

The New West

1865–1914

- 1 Indian Peoples of the Great Plains
- 2 Mining and Railroading
- 3 The Cattle Kingdom
- 4 Indian Peoples in Retreat
- 5 Farming



Battle at Little Bighorn



Sioux warrior's bow and arrow case

1869

The first transcontinental railroad is completed.

Andrew Johnson
1865–1869

1876

The Lakota Sioux, Arapahos, and Cheyenne, led by Chief Crazy Horse, defeat General Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Ulysses S. Grant 1869–1877

1887

The Dawes Act encourages Native Americans to become farmers.

James A. Garfield 1881

Rutherford B. Hayes
1877–1881

Chester A. Arthur
1881–1885

Grover Cleveland
1885–1889

AMERICAN EVENTS

Presidential Terms:

1860

1875

1890

WORLD EVENTS

1869 ▲

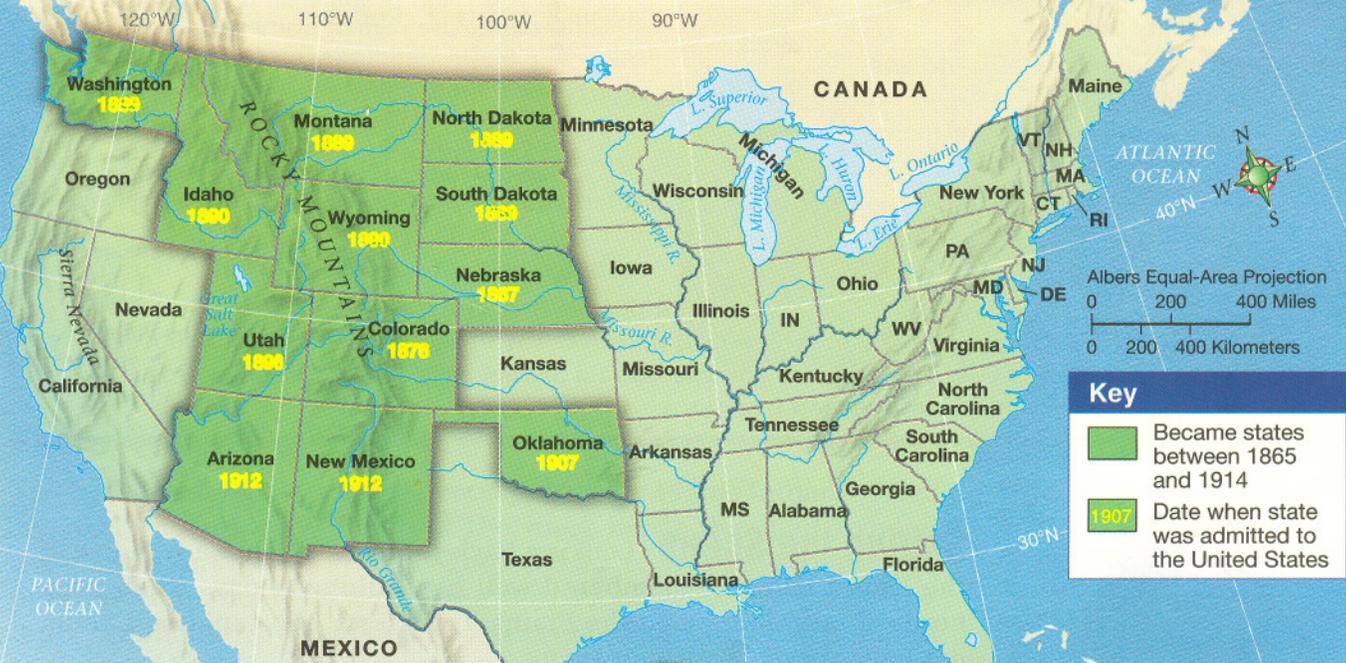
The Suez Canal opens in Egypt.

1885 ▲

The first transcontinental railroad is completed in Canada.

New States in the West

As settlers flooded into the West, towns and cities quickly grew. Between 1865 and 1914, eight western territories became states.



1896 campaign poster shows William Jennings Bryan and his family

1896

Populist candidate William Jennings Bryan and Republican candidate William McKinley run for President.

1913

States ratify the income tax amendment to the Constitution.

Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893
Grover Cleveland 1893-1897

William McKinley 1897-1901

William H. Taft 1909-1913

1889-1893 1893-1897

1897-1901

Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909

1909-1913

Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921

1890

1905

1920

1896 ▲

Klondike gold rush begins in Canada.

1910 ▲

China abolishes slavery.

1 Indian Peoples of the Great Plains

**BEFORE
YOU
READ**

Reading Focus

- What was life like for the Plains Indians?
- Why did the Plains Indians follow herds of buffalo?
- How did the roles of men and women differ in the Plains Indian society?

Key Terms

tepee
travois
corral
jerky

Taking Notes

As you read, prepare an outline of this section. Use roman numerals to indicate the major headings, capital letters for the subheadings, and numbers for the supporting details. The sample, at right, will help you get started.

- I. The Plains Indians
 - A. Life on the Plains
 - 1. Different cultures
 - 2.
 - B. The arrival of horses
 - 1.
 - 2.
- II. Following the Buffalo



Main Idea Different Indian peoples lived on the Great Plains, and many relied on the horse and the buffalo as they developed their varied cultures and traditions.



**AS YOU
READ**

Kiowa warrior's shield

Find Main Ideas How did the Plains Indians use the buffalo?

Setting the Scene Looking back years later, Old Lady Horse of the Kiowa nation remembered well her childhood days when huge herds of buffalo roamed the Plains. The Kiowa, she explained, could not have survived without them:

“ Everything the Kiowas had came from the buffalo. Their tipis were made of buffalo hides, so were their clothes and moccasins. They ate buffalo meat. Their containers were made of hide, or of bladders or stomachs. The buffalo were the life of the Kiowas. ”

—Old Lady Horse, quoted in Alice Marriott and Carol K. Rachlin,
American Indian Mythology

Indian peoples had been living for centuries on the Great Plains. The many uses of the buffalo provide just one example of how the Indians adapted their ways of life to the region. They created well-ordered societies that divided work between men and women and made the most of the resources on hand.

The Plains Indians

Many different Native American nations lived on the Great Plains. A number of them, such as the Arikaras, had lived on the Plains for hundreds of years. Others, like the Lakotas, did not move to the Plains until the early 1700s.

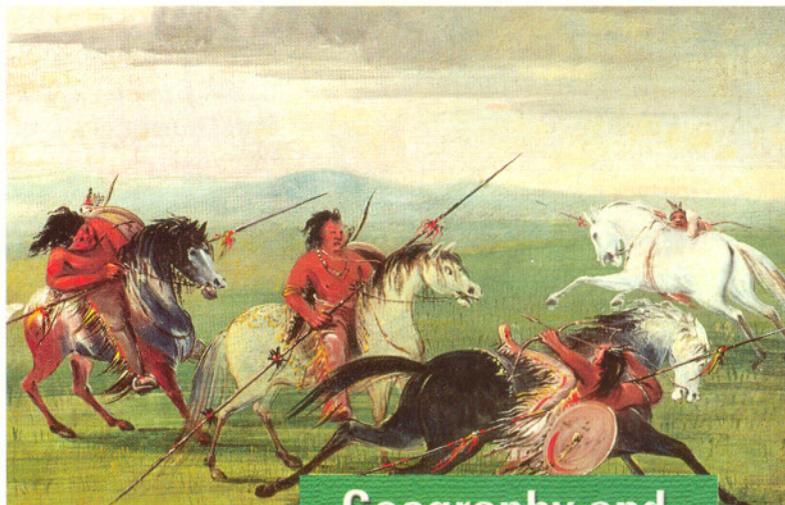
Life on the Plains Plains Indians had rich and varied cultures. They were skilled artists. They also had well-organized religions and warrior societies. Each nation had its own language. People from different nations used sign language to talk to one another.

At one time, most Plains Indians were farmers who lived in semi-permanent villages. From there, they sent out hunting parties that pursued on foot herds of buffalo and other animals. Agriculture, however, was their main source of food.

The Arrival of Horses During the 1600s, the Plains Indians' way of life changed as they learned about horses from neighboring tribes.

The Spanish had brought horses to the Americas in the late 1400s. At first, Indians were not allowed to own horses, but they did learn how to care for and how to ride them. After the Pueblo Indians revolted against the Spaniards in 1680, the Pueblos were left with thousands of horses. They started trading these horses to neighboring tribes. Eventually, the horses reached the tribes of the northern plains.

Plains Indians used horses while hunting. They also used horses when moving their villages and going on raids.



Following the Buffalo

The buffalo served as a living grocery store for Plains Indians. After acquiring horses, they followed the huge herds that had roamed their homeland for centuries. They began to live in **tepees** (TEE pees), or tents made by stretching buffalo skins on tall poles. The tepees could easily be carried on a **travois** (truh VOI), or sled pulled by a dog or horse.

The migration of the Plains Indians mirrored the movement of the buffalo. In winter, small groups of buffalo moved to protected valleys and forests. In summer, huge buffalo herds gathered on the Plains where the grass was plentiful. In the same way, Plains Indians spent the winter in small bands and gathered in large groups during the summers.

The Buffalo Hunt There were different ways to hunt buffalo. Before horses came to the Plains, a group of hunters would shout and wave colored robes at the buffalo. The hunters would gradually drive a herd of buffalo into a **corral**, or enclosure. There they killed the trapped buffalo. When the hunt was over, the women and children joined the hunters in cutting up the buffalo and taking it back to camp. Once they had horses, hunters would ride the horses right into the herd and kill the buffalo with bows and arrows.

Uses of the Buffalo Although the Plains Indians also hunted deer and elk, they depended on the buffalo for food, clothing, and shelter. Buffalo meat, rich in protein, was a main item of the Indians' diet. Women cut up and dried the meat on racks. The dried meat was called **jerky**.

Women also tanned buffalo hides to make sleeping robes and tepee covers. They wove buffalo fur into coarse, warm cloth. The cloth was used as an outer covering for a tepee.

Tradition and Ceremony Many Native American groups met on the Plains. They hunted together and attended special events.

Summer gatherings were the time for councils. At the councils, the elders were consulted about the problems that affected the whole nation.

Geography and History

Wild Horses in the West

At the first sight of horses, the Plains Indians believed them to be mysterious, magical animals. They called them "sacred dogs." These "sacred dogs" forever changed the life of Plains Indians. Before the horse, tribes lived at the edge of the plains, venturing out to hunt buffalo on foot during the summer. Horses made them mobile, allowing them to live on the Plains year round and to follow the buffalo herds. The Comanches, one of the first tribes to ride horses, became skilled and feared warriors who moved swiftly over long distances. With horses, the Comanches could expand their territory and defend it from neighboring tribes. A man on foot was no match for the "sacred dog."



Why did the Plains Indians refer to horses as "sacred dogs"?

The most important religious ceremony was the Sun Dance. Hundreds of people attended the four-day ceremony to thank the Great Spirit for blessings, good hunts, and help in times of trouble. Sun Dancers also asked the Great Spirit for good fortune in the coming year.



Ask Questions What questions would you have asked the Plains Indians about the roles of men and women?

The Roles of Women and Men

Women and men usually had specific roles in Indian society. In some tribes, women helped men with the hunting and governing. A Blackfoot woman, Running Eagle, led many hunting parties herself.

The Role of Women Women oversaw life in the home. They gathered food and prepared meals for their families. The women not only made the tepees, but they were also responsible for raising and taking down tepees. Women cared for the children and, along with the men, passed along the traditions of their people.

Women also engaged in many crafts. They made the baskets and blankets. Their work often showed great artistic skill and design. In fact, a woman's ability in crafts established her rank in society.

The Role of Men The men of the Plains Indians had important responsibilities too. They hunted and protected the women, children, and the elders. They passed on their valuable skills and knowledge to the boys. They supervised the spiritual life of the community by leading religious ceremonies.

Another important responsibility of the men was to provide military leadership. They waged war to defend or extend territory, to gain horses and other riches, or to seek revenge. More than anything else, however, men waged war to protect their people and to prove their bravery and ability. The most successful warriors gained great respect from the members of their nation.

AFTER YOU READ

Section 1 Assessment

Recall

1. **Define** (a) tepee, (b) travois, (c) corral, (d) jerky.

Comprehension

2. How did the arrival of the horse change the life of the Plains Indians?
3. Why did the Plains Indians depend on the buffalo?
4. (a) What were the responsibilities of women in the society? (b) What were the responsibilities of men?

Critical Thinking and Writing

5. **Exploring the Main Idea** Review the Main Idea statement at the beginning of this section. Then, write a paragraph describing how the dependence on buffalo hunting affected the lives of the men and the women.
6. **Making Generalizations** Based on what you know about the Sun Dance ceremony, what were some religious beliefs of the Plains Indians?

ACTIVITY



Take It to the NET Connecting to Today

The buffalo was important to the Plains Indians. Use the Internet to find out about the status of the buffalo today. Work with a partner to prepare a museum exhibit about the buffalo in the past and today. Visit *The American Nation* section of www.phschool.com for help in completing the activity.

2 Mining and Railroading

BEFORE
YOU
READ

Reading Focus

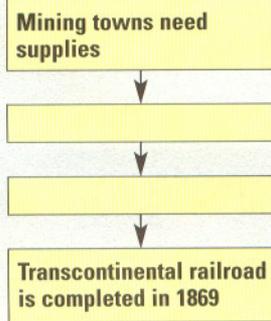
- How did the boom in gold and silver change the West?
- What problems arose on the mining frontier?
- How did railroads help the West develop?

Key Terms

lode
vigilante
transcontinental railroad
subsidy

Taking Notes

Copy this flowchart. As you read, fill in the boxes with some of the events described in this section that led up to completion of the first transcontinental railroad. The first and last boxes have been filled in to help you get started. Add as many boxes as you need.



 **Main Idea** A mining boom changed the West, bringing people and a new means of transportation to the region.

Setting the Scene Late in 1859, a pack train of 80 mules made its way across the Sierra Nevada mountains into California. The mules bore tons of silver ore fresh from a new strike in the Washoe Valley east of the Sierras. At \$5,000 a ton, this single load was enough to make a man rich beyond his dreams. Later, glittering white bars of silver made from the ore were put on exhibit in the window of a San Francisco bank. Passersby gazed in amazement at the sight of so much wealth.

The lure of instant riches drew tens of thousands west. Miners came from all over the globe to strike it rich in the new West.

A Boom in Gold and Silver

The western mining boom had begun with the California gold rush of 1849. When the gold rush ended, miners looked for new opportunities. A mere rumor sent them racing east in search of new strikes.

The Comstock Lode Two prospectors struck gold in the Sierra Nevada in 1859. Then, another miner, Henry Comstock, appeared. "The land is mine," he cried, demanding to be made a partner. From then on, Comstock boasted about "his" mine. The strike became known as the Comstock Lode. A **lode** is a rich vein of gold or silver.

Comstock and his partners often complained about the heavy blue sand that was mixed in with the gold. It clogged the devices used for separating out the gold and made the gold hard to reach. When Mexican miners took the "danged blue stuff" to an expert in California, tests showed that it was loaded with silver. Comstock had stumbled onto one of the richest silver mines in the world.

Miners moved into many other areas of the West. Some found valuable ore in Montana and Idaho. Others struck it rich in Colorado. In the 1870s, miners discovered gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota. In the late 1890s, thousands rushed north to Alaska after major gold strikes were made there.



AS YOU
READ

Men with a pile of silver bars

Draw Inferences What were the difficulties of silver mining?

GEOGRAPHY Skills

The discovery of gold, the Homestead Act, and the arrival of railroad builders, ranchers, and other settlers contributed to the population growth of the West.

- 1. Location** On the map, locate (a) Comstock Lode, (b) Central Pacific Railroad, (c) Promontory, (d) Chisholm Trail.
- 2. Interaction** How did mining affect nearby soil, water, and other natural resources?
- 3. Critical Thinking**
Applying Information
 How do you think the railroad lines affected the cattle ranchers in Colorado?

From Boomtown to Ghost Town Gold and silver strikes attracted thousands of prospectors. Towns sprang up almost overnight near all the major mining sites.

First, miners built a tent city near the diggings. Then, people came to supply the miners' needs. Traders brought mule teams loaded with tools, food, and clothing. Merchants hauled in wagonloads of supplies and set up stores.

Soon, wood-frame houses, hotels, restaurants, and stores replaced the tents. For example, it took less than a year for the mining camp at the Comstock Lode to become the boomtown of Virginia City, Nevada.

Most settlers in the boomtowns of the mining frontier were men. However, enterprising women also found ways to profit. Some women ran boardinghouses and laundries. Others opened restaurants, where miners gladly paid high prices for home-cooked meals.

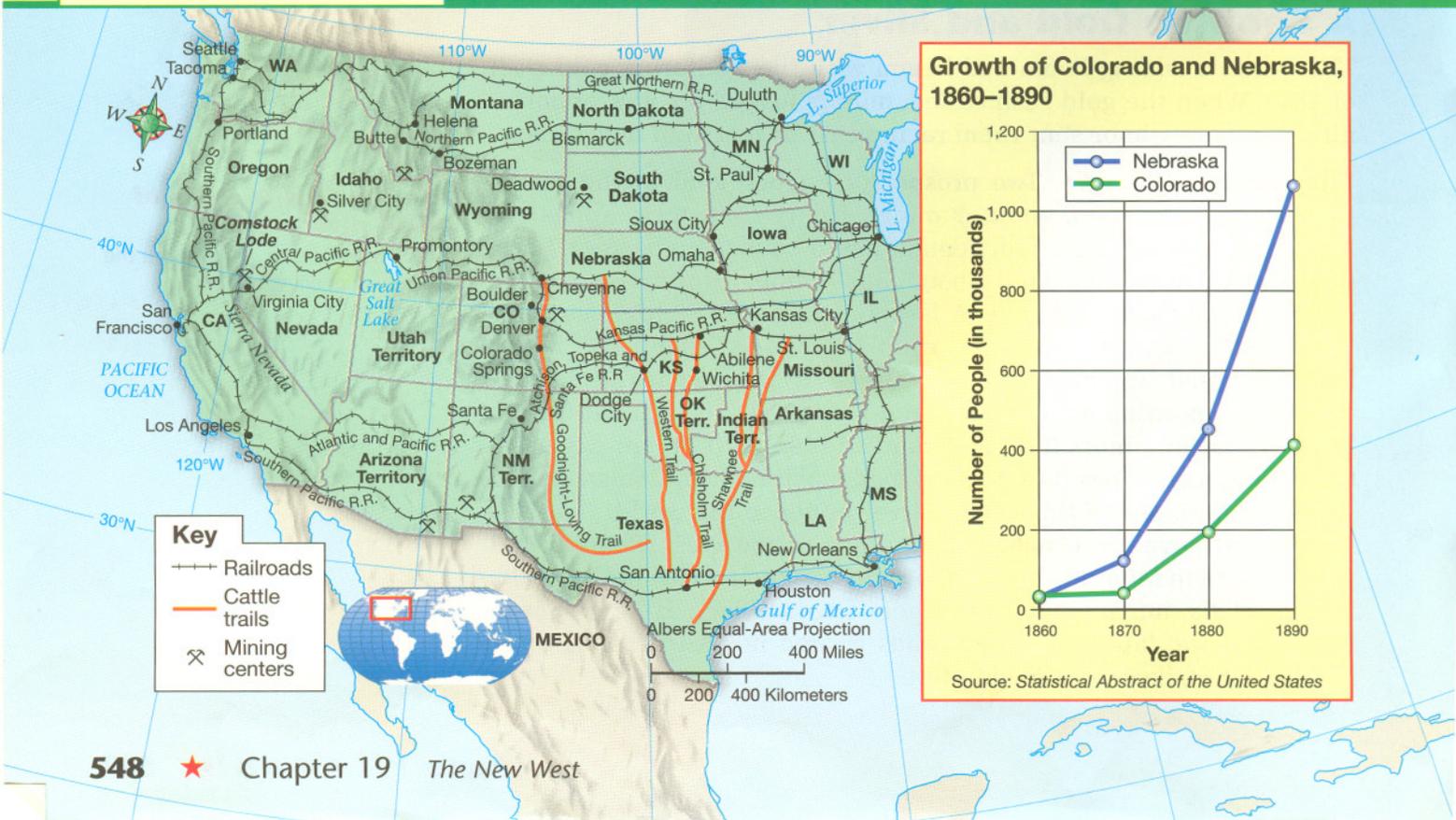
Many boomtowns lasted for only a few years. When the gold or silver ore was gone, the miners moved away. Without the miners for customers, businesses often had to close. In this way, a boomtown could quickly go bust and turn into a ghost town.

Still, some boomtowns survived and prospered even after the mines shut down. In these towns, miners stayed and found new ways to make a living.

Problems Along the Mining Frontier

The surge of miners in the West created problems, as did the arrival of cattle ranchers and homesteaders. Mines and towns polluted clear mountain streams. Miners cut down forests to get wood for buildings. They also forced Native Americans from the land.

The Changing West



Foreign miners were often treated unfairly. In many camps, mobs drove Mexicans from their claims. Chinese miners were heavily taxed or forced to work claims abandoned by others.

Few miners ever got rich. Much of the gold and silver lay deep underground. It could be reached only with costly machinery. Eventually, most mining in the West was taken over by large companies that could afford to buy this equipment. Furthermore, independent prospectors like Henry Comstock largely disappeared. They were replaced by paid laborers who worked for the large companies.

Territorial Government Lawlessness and disorder often accompanied the rapid growth of a town. Stories have exaggerated the number of fights and killings that took place in these towns, but some towns actually were violent places. In response, miners sometimes resorted to organizing groups of **vigilantes**, or self-appointed law enforcers. Vigilantes tracked down outlaws and punished them, usually without trials. A common punishment was lynching.

Occasionally, vigilante groups did not form to fight crime. At least one San Francisco group organized to take political control of the city.

Informal methods of governing gradually gave way to more formal arrangements. In 1861, Colorado, Dakota, and Nevada were organized into territories. Idaho and Arizona followed in 1863 and Montana, in 1864. The process of permanent settlement and government had begun.

The Railroads

To the Indians, the railroad was a terrifying monster, an “iron horse” belching black smoke and moving at stunning speeds. However, for the people of mining towns, railroads meant supplies, new townsfolk, and a rapid means of transporting their gold and silver. The West needed a transportation system that could carry heavy loads over great distances at a cost low enough to guarantee a profit. It is no wonder, then, that railroad companies raced to lay track to the mines and boomtowns.

A Transcontinental Railroad In 1863, two companies began a race to build the first transcontinental railroad. A **transcontinental railroad** is one that stretches across a continent from coast to coast. The Union Pacific Railroad started building a rail line westward from Omaha, Nebraska. The Central Pacific Railroad began in Sacramento, California, and built eastward. A local paper reported:

Boom and Bust



GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Skills

A gold or silver strike often led to the building of a boomtown. However, many boomtowns quickly became ghost towns.

1. **Comprehension** (a) Why did merchants often follow miners? (b) What caused large numbers of miners to suddenly leave a boomtown?

2. **Critical Thinking**
Analyzing Information
Based on this chart and on the map on page 548, why do you think there are more ghost towns today in Idaho than there are in Texas?

Economics



Garnet, Montana

Bustling boomtowns became abandoned ghost towns once the mines no longer yielded gold or silver. Garnet, Montana, now a ghost town, was founded in 1895 and swelled to nearly 1,000 people by 1898. Aside from the saloons found in all boomtowns, Garnet also had a school, barbershops, a union hall, and a doctor's office. It even claimed to have a low crime rate. By 1905, the population had fallen to 150.



Take It to the NET

Virtual Field Trip For an interactive look at Garnet, Montana, visit *The American Nation* section of www.phschool.com.

“ With rites appropriate to the occasion . . . ground was formally broken at noon for the commencement of the Central Pacific Railroad—the California link of the continental chain that is to unite American communities now divided by thousands of miles of trackless wilderness. ”

—Sacramento *Union*, January 8, 1863

The federal government helped the railroad companies because it felt that rail lines in the West would benefit the entire nation. The government's aid came in the form of subsidies. A **subsidy** is financial aid or a land grant from the government. Congress lent money to the railroad companies and gave them land. For every mile of track completed, the railroad companies received twenty sections of land in the states along the route and forty sections per mile in the territories. By the time the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads were completed, they had received about 45 million acres of land. Often, both business and government ignored the fact that Native Americans lived on the land.

Working on the Railroad Both companies had trouble getting workers. Labor was scarce during the Civil War. Also, the work was backbreaking and dangerous and the pay was low.

The railroad companies hired immigrant workers, who accepted low wages. The Central Pacific brought in thousands of workers from China. The Union Pacific hired newcomers from Ireland. African Americans and Mexican Americans also worked for each line.

Primary Source

Roughing It

In 1861, Mark Twain traveled west to prospect for gold. Here he describes some of the hardships of the journey:

"On the nineteenth day, we crossed the Great American Desert—forty memorable miles of bottomless sand. . . . We worked our passage most of the way across. That is to say, we got out and walked. It was a dreary pull and a long thirsty one, for we had no water. From one extremity of this desert to the other, the road was white with the bones of oxen and horses. . . . we could have walked forty miles and set our feet on a bone every step! The desert was one [large] graveyard. And the log-chains, wagon tyres, and rotting wrecks of vehicles were almost as thick as the bones."

Analyzing Primary Sources

Why do you think Twain and the other prospectors were willing to endure such hardships?

The workers faced a daunting task. The Central Pacific had to carve a path through the rugged Sierra Nevada. The Union Pacific had to cut through the towering Rocky Mountains. Snowstorms and avalanches killed workers and slowed progress. At times, crews cutting tunnels through rock advanced only a few inches a day.

Railroads Promote Growth The Central Pacific and Union Pacific met at Promontory, Utah, on May 10, 1869. Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, dropped a solid-gold spike into a pre-drilled hole in the rail. In doing so, he joined the two tracks and united the country. The nation's first transcontinental railroad was complete.

With the Civil War fresh in their minds, people cheered this new symbol of unity. The words that were engraved on the golden spike expressed their feelings:

“May God continue the unity of our Country as the Railroad unites the two great Oceans of the world.”

Before long, other major rail lines linked the West and the East. The railroads brought growth and new settlement all across the West. They enabled people, supplies, and mail to move quickly and cheaply across the plains and mountains. Wherever rail lines went, settlements sprang up along the tracks. The largest towns and cities developed where major railroad lines met. Cities where sea and land transportation met, such as Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, experienced huge population growth with the coming of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads. Western cities, such as Denver, Cheyenne, and Wichita, grew when railroads were joined to the great cattle trails.

Because of their rapid growth, western territories began to apply for statehood. Nevada became a state in 1864; Colorado, in 1876; North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington, in 1889; Idaho and Wyoming in 1890.

AFTER YOU READ

Section 2 Assessment

Recall

- Identify** Explain the significance of (a) Comstock Lode, (b) Union Pacific Railroad, (c) Central Pacific Railroad, (d) Leland Stanford.
- Define** (a) lode, (b) vigilante, (c) transcontinental railroad, (d) subsidy.

Comprehension

- How did mining encourage the growth of towns in the West?
- Describe three problems that occurred in mining towns.
- How did railroads change the West?

Critical Thinking and Writing

- Exploring the Main Idea** Review the Main Idea statement at the beginning of this section. Then, prepare a cause-and-effect chart that gives information on how mining changed the West. The first "cause" entry can be: Silver discovered in Sierra Nevada in 1859. The first "effect" entry can be: Huge numbers of people rush to Nevada.
- Linking Past and Present** Are railroads as important today as they were in the late 1800s? Explain.

ACTIVITY

Writing a Speech You are a railroad official in 1869. Write a short speech to celebrate the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. In your speech, explain how you think the railroad will benefit the entire nation.

3 The Cattle Kingdom

BEFORE YOU READ

Reading Focus

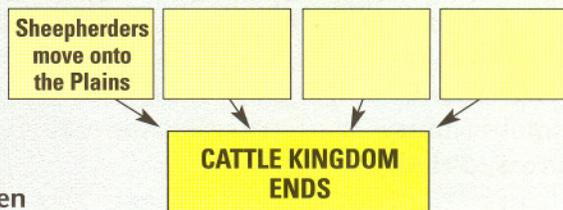
- What was the Cattle Kingdom?
- What was life like for a cowhand?
- Why were cow towns important during the cattle boom?

Key Terms

- cattle drive
- vaquero
- cow town

Taking Notes

Copy the chart below. As you read, complete the chart to show other causes that led to the end of the Cattle Kingdom. Add as many boxes as you need.



Main Idea Cattle ranching boomed on the open range in the 1870s, producing a Cattle Kingdom of ranchers, cowboys, cattle drives, and cow towns.



Setting the Scene

Andy Adams was a cattleman on a “long drive” from Texas to the rail stations in the North. Adams reported that the cattle had been under the blistering sun for three days. Crazy with thirst, the steers were out of control. Then, Adams made a terrible discovery:

“In a number of instances wild steers deliberately walked against our horses, and then for the first time a fact dawned on us that chilled the marrow in our bones—the herd was going blind.”

—Andy Adams, *The Log of a Cowboy*, 1903

There was little for the cowhands to do now. “Nothing short of water would stop the herd and we rode aside and let them pass,” Adams explained. Eventually the herd found water, and with it “their eyesight would gradually return.”

In the 1860s a new group of Americans began arriving on the Plains. Along with miners, these newcomers created a new way of life on the Great Plains.

Creating a Cattle Kingdom

Before the arrival of settlers from the United States, the Spanish, and then the Mexicans, set up cattle ranches in the Southwest. Over the years, strays from these ranches, along with American breeds, grew into large herds of wild cattle. These wild cattle were known as longhorns. They roamed freely across the grassy plains of Texas.

After the Civil War, the demand for beef increased. People in the growing cities in the East needed more meat. Miners, railroad crews, farmers, and growing communities in the West added to the demand. The Texas longhorns were perfect for the commercial market. They could travel far on little water, and they required no winter feeding.

AS YOU READ

A pair of spurs

Use Prior Knowledge In addition to spurs, what clothes did cowhands wear?

Cattle Drives In response, Texas ranchers began rounding up herds of longhorns. They drove the animals hundreds of miles north to railroad lines in Kansas and Missouri on trips called **cattle drives**.

The Chisholm Trail Jesse Chisholm blazed one of the most famous cattle trails. Chisholm was half Scottish and half Cherokee. In the late 1860s, he began hauling goods by wagon between Texas and the Kansas Pacific Railroad. His route crossed rivers at the best places and passed by water holes. Ranchers began using the Chisholm Trail in 1867. Within five years, more than one million cattle had walked the road.

The Life of a Cowhand

Ranchers employed cowhands to tend their cattle and drive herds to market. These hard workers rode alongside the huge herds in good and bad weather. They kept the cattle moving and rounded up strays. After the Civil War, veterans of the Confederate Army made up the majority of the cowhands who worked in Texas. However, it is estimated that nearly one in three cowhands was either Mexican American or African American. Some cowhands dreamed of setting aside enough money to start a herd of their own. Most, in the end, just worked to earn wages.

Spanish Heritage American cowhands learned much about riding, roping, and branding from Spanish and Mexican vaqueros (vah KYEHR ohs). **Vaqueros** were skilled riders who herded cattle on ranches in Mexico, California, and the Southwest.

The gear used by American cowhands was modeled on the tools of the vaquero. Cowhands used the leather lariat to catch cattle and horses. “Lariat” comes from the Spanish word for rope. Cowhands wore wide-brimmed hats like the Spanish *sombrero*. Their leather leggings, called “chaps,” were modeled on Spanish *chaparreras* (chap ah RAY rahs). Chaps protected a rider’s legs from the thorny plants that grow in the Southwest.

On the Trail A cattle drive was hot, dirty, tiring, and often boring work. A cowboy’s day could last for nearly 18 hours. The work was so strenuous that cowhands usually brought a number of horses so that each day a fresh one would be available. Cowhands worked in all kinds of weather and faced many dangers, including prairie dog holes, rattlesnakes, and fierce thunderstorms. They had to prevent nervous cattle from drowning while crossing a fast-flowing river. They had to fight raging grass fires. They also faced attacks from cattle thieves who roamed the countryside.

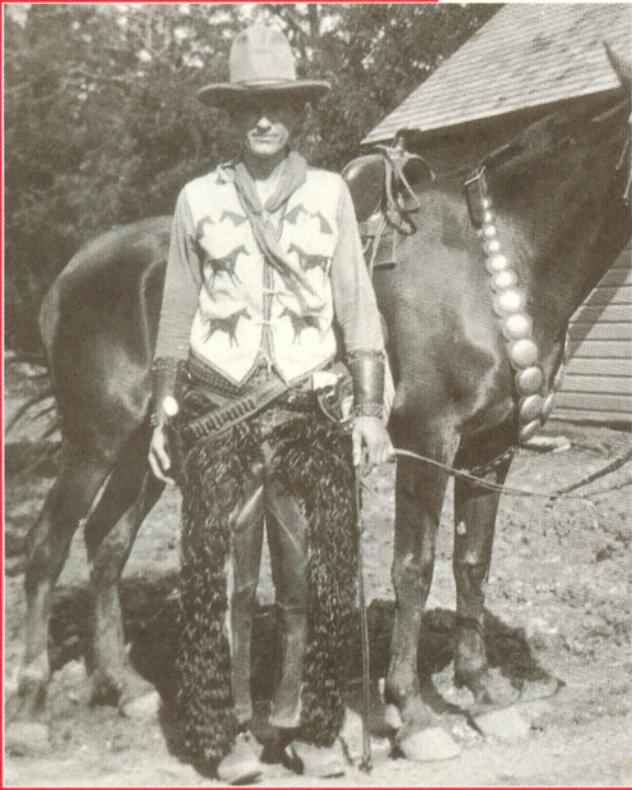
One of the cowhand’s worst fears on a cattle drive was a stampede. A clap of thunder or a gunshot could set thousands of longhorns off at a run. Cowhands had to avoid the crush of hoofs and horns while attempting to turn the stampeding herd in a wide circle.

Most cowhands did not work for themselves. Instead, they were hired hands for the owners of large ranches. For all their hard work, cowhands were fed, housed, and lucky to earn \$1 a day! Even in the 1870s, this was low pay.



Find Main Ideas Use the heading and subheadings to start an outline of the main ideas in this section.

LINKING PAST AND PRESENT



▲ Past



▲ Present

Viewing History

Western Clothing

A cowhand, as shown above, dressed for his job. Spurs on boots, leather leggings, tall hats, and neckerchiefs were essential for hot, dry cattle trails. Today, western clothing, such as the hat, blue jeans, western boots, and belt buckle shown here, is fashionable rather than functional. **Applying Information** What workers today wear special clothing for their jobs?



The Cow Towns

Cattle drives ended in **cow towns** that had sprung up along the railroad lines. The Chisholm Trail, for example, ended in Abilene, Kansas. Other cow towns in Kansas were Wichita, Caldwell, and Dodge City. In cow towns, cattle were held in great pens until they could be loaded into railroad cars and shipped to markets in the East.

In Abilene and other busy cow towns, dance halls, saloons, hotels, and restaurants catered to the cowhands. Sheriffs often had a hard time keeping the peace. Some cowhands spent wild nights drinking, dancing, and gambling.

Cow towns also attracted settlers who wanted to build stable communities where families could thrive. Doctors, barbers, artisans, bankers, and merchants helped to turn cow towns into communities.

The main street of a town was where people conducted business. Almost every town had a general store that sold groceries, tools, clothing, and all sorts of other goods. The general store also served as a social center where people could talk and exchange the latest news. As a town grew, drugstores, hardware stores, and even ice-cream parlors lined its main street.

Religion also played an important role for the townspeople. Throughout the West, places of worship grew in number and membership. They served as spiritual and social centers and as symbols of progress and stability. "A church does as much to build up a town as a school, a railroad, or a fair," noted one New Mexico newspaper.

The Cattle Boom

In the 1870s, ranching spread north from Texas and across the grassy Plains. Soon, cattle grazed from Kansas to present-day Montana. Ranchers had built a Cattle Kingdom in the West. They came to expect high profits. Millions of dollars poured into the West from people in the East and in foreign countries who wanted to earn money from the cattle boom. However, the boom did not last.

The Open Range Ranchers let their cattle run wild on the open range. To identify cattle, each ranch had its own brand that was burned into a cow's hide.

Sometimes, there were conflicts on the range. When sheepherders moved onto the Plains, ranchers tried to drive them out. The ranchers complained that sheep nibbled the grass so low that cattle could not eat it. To protect the range, which they saw as their own, ranchers sometimes attacked sheepherders and their flocks.

The End of the Cattle Kingdom In the 1870s, farmers began moving onto the range. They fenced their fields with barbed wire, which kept cattle and sheep from pushing over fences and trampling plowed fields. As more farmers bought land, the open range began to disappear. Large grants of land to the railroads also limited it.

Nature imposed limits on the cattle boom. After a time, there just was not enough grass to feed all the cattle that lived on the plains. The need to buy feed and land pushed up the costs. Diseases such as "Texas fever" sometimes destroyed entire herds. Then, the bitterly cold winters of 1886 and 1887 killed entire herds of cattle. In the summer, severe heat and drought dried up water holes and scorched the grasslands.

Cattle owners began to buy land and fence it in. Soon, farmers and ranchers divided the open range into a patchwork of large fenced plots. The days of the Cattle Kingdom were over.

**AFTER
YOU
READ**

Section 3 Assessment

Recall

1. **Identify** Explain the significance of (a) Chisholm Trail, (b) Cattle Kingdom.
2. **Define** (a) cattle drive, (b) vaquero, (c) cow town.

Comprehension

3. How did the Cattle Kingdom begin?
4. Describe the life of a cowhand.
5. Why did cow towns develop?

Critical Thinking and Writing

6. **Exploring the Main Idea** Review the Main Idea statement at the beginning of this section. Then, write several paragraphs describing the cattle industry in the 1870s and 1880s.
7. **Analyzing Information** How do you think the growth of the Cattle Kingdom affected the Plains Indians? Explain.

ACTIVITY



Take It to the NET **Connecting to Today**

Where do boomtowns exist today? Use the Internet to find out about boomtowns such as those in Silicon Valley. How do they compare with earlier boomtowns? Write a brief report. Visit *The American Nation* section of www.phschool.com for help in completing the activity.



Evaluating Written Sources

What was the “Old West” really like? As you have learned, historical evidence comes from many sources. Evaluating the validity of written sources is important in putting together a picture of the past.

In his novel *The Big Sky*, the newspaperman and author A. B. Guthrie, Jr. (1901–1991) wrote the following description of life in the West in the 1800s. *The Big Sky* was published in 1947:

“This was the way to live. . . . A body got so’s he felt everything was kin to him, the earth and sky and buffalo and beaver and the yellow moon at night. It was better than being walled in by a house, better than breathing in spoiled air and feeling caged like a varmint.”

The following passage was written by Teddy Blue Abbott, a famous cowboy in the 1880s. Here, he describes a blizzard in Montana in 1887. Abbott’s account was published in 1939 in a book called *We Pointed Them North: Recollections of a Cowpuncher*.

“The cattle drifted down on all the rivers. . . . On the Missouri we lost I don’t know how many that way. They would walk out on the ice and the ones behind would push the front ones in. The cowpunchers worked like slaves to move them back in the hills, but as all the outfits cut their forces down every winter, they were shorthanded. No one knows how they worked but themselves. They saved thousands of cattle. Think of riding all day in a blinding snow storm, the temperature fifty and sixty below zero, and no dinner.”

Learn the Skill To evaluate written sources, use the following steps:

- 1. Identify the sources.** Knowing the background of a writer helps you evaluate that person’s account.
- 2. Note the context.** When was the account written? In what form did it appear? What was the purpose of the account?
- 3. Analyze the point of view.** What is the message? How does the writer feel about the subject?
- 4. Evaluate the validity of the material.** How true is this account? Why do you think so?

Practice the Skill Answer the following questions about the passages above:

- 1. (a)** Who was A. B. Guthrie? **(b)** Who was Teddy Blue Abbott? **(c)** Which passage is from a first-hand account?
- 2. (a)** When did each account appear? **(b)** In what form did it appear? **(c)** What was the purpose of each account?
- 3. (a)** What message does Guthrie’s passage give? **(b)** What is the message in Abbott’s account? **(c)** How does each writer feel about his subject?
- 4.** Which account is more accurate? Why do you think so?

Apply the Skill See the Chapter Review and Assessment.

4 Indian Peoples in Retreat

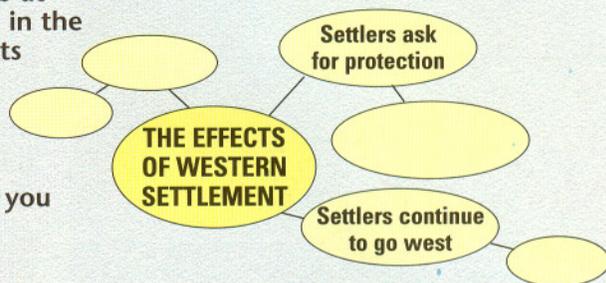
BEFORE YOU READ

Reading Focus

- What promises did the government make to Indians?
- Why did the buffalo begin to disappear?
- How did the movement west help end the Indian way of life?
- Why did reformers fail?

Taking Notes

Copy the concept web at right. As you read, fill in the blank ovals with events that show the effects of western settlement on Native American life. Add as many ovals as you need.



Main Idea Despite government promises to protect their land, Indian peoples found their way of life threatened as white settlers invaded their territory.

Setting the Scene

In 1883, Sitting Bull, a Lakota war chief and holy man, addressed a group of senators from Washington.

“If a man loses anything and goes back and looks carefully for it he will find it, and that is what the Indians are doing now when they ask you to give them the things that were promised them in the past. And I do not think they should be treated like beasts, and that is the reason I have grown up with the feelings I have.”

—Tatanka Iyotanka (Sitting Bull), Report to the Senate Committee, 1883

As settlers moved into the West after the Civil War, the government promised to protect Indian hunting grounds. However, the government soon broke its promises, as more settlers pushed westward. When Indians resisted white settlement, wars erupted. The result was tragedy for the Indian peoples.



AS YOU READ

Sitting Bull
Find Main Ideas

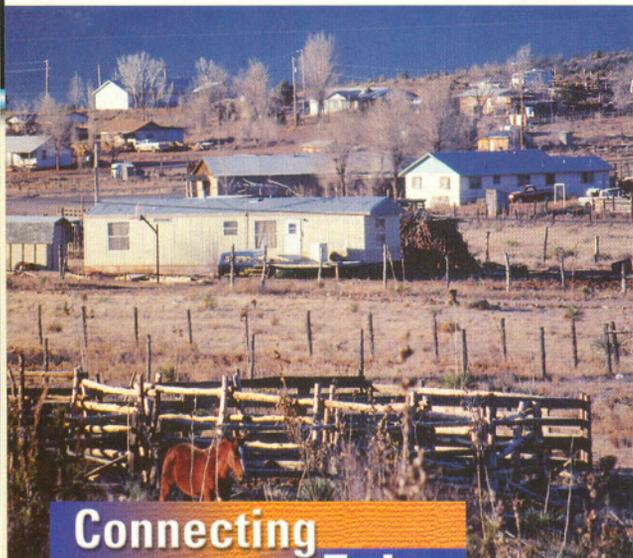
What is Sitting Bull asking of the senators?

Promises Made and Broken

Conflict began as early as the 1840s, when settlers and miners began to cross Indian hunting grounds. The settlers and miners asked for government protection from the Indians.

Fort Laramie Treaty The government built a string of forts to protect settlers and miners. In 1851, federal government officials met with Indian nations near Fort Laramie in Wyoming. The officials asked each nation to keep to a limited area. In return, they promised money, domestic animals, agricultural tools, and other goods. Officials told the Native Americans that the lands that were reserved for them would be theirs forever.

Native American leaders agreed to the terms of the Fort Laramie Treaty. However, in 1858, gold was discovered at Pikes Peak in Colorado. A wave of miners rushed to land that the government had promised to the Cheyennes and Arapahos. Federal officials forced



Connecting to Today

Housing on Indian Reservations

Since the late 1800s, many Native Americans in the West have lived a dreary existence on reservations. Today, one of the biggest problems on the reservations is housing. Homes are crowded and often lack adequate plumbing. Older people, especially, have been known to freeze to death in the cold, drafty shacks. The government is trying to help by offering home mortgage loans. Other help comes from the Red Feather Development Group, which teaches the straw-bale construction technique. This is an efficient and economical method of building. The first home, built on the Crow Reservation, is now a model for buildings being constructed by Native Americans on other reservations in the West.

How can the new building technique help the housing problem?

Indian leaders to sign a new treaty giving up the land around Pikes Peak. Some Native Americans refused to accept the agreement. They attacked white settlers.

The Chivington Massacre The settlers struck back. In 1864, Colonel John Chivington led his militia against a Cheyenne village whose leaders had come to a fort asking for protection. When Chivington attacked, the Indians raised both a white flag of surrender and the flag of the United States. Chivington ignored the flags. He ordered his men to destroy the village and take no prisoners. In the Chivington Massacre, the militia slaughtered more than 200 men, women, and children.

People throughout the United States were outraged at the brutality and the bloodshed. "When the white man comes in my country he leaves a trail of blood behind him," said Lakota War Chief Red Cloud. Across the Plains, soldiers and Indians went to war.

Learning "American" Ways In 1867, federal officials established a peace commission to end the wars on the Plains so that settlers would be safe. The commission urged Native Americans to settle down and live as white farmers did. It also urged them to send their children to white schools to learn "American" ways.

Forced Onto Reservations In 1867, the Kiowas, Comanches, and other southern Plains Indians signed a new treaty with the government. They promised to move to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. The soil there was poor. Also, most Plains Indians were hunters, not farmers. The Indians did not like the treaty but knew they had no choice.

The Lakotas and Arapahos of the northern Plains also signed a treaty. They agreed to live on reservations in present-day South Dakota. A reservation is a limited area set aside for Native Americans.

End of the Buffalo

The Plains Indians suffered from lost battles and broken treaties. Even worse for them, however, was the destruction of the buffalo.

The decline of the buffalo began before the arrival of white settlers. Herds of buffalo lived in areas east of the Mississippi and west of the Rockies. However, with disease, drought, and destruction of the areas in which they lived, the herds were slowly growing smaller. As the market demand for buffalo robes increased during the 1830s and 1840s, professional buffalo hunters killed more buffalo. In addition, buffalo hunting became a pleasure sport where railroads cut through the areas in which buffalo lived. Indian people themselves learned to hunt more efficiently. Some Indian tribes, such as the Pawnees, continued to hunt buffalo even though they recognized that the number of buffalo was decreasing. The buffalo hunt was a part of their culture that they did not want to give up. As the buffalo disappeared, so did the Plains Indians' way of life.

The War for the West

Settlers and miners continued to move into the West. They wanted more and more land for themselves. Even on reservations, the Indians were not left in peace.

Custer's Last Stand In 1874, prospectors found gold in the Black Hills region of the Lakota, or Sioux, reservation. Thousands of miners rushed to the area. Led by Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and other Lakota chiefs, the Indians fought back in what became known as the Sioux War of 1876.

In June 1876, Colonel George A. Custer led a column of soldiers into the Little Bighorn Valley. They were sent by the federal government to protect the miners. A group of 600 men under Custer's command prepared to attack. Indian scouts warned Custer that there were many Lakotas and Cheyennes camped ahead. Nearly 2,000 warriors awaited Custer and his men. Custer divided his troops and attacked with only 225 men. Custer and all his men died in the Battle of Little Bighorn.

The Indian victory at the Little Bighorn was short-lived. The army soon defeated the Lakotas and Cheyennes. Then, Congress ordered that no food rations be distributed to the Indians until they agreed to the government's demands. To avoid starvation, the Lakotas gave up most claims to the Black Hills and other territory. In this way, they surrendered about one third of the lands that the United States government had guaranteed them with the Fort Laramie Treaty.

Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse had taken their few remaining followers to Canada. Eventually, both men returned.

Chief Joseph Flees The Nez Percé lived in the Snake River valley, at the place where Oregon, Washington, and Idaho meet. In 1855, some Nez Percé signed a treaty with the United States government in which they relinquished part of their land.

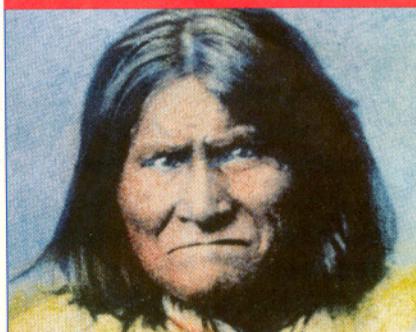
In the 1860s, gold strikes brought miners onto Nez Percé land. The government ordered the Nez Percés to move to a reservation in Idaho. Those who had not signed the treaty refused. Led by Chief Joseph, about 500 Nez Percés fled north to Canada. Army troops followed close behind.

In the months that followed, the Nez Percés fought off or eluded pursuing army units. Finally, after a tragic journey of more than 1,000 miles, Chief Joseph decided that he must surrender. Of the approximately 800 Nez Percés who had set out with him, fewer than 450 remained.

The Apache Wars In the arid lands of the Southwest, the Apaches fiercely resisted the loss of their lands. One leader, Geronimo, continued fighting the longest. In 1876, he assumed leadership of a band of Apache warriors when the government tried to force his people onto a reservation.

Geronimo waged war off and on for the next 10 years. From Mexico, he led frequent raids into Arizona and New Mexico. His surrender in 1886 marked the end of formal warfare between Indians and whites.

An American Profile

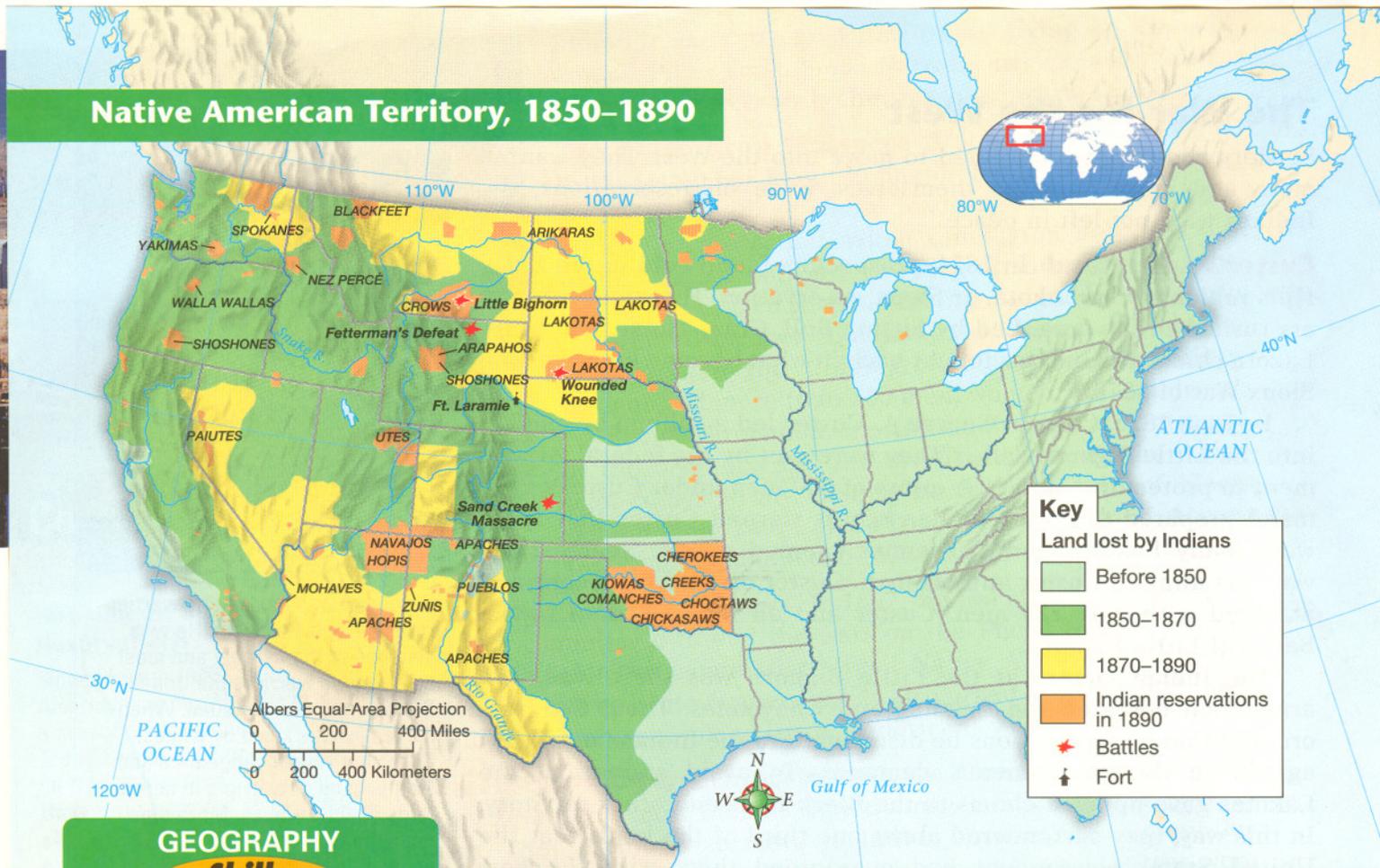


Geronimo (1829–1909)

Geronimo was an Apache warrior, revered for his wisdom. He was also one of the fiercest and most courageous warriors the United States army ever pursued. When his family was killed by whites, Geronimo vowed vengeance and led his band of warriors in fierce raids against whites. More than once, he was captured, only to escape. In the last campaign, his small, ragged band was pursued by over 5,000 United States troops. Finally, in 1886, Geronimo was forced to surrender.

Why was Geronimo willing to fight against such great odds to remain free?

Native American Territory, 1850–1890



GEOGRAPHY Skills

Fighting between Native Americans and the United States government went on for years, until most Indians were forced onto reservations.

- Location** On the map, locate (a) Fort Laramie, (b) Little Bighorn, (c) Apache reservations, (d) Wounded Knee.
- Region** In which areas of the country did Native Americans still retain much of their land in 1870?
- Critical Thinking Drawing Inferences** Why do you think the Apaches of the desert Southwest were one of the last Indian nations to lose their land?

The Indian Way of Life Ends

Many Indians longed for their lost way of life. On the reservations, the Lakotas and other Plains Indians turned to a religious ceremony called the Ghost Dance. It celebrated the time when Native Americans lived freely on the Plains.

The Ghost Dance In 1889, word spread that a prophet named Wovoka had appeared among the Paiute people of the southern Plains. Wovoka said that the Great Spirit would make a new world for his people, free from whites and filled with plenty. To bring about this new world, all the Indians had to do was to dance the Ghost Dance.

In their ceremonies, Ghost Dancers joined hands in a large circle in which they danced, chanted, and prayed. As they danced, some felt a “growing happiness.” Others saw a glowing vision of a new world.

Settlers React Many settlers grew alarmed. The Ghost Dancers, they said, were preparing for war. The settlers persuaded the government to outlaw the Ghost Dance.

In December 1890, police officers entered a Lakota reservation to arrest Sitting Bull, who had returned from Canada and was living on the reservation. They claimed that he was spreading the Ghost Dance among the Lakotas. In the struggle that followed, Sitting Bull was accidentally shot and killed.

Massacre at Wounded Knee Upset by Sitting Bull’s death, groups of Lakotas fled the reservations. Army troops pursued them