

1. Key dates

1830	Indian Removal Act - Indians moved west of the Mississippi River.
1834	Indian Trade Act sets up the Frontier between white/Indian land.
1845-7	Start of the Mormon migration from Illinois, ending in Salt Lake City.
1846	The Donner Party got trapped in the Rockies trying to get to California & resorted to cannibalism.
1848	US victory in the Mexican- American War.
1849	100,000 people left the East for California after gold discovered.
1850s	White settlers moved onto the Great Plains pushing out Indians.
1851	Indian Appropriations Act forced Plains Indians onto reservations.
1851	Fort Laramie Treaty signed to try to prevent conflict between white settlers and Plains Indians. Not successful.
1869	First Transcontinental Railroad created.

2. Key people/groups

President Jackson	Signed the Indian Removal Act.
John Fremont	A white settler inspired by Manifest Destiny.
George Donner	Leader of the Donner Party.
Joseph Smith	Original founder of Mormonism.
Brigham Young	Mormon leader after Smith's murder in 1845.
The Homesteaders	White settlers who set up farms (homesteads).
The Mountain Men	They were guides and made maps for settlers.
The Plains Indians	Native American tribes like the Sioux in the USA.

3. Key Terms / Concepts

Counting Coup	Plains Indians do this in battle by hitting their enemy over the head with a coup stick to steal their strength.
Chief	The leader of a tribe such as Red Cloud or Sitting Bull (Sioux chiefs) which can tell warriors to hunt.
Oregon Trail	Only trail for settlers with wagons to cross the Rockies.
Permanent Indian Frontier	President Jackson promised the Plains Indians that they had their own land west of the Mississippi for good.
Manifest destiny	The belief of white Americans that God gave them the right to control America.
Scalping	Plains Indians removed their enemies scalps so they couldn't go to the Happy Hunting Ground.
Prairie	The grass on the Great Plains which caused prairie fires
Buffalo chips	Buffalo dung was used for fuel because the Great Plains was so arid there were few trees.
Claim/claim jumping	The name of a gold prospector's piece of land. If someone stole your claim it was claim jumping.
Road agents	Gangs of criminals who robbed travellers.
US Marshall	A police officer for the government. Sheriffs worked with them in smaller specific areas to keep the peace.
Vigilantes (committee)	In 1851 in San Francisco- citizens took the law into their own hands- criminals could be lynched (hung).
Nation	A huge tribe of Plains Indians like the Sioux.
Polygamy	The Mormon belief in having multiple wives.

1. Key dates

1862	The Homestead Act - 160 acres for farming the land
1862	Little Crow's War.
1864	Sand Creek Massacre.
1865	The end of the Civil War.
1866-68	Red Cloud's War.
1868	President Grant made a Peace Policy to try and end conflict.
1868	The second Fort Laramie Treaty was signed,
1869	Transcontinental Railroad completed – connecting East-West.
1870s	Growth of sheep farming reduced cattle grazing land.
1873	The Timber Culture Act allowed the homesteaders 160 acres free land if they planted trees on a quarter of their new land.
1875	Over 6 million acres of land had become homesteads.
1875	The sulky plough was invented to help plough the prairie grass,

2. Key people/groups

Reno gang	Group of civil war deserters who terrorised towns,
Goodnight & Loving	Rich cattle ranchers who made a cattle trail,
John Iliff	Cattle baron – sold beef to Indian reservations,
President Grant	Took away Indians' rights, no peace gained.
Red Cloud	Respected Sioux war chief.
Colonel Chivington	Led 700 cavalry to massacre 130 Plains Indians .
Little Crow	Dakota Sioux chief killed 600 settlers.
Joseph McCoy	Cattle baron who distributed meat via Abilene.

3. Key Terms / Concepts

Red Turkey Wheat	New strong crop brought over by the Russian Mennonite immigrants & grew well on the Great Plains.
Long drive	Cowboys drove herds of cattle from Texas to Kansas
Vaqueros	Mexican name for cowboys who raised cattle
Texas fever	The name of an illness which made cattle die.
Cattle ranch	The name for a farm where cattle was raised by cowboys.
Rustling	When someone steals livestock, especially cattle.
Open Range	A large area of unfenced land where cattle roam free
Abilene	Joseph McCoy made Abilene key in the cattle transport industry.
Barbed wire	Joseph Glidden invented this in 1874 to protect farms.
Dog soldiers	Plains Indians warriors
Reservations	Fenced off land for Plains Indians from the government which the Plains Indians couldn't leave..
Bozeman Trial	Trial created after gold was found in Indian territory which went against the Fort Laramie Treaty
Cow town	The name given to places which sell beef on mass.
Sears Roebuck & Company	A catalogue which was transported via the rail which provided isolated homesteaders with supplies.
Windmill	The steel bladed windmill was invented by Halladay in 1870 to help homesteaders.

1. Key dates

1876	Battle of Little Bighorn
1879	Daniel Hardy Webster Campbell develops dry farming in Dakota.
1879	Exoduster Movement - 40, 000 ex-slaves move West to Plains.
1881	Last big cattle drive to Dodge City takes place
1883	The Northern Pacific Railroad is completed
1886-7	Very harsh winter causes the 'Great Die Up' in the cattle industry
1887	The Dawes Act divides tribal land into family and individual plots
1889	50,000 homesteaders join the first land rush in central Indian Territory
1893	Oklahoma Land Rush
1890	Massacre at Wounded Knee - Chief Big Foot & followers killed
1890	Closure of the Indian Frontier by the government.
1892	Johnson County War

2. Key people/groups

Billy the Kid	Notorious outlaw who escaped jail.
Wyatt Earp	Lawman who fought outlaws at the OK Corral.
Benjamin Singleton	Former slave who told Black people to move to Kansas as part of the 'Exoduster' movement.
Henry Adams	Like Singleton, he encouraged black migration.
Pat Garrett	The lawmen (sheriff) who shot Billy the Kid.
Wovoka	A Paiute Indian who started the Ghost Dance.
Buffalo Bill	Buffalo hunter who helped exterminate all the buffalos - causing the Plains Indians to die out.

3. Key Terms / Concepts

OK Corral	A corral is an enclosure for horses. The OK Corral is where a famous gun fight took place.
Land Rush	Where the government gives land away, and people race to claim a piece of the land.
Exodus	Biblical story of the migration of people looking for equality, is applied to Black emigration to Kansas, 1879
Great Die Up	Name for the harsh winter of 1886-7 with temperatures below -55'c. At least 15% of open range herds died. Led to the end of the Open Range.
Overstocked	When too many animals are living off the same area.
Drought	Very little or no water, for example series of severe droughts in the 1890s.
Mechanisation	Making a farming process quicker and more effective using technology such as steel windmills & seed drills.
Refrigerated railroad cars	Introduced in 1875, this revolutionised the cattle industry- meat could be transported to distant markets.
Manifest racism	This is a play on 'manifest destiny' which was deeply racist – belief in inferiority of non-white Americans.
Sharecropping	When a land owner lets a tenant use some land in return for a share in the crop they grow..
Assimilate	To become like something else- for the Plains Indians to become like white Americans.
Ghost Dance	The Native American sacred dance/ritual in reservations to bring dead Plain Indians back to life.
Millenarian beliefs	The belief of oppressed people that a supernatural event will put right all the wrongs done to them.