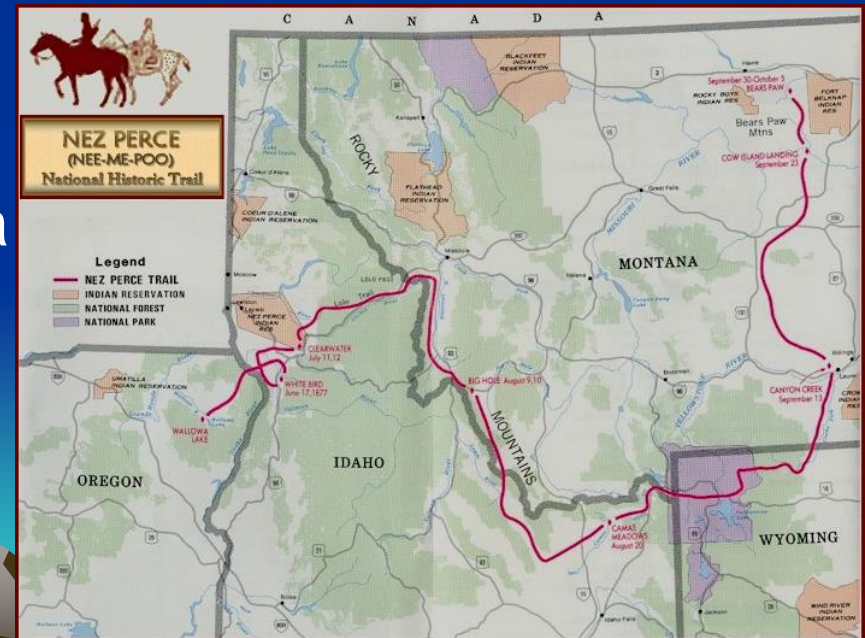
1876 - Battle of Little Big Horn

- Causes: Gold is found in the Black Hills resulting in White invasion of Native American reservation lands
- George Custer and his 600 men face off against 3000 Native Americans and are massacred
- Effect: This is the only decisive Native American victory and strengthened American military efforts to force Native Americans onto reservations.



1877 - Nez Perce War

- Causes: American forced removal of the Nez Perce, under the leadership of Chief Joseph, from Oregon to a reservation in Idaho
- Chief Joseph and his people performed a tactical retreat over 1400 miles before they were caught and forced to surrender
- Effect: the Nez Perce were forced onto a reservation in Idaho and then, later, Oklahoma



1887 - Dawes Severalty Act

- Replaced the reservation system by giving Native Americans individual land
 - Native American families were given 160 Acre lots for 25 years
 - This is not enough land to adequately supply a family in the west
- Assimilation (take on the traits of other immediately)
 - Native Americans would become farmers and adapt white culture
 - Schools were formed to learn White American Culture - The Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania was one of the most famous



Box #5

Assimilation has several negative effects:

- Psychological changes that involve cutting emotional ties with traditional background and family
- Causes a person to no longer belong to their old culture or their new culture
- Can cause violent reactions





1888 - End of the Open Range

Several new technological developments changed the settlement of the west.

These factors along with extreme weather and overproduction (decline of beef demand) ended the open range system



Box #6

- Barbed Wire is invented by Joseph Glidden and causes the fencing in of the west = cattle drives are no longer necessary
- Windmills are perfected and used to pull water up from underground on the prairie making settlement easier and farming more feasible.



1889 - Oklahoma Land Rush

Oklahoma is the last territory not opened for white settlement (it is known as Indian Territory)



- Oklahoma is opened for white settlement on April 22, 1889
- Sooners - white settlers that snuck into the territory before it was officially opened
- With the settlement of Oklahoma the American frontier is closed



Box #7

Frederick Jackson Turner's Frontier Thesis

- stated the American identity was created by the frontier
 - birthed and cultivated democracy
 - personal characteristics: self reliance, individualism, practicality, inventiveness
- questioned the impact the closing of the frontier would have on Americans
- stated the closing of the frontier was the end of a period in American history

Box #8

- The Ghost Dance was a spiritual movement that taught Native Americans had been put on reservations and their way of life destroyed because they had adopted the ways of white Americans - the belief was that if Native Americans abandoned the ways of the white man and practiced the Ghost Dance their lives and land would be restored.

1890 - Wounded Knee

- 7th Cavalry try to round up a group of Native Americans encamped at Wounded Knee Creek to move them to another reservation
- Tensions and fears over the Ghost Dance and the loss of land result in violence
- 150 Native Americans were killed (mostly women and children)
- This was the last armed conflict between Native Americans and the US Army



Box #9

- Philip Henry Sheridan
 - Civil War Officer who was put in charge of military operations in the west
 - Enforced a policy of Indian removal and total war
 - Attacked Native American encampments in the winter time
 - Encouraged the massacre of Buffalo

"If a village is attacked and women and children killed, the responsibility is not with the soldiers but with the people whose crimes necessitated the attack."

Box #10

Steep Decline in the Bison Population

- Causes: new weapons
white Americans find uses for the hides and bones - make \$\$ back east
- Effect: destruction of Plains Indian's way of life

