

American West Knowledge organiser – Key topic 1 Early settlement of the west 1835-1862

Key:

Events/terms to do with Indians

Events/terms to do with first settlers

Events/terms to do with Mormon's



Key events

1827 – Book of Mormon

1830 – Indian removal act

1837 – American hit with economic depression, banks and businesses collapsed.

1837 – Mormons driven out of Kirtland

1838 – Mormons forced out of Missouri

1844 – Joseph Smith announces running for president

1844 – Joseph Smith claims god told him men could have more than 1 wife

27th June 1845 – Joseph Smith Murdered in jail

1846 – Oregon is bought by USA

1846 – Mormons set off for Salt Lake City

1846 – Donner party leaves independence, Missouri

1848 – Salt Lake area joins USA

1849 – Gold rush in California.

1849 – perpetual Emigrating fund set up

1851 – Indian appropriations act

1851 - Fort Laramie treaty

1857 – troops sent to replace Brigham Young Mormon War

1858 – Gold discovered in Rocky mountains

1858 – overland coaches begin to run

Key concepts

Polygamy – more than one wife

Visions – the belief that Indians could gain wisdom, advice through things like sweat lodges.

Dances – contact spirits – ask for help/ say thanks

Land – Indians belief they came from the earth, which they return to when they die – therefore life is a circle. Indians had sacred land e.g. black hills of Dakota – often burial areas.

Counting Coup – touch an enemy without killing was braver than killing = war not about death.

Manifest Destiny – idea that God wanted Americans to take whole of north America.

Mormons – Christian group, created by Joseph Smith – believed in polygamy and that they should convert people to their religion

Self sufficient – Brigham Young's plan to make Salt Lake valley and Mormon's make everything they needed to live.

Genocide – the ideas that many American's planned to destroy the Indians.

Key terms

Great American Desert = The great plains which are located in the middle of the USA. Extreme climate – hot summers, cold winters.

Horses – Brought to the USA by the Spanish in 1600s. Allowed Indians to move on plains and hunt buffalo better.

Nomadic – people that do not live in one place – Indians followed the buffalo

Buffalo – Large cow like animals – hunted for meat, skin, weapons. Allowed Indians to live on plains

Tipi – the home Indians lived in – quick to put up take down, warm in winter, cold in summer, cone shape so safe from wind.

Chief – not elected, became chief due to wisdom, healing power/ skills as a warrior.

Councils – made decisions for the tribe – they would listen to medicine men, elders, the chief.

Scalping – taking the scalp of a person a warrior has beaten to prevent fighting again in the afterlife.

Pioneer – explorers

Oregon trail – name for the series of trails that cut across the mountains in America

Mountain men – 1st people who went west – selling fur – returned east with stories of the green land in west.

Donner Party – group that got lost and stuck in mountains in winter – to not starve they ate the dead.

Gentiles – What the Mormons called people who were not Mormon's.

Kirtland – 1st place Mormons move

Missouri – 2nd place Mormons move

Nauvoo – 3rd place Mormons move

Salt Lake City – Mormon's move to the harsh area 1846-1847 – not yet owned by USA

Brigham Young – 2nd leader of Mormon's – moves and leads them successfully in Salt Lake

Perpetual Emigrating fund – set up to help Mormons move to Salt Lake from abroad.

Gold rush – Discovery of gold leads to thousands moving west

Forty niners – 1st people to come searching for gold in 1849 in California

Indian removal act – made permanent Indian frontier on the plains – moved all Indians here and sold off land to whites.

Indian appropriations act – created reservations to protect Indians from new white settlers – really to protect whites. Smaller land again.

Fort Laramie treaty – agreement between Indians and government that Indians would not attack settlers using Oregon trail – in exchange would receive money from government and be given a hunting area.

Prospectors – people looking for gold mines.

Bullion – raw gold e.g.. Not coins

Key:
Events/terms to do with Indians

Events/terms to do with living on the plains

Events/terms to do with cattle industry

Events to do with the law and order

American West Knowledge organiser – Key topic 2 Development of the Plains:1862-1876



Key events

1862 – Homestead act

- Pacific railroad act

- Little crow's war

- Rocky mountain gold rush

1864 – Sand Creek massacre

1864-67 – Cheyenne Wars

1865 – American Civil War

1866-68 – Red Clouds war

1867 - Cattle drives to railroad towns begin (Abilene)

1868 – Fort Laramie treaty (2nd)

1869 – transcontinental railroad completed

1870 – Government buying 50-60000 cattle for Indian reservations

1871 – Indian appropriations act (2nd)

1873 – Timber Culture act

1874 – Joseph Glidden invented barbed wire

1875 – Destruction of southern buffalo completed

Key terms

Civil war – War between North and South Americans

Homestead act – gave people 160 acres free land if lived and farmed it for 5 years

Southern Homestead act – designed to give freed slaves in south land - failed

Timber Culture act – settlers a further 160 acres if planted 40 acres with trees

Desert Land act – Settlers could buy cheaply an additional 640 acres in areas with little rain

Pacific railroad act – plan for railroad by different companies in different parts of the USA. Gave companies 6,400 acres of land along the track for each mile built.

Sod house – a house made out of earth due to lack of wood

Plagues of grasshoppers – destroyed crops

Windmills – pump water from underground

Dry farming – ploughing straight after rain to keep moisture in ground

Turkey red wheat – survived better than corn on the plains

Sod buster – invented by John Deere – strong plough

Barbed wire – solution to lack of fencing as no wood.

Abilene – cow town – much lawlessness there as cowboys etc

Wild Bill Hickok – gunfighter and later Marshall of Abilene – gambled, drank

John Wesley Hardin – gunfighter

US Marshalls – appointed by president – covered vast areas

Sheriffs – elected by people of a county for 2 years

Texas rangers – own law enforcement – small army

Pinkerton – private detective agency

Vigilantes – community groups that took justice into own hands

Texas Longhorns – cattle that survive on plains/ big areas/ poor climates

Texas fever – disease which killed cattle

Cattle drives – moving cattle from Texas to towns by the railroads

Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving – created one of 1st cattle trails to railroad

Joseph McCoy – created 1st cow town Abilene

Little crows war – war after Santee Sioux began to starve on reservation

Cheyenne Wars – caused by discovery of gold in Colorado in 1859

Sand creek massacre – 150 Indians killed – 3 tribes retaliated.

Medicine lodge treaty – Indians moved to new territory or be killed

Red Clouds war – gold discovered in rocky mountains breaking peace treaty

Fort Laramie 1868 – government left forts in Sioux lands, created great Sioux reservation

Key concepts

Homestead – a farm run by a family

Subsistence – farming enough to only feed family

Claim jumping – stealing a persons gold claim they had discovered

Bank robbery – e.g. Jesse James

Highway and stage coach robbery – more people = movement of mail/ money

Shootings – 1866-1900 – 20,000 people shot – e.g. Wild bill Hickok

Open range – cattle left to survive on plains/ over big areas

Ranch – created areas of land for cattle rather than driving them to railroad

Cowboy – men who worked with cattle on cattle drives

Branding – mark to identify who cattle belonged to

Reservation – area of land Indians moved to – bad for farming, often did not receive promised money

Presidents grants peace policy – aim to confine Indians to reservations, put white agents there to help run them, put army near each reservation.

American West Knowledge organiser – Key topic 3: Conflicts and conquest – 1876-1895

Key:
Events/terms to do with Indians

Events/terms to do with living/ settling on the plains

Events/terms to do with cattle industry

Events to do with the law and order



Key events

1876: Battle of Little Bighorn

1876-7: Great Sioux War

1878: Lincoln County War

1879: Exoduster Movement

1881: Gunfight at OK Corral

1883: Destruction of northern buffalo herd completed

1885: All Native Americans confined to reservations

1886-7: Harsh Winter (end of open range)

1887: Dawes Act

1887: Wounded Knee Massacre

Director of US census Bureau declared frontier was closed

1892: Johnson County War

1893: Oklahoma Land Rush

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Open range – cattle left to survive on plains/ over big areas

Reservation – area of land Indians moved to – bad for farming, often did not receive promised money

Black Hills of Dakota – gold discovered in sacred Sioux land – protected for Sioux by 1868 Fort Laramie

Indian tactics – in battle Indians would normally run to protect women and children, they would not split their forces, both things the Indians did at Little Bighorn.

Extermination of the buffalo – buffalo killed for sport, hides, bones and to destroy Indian culture

Ghost dance – belief that if Indians lived peacefully and danced ghost dance – whites would eventually disappear and buffalo return. Army treated spread of this religion as war – Sitting Bull killed due to this.

Key terms

Sodbuster – invented by John Deere – strong plough

Turkey red wheat – wheat more suited to plains than things like corn

End of open range – cattle boom over – price of beef fell, small ranches take over fenced off using barbed wire.

Exoduster movement – Many blacks moved to Kansas to escape poverty and racism in the South

KKK – group who resented idea of equality for African Americans using terrorist methods to intimidate them

Sharecropping – sharecroppers received share of crop price at harvest time – use money to pay of debt to merchant who would lend money to buy food and supplies.

Oklahoma land rush – government opened up 2 million acres – had been part of Indian territory – 50,000 people crossed boundary the day it opened – end of year 60,000 people lived there.

Lincoln county war – fight between cattle barons and homesteaders and cowboys – 30 died, involved Billy the Kid

Billy the Kid – top gunfighter in Lincoln county war, outlaw, tried and convicted for murdering a sheriff, escaped, finally shot by Pat Garrett who was hired to kill him

Wyatt Earp – Marshall, gambler, saloon owner, involved in big fight at OK corral 1881.

OK Corral – fight between Earps and cowboys. Vigil Earp beat Ike Clanton for breaking a law, they retaliated and firing broke out.

Johnson county war – fight between cattle barons and homesteaders – cattle barons resented settlers as had lost money in 1886-7, upset over cattle rustling – decided to kill people didn't like using gunfighters. Plan went wrong, had to be rescued by army. Invaders never convicted, cattle barons did begin to lose power.

Sitting Bull – Replaced Red Cloud in fight against whites and protecting Sioux sacred land – led forces at Little Bighorn

Custer – General – led one of attacks by army to defeat at Little Bighorn

Crazy Horse – leading role in defeat of General Crook, leading Sioux movement that defeated Custer.

Rosebud creek – battle before Little Bighorn where General Crook's column defeated.

Little Bighorn – Sioux and others defeat US armies 3 pronged attack

Dawes act – broke up reservations into family plots – undermined Indian tribal structures

Wounded knee – ghost dance caused many to follow Big Foot, Indians captured, confusion and 146 Indians were shot, including 7 babies.