

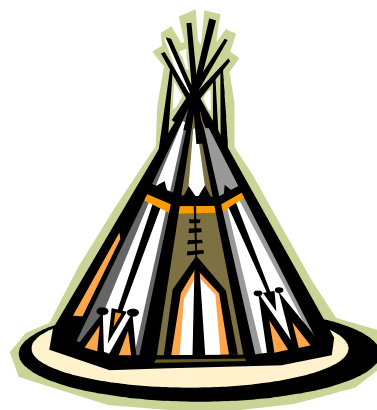
The American West 1835-1895

Paper 2: Period Study

What do you need to know?

The history of the Native Americans and the American West has long fascinated people of all ages - from the romantic view of the Indian and tribal life to the dusty and bandana-wearing image of the cowboy that has been portrayed in literature and the media. In this option, students will have the opportunity to explore what the 'real' America West was like and examine the impact of government-sponsored expansion in the American outback, which had far-reaching consequences for both the Indians and the many settlers of the time. This was a defining period in the history of the USA, as a huge number of people moved west to settle on the Plains and the frontier of settlement was pushed westwards - driven by the belief in Manifest Destiny to expand the United States from coast to coast. The lives of the Plains Indians changed dramatically over these 60 years, as railroads, the cattle industry and gold prospecting impacted on their previous ways of life and means of survival, and they were moved into reservations. To aid this story of the American West, the unit has been divided into three sequential Key topics that help tell this fascinating and interesting story. Firstly, students look at the lives of the Plains Indians, early migration and settlement and problems of lawlessness in early settlements, as well as the tensions between the settlers and Plains Indians. They then move on to how settlement on the Plains developed, ranching and the cattle industry, and the impact on the Plains Indians' lives of events and developments between c1862 and c1876. Finally, students look at further changes in farming, the cattle industry and settlement, conflict and tension between different groups living on the Plains, and the destruction of the Plains Indians' way of life. All three Key topics are interconnected, however, with threads of settlement, conflict and tensions, and the changing lives of the Plains Indians running throughout. Consequently, students should be encouraged to see the period study as a whole rather than three separate topics.

Target Grade:	PS assessment 1:
PS assessment 2:	PS assessment 3:



How will you be assessed?

Students answer three compulsory questions for the period study.

Question 1 is worth 8 marks. This focuses on consequence.

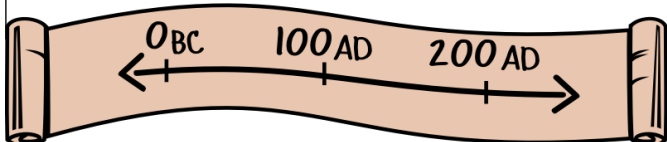
Question 2 is worth 8 marks. This focuses on analytical narrative. Students write an account that not only describes what happened, but also finds connections and make sense of events and their impact to explain why events unfolded in the way that they did.

Question 3 is worth 16 marks. Students select two from a choice of three parts. Each focuses on the importance of an event/person/development in terms of what difference they made in relation to situations and unfolding developments (i.e. their consequence and significance)

American West key dates

- **1834** Permanent Indian Frontier set up
- **1843** First settlers arrive in Oregon encouraged by government legislation
- **1844** Mormon persecution in Nauvoo
- **1846** Donner Party head west but meet with disaster and death
- Mormons travel to the Great Salt Lake having been driven out of Nauvoo
- **1848** Gold discovered in California
- **1850s** First homesteaders move to the Plains
- **1851** Fort Laramie Treaty (1)
- **1858-59** Gold discovered in the Pikes Peak region of the Rocky Mountains
- **1859** Gold mines opened in Colorado and Nevada
- **1861** Start of the American Civil War between North and South America
- **1862** Homestead Act
- Little Crow's War
- Pacific Railway Act passed and work begins on the transcontinental railway
- **1864** Sand Creek Massacre
- **1865** End of the American Civil War
- Slavery abolished in the US
- **1866** Group of US army soldiers wiped out at Fetterman's Trap by Plains Indians
- Red Cloud's War on the US Government in their attempt to build forts in Montana
- Goodnight and Loving reach Fort Sumner with 1,700 cattle
- **1867** Medicine Lodge Creek
- Abilene becomes the first cow town
- 'The Beef Bonanza'
- **1868** 'The Winter Campaign'
- Fort Laramie Treaty (2)
- **1869** Railroad completed despite opposition from some Americans
- **1870** Cattle Ranching begins on the Plains which led to the 'Open Range'
- **1873** Timber and Culture Act
- **1874** Barbed wire begins to be mass-produced
- Wind-powered water pump introduced
- Custer leads expedition to the Black Hills ignoring the Treaty of Fort Laramie
- **1876** The Great Sioux War begins between the US Army and the Sioux Indians
- Battle of the Little Big Horn
- **1881** Sitting Bull and followers surrender to the American government
- **1885** All Plains Indians are resettled on to reservations
- Northern herd of buffalo is completely destroyed
- **1886** Severe winter leads to smaller ranches with barbed fences and wind pumps that eventually lead to the end of the cowboy era
- **1887** Dawes Act
- **1890** Battle of Wounded Knee
- US government closes frontier in which the Plains Indians had lost their land
- **1892** Johnson County War

These are the key dates to learn for the American West. These should form the basis of independent revision. Why not make timelines? Test each other? Can you describe what happened in each of these events?



Who were the Plains Indians?



Aspire	To explain the reasons for this and impact of this on the way of life of the Plains Indians.
Challenge	To describe the structure of Indian society.

Many different **tribes** lived on the Great Plains. Each tribe was made up of different **bands**, usually families who were related to each other. Bands could be several hundred people or just 20 or 30 people. In order to survive, it was essential that the different bands within a tribe worked together, especially in times of trouble. All the different bands in a tribe would usually meet together in the summer for a great tribal camp. As well as being social and religious occasions, these were times when a tribe could co-operate to ensure their survival on the Plains.

Different tribes had different ways of organising their bands. For some tribes, like the Comanche's, bands came together frequently and people often moved between bands. For others, like the Pawnee, each band had a separate village. The Sioux village was one of the biggest nations. It was made up of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota tribes. The Lakota was then made up of seven tribes, including the Oglala and Hunkpapa.

Chiefs and councils: Chiefs were the leaders of Indian society. They were always men. Each tribe could have many chiefs; a war chief, a spiritual chief and a chief who leg negotiations with other tribes. White Americans found it difficult to understand the way in which chiefs provided leadership for their tribes. This was important because it led to problems in the relationships between the US government and the Plains Indians.

- There was no single system for choosing chiefs. Chiefs were valued because of their wisdom, leadership and spiritual powers or because of their skills as warriors or hunters. Chiefs were rarely chiefs for life. They came and went as their skills emerged or faded away.
- Each band had a band chief, who was chosen as someone who could guide the band in finding enough to eat, and was successful in protecting them from danger.
- Band chiefs and elders made up the tribe's council when the tribe came together. In some tribes, the councils could declare war on another tribe, or negotiate a peace treaty with another tribe.
- Everyone could give their opinion in the council and was listened to with respect the tribe's spiritual chief would often be consulted on important decisions. No decision could be made until everyone on the council agreed with it.
- In tribes like the Dakota Sioux, chiefs had no power to command their people. Bands made their own decisions. Some brands might follow one chief and others would choose a different leader.

Famous Chiefs:

Red Cloud: Lakota Sioux chief who brought Sioux and Cheyenne tribes together in 'Red Clouds War' against white Americans. This forced the US government to move the US army out of Sioux lands.

Sitting Bull: Chief of the Hunkpapa sub tribe of the Lakota Sioux. An experienced warrior, Sitting Bull was also a famous holy man.

Crazy Horse: He was a war leader of the Oglala Sioux. He was a respected warrior. He was also famous for his ability to enter the spirit world through his visions.

Warrior brotherhoods: There were several different brotherhoods within a tribe and young men became part of one after proving their bravery and skill in fighting in tribes. Within the Lakota Sioux, some of the brotherhoods included the White Horse Riders, the Strong Hearts and the Crow Owners. These brotherhoods trained men in fighting skills and taught them about the tribe's belief and values. They were not under the command of the tribal council and so did not always respect treaties. Finally, they were invited to join a guard unit for the whole tribe which organised the yearly buffalo hunt and chose where the tribe should make camp.

Task: Read through the information about the structure of society. Then describe the role of each of the following in Indian society and identify 2 pieces of SFD

Bands	Chiefs	Councils	Brotherhoods
Description:	Description:	Description:	Description:
SFD:	SFD:	SFD:	SFD:



Task: Read through the information about the key groups within Indian society. For each group describe their role and assess the importance.

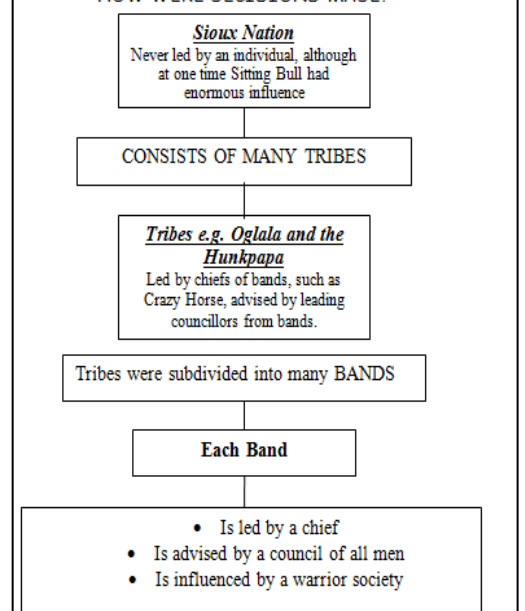
Group within society	Description of role	Assessment of importance
Women Women could not be chiefs and a man could have more than one wife- known as polygamy. Women were responsible for feeding and clothing their families; and for the family's possessions, including the tipi which belonged to the women. Women were responsible for processing buffalo hides and meat, turning them into products that could be traded.		
Children They were highly valued by the tribe as they were the future of the band. They did not go to school so therefore could not read or write but they learnt their skills from family and other tribe members. They were taught to ride horses at an early age. Boys were taught how to hunt whereas girls were taught all the domestic skills needed for running a household. Children were rarely punished by their parents. Children tended to behave as it was seen as shameful to disrespect their elders. In extreme cases of misbehaviour, cold water was thrown on the children.		
The Elderly The Indians had a strong tradition of respect and they respected the advice of their elders. The elderly acted as a link to the past and they preserved the history of the tribe by passing down stories and songs. They attended council meetings and also helped the women raise the children. When the elderly were ready to die they would be left behind by the Indian tribe. This was called exposure. The person was left to die in the open. The rationale behind this was the elderly person had become a burden to the tribe who had to move from place to place to hunt buffalo for survival.		

Extension:

Why do you think Indian society was organised in this way?

What impact does it have on their way of life?

HOW WERE DECISIONS MADE?



How did the Indians survive on the Plains?



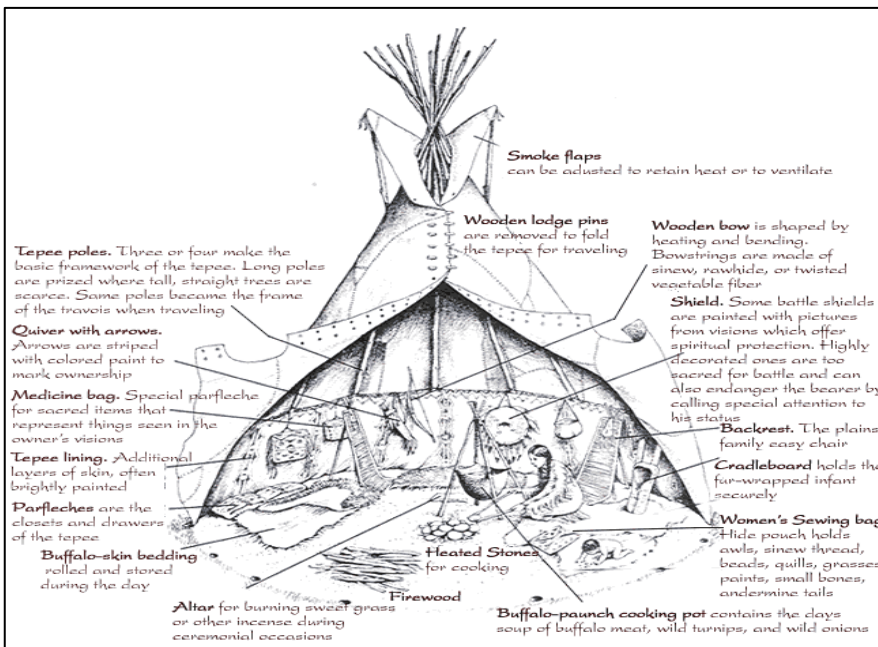
Aspire	To explain how these allowed the Indians to survive on the Plains.
Challenge	To describe the role of the horse, buffalo and tipi.

The Plains Indians were nomads- meaning they did not settle in one place- who hunted buffalo. This required an ability to change their locations quickly and have a shelter that was portable, durable and water resistant. The **tipi** offered these characteristics.

They made tipis out of 10-20 buffalo skins. It was the job of the woman to put it up and take it down. So the tipi belonged to the women in the tribe. A fire was made in the middle of the tipi so the smoke would go out a hole at the top of the tipi. The door always faced east. The tipi is made in a circle. This was the best shape to combat the severe winds on the Plains.

The fire pit inside the centre of the tipi served to provide warmth. Beds were placed against the tipi walls and buffalo furs served as rugs. The tipi was lined in the winter for warmth and privacy. In the summer the flaps could be lifted making the home cooler. The structure lasted an average of 10 years. When the tipi was replaced, the old one was made into clothing or patching material for other tipis.

In the harsh winters of the Great Plains though, most tribes moved into lodges; these were circular buildings made of earth and timber logs. First, a framework of strong logs was made, and then earth was piled on top to create a well insulated living space. A fire pit was made in the middle with beds on platforms around the walls. Some were so large they could accommodate 60 people.



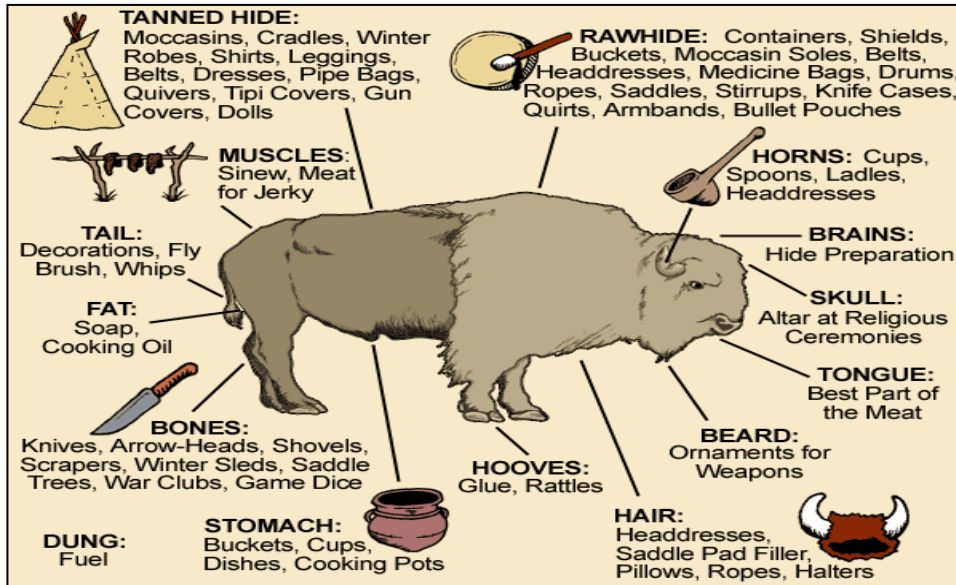
Task: Why was the Tipi well suited to the lives of the Plains Indians and the problems of the Plains?

Buffalo: Plains Indians organised their life around the buffalo. They moved wherever they could be, and they made sure they never exhausted the supply of buffalo in one place.

In a buffalo hunt warriors would creep up on grazing buffalo dressed in animal skins (to hide their human scent) and shoot them with arrows. The wolf was not a predator of the buffalo so Indians usually wore wolf skins as the buffalo did not mind wolves near them. Alternatively they would create a stampede - forcing the buffalo into 'jumps'. They would get trapped in ravines and could be shot at with arrows or they could be driven off cliffs and some would die due to the fall.

Buffalo hide could be made into clothes, covers or tipis (or tepees). In this way the buffalo provided coverings to keep them warm and was also used to make their homes. Dried buffalo dung could be picked up and used as fuel for a fire. This meant they could have a fire to cook with and keep warm in winter even if they couldn't find wood. The bladder and intestines of buffalo could be used as food bags, buckets and cooking vessels. These were more suitable than pots which might get broken as they travelled around, and also meant they did not need wood or metal for buckets and cooking vessels. Buffalo sinews were used as bow strings. This was important since the Indians relied on hunting to provide their food.

The horse: It was a means of transport for home and family, it was used in hunting and it played an important role in warfare. It allowed warriors to raid over much longer distances and it gave a new reason for warfare- stealing horses. It also changed the way that individuals actually fought. It led to war skills and horsemanship becoming an important measure of bravery and status in Plains society. The horse was so vital to life on the Plains that both individuals and tribes counted their wealth by the number of horses they owned. In the 1870s the Hunkpapa Sioux sub tribe had 3500 horses and 2900 Indians whilst the Comanche had nearly 8000 horses and 3000 Indians. The horse increased tribal mobility, enlarged hunting ranges, provided competitive advantage with other tribes. They could also be used to carry heavy loads (travois) making many tribes able to live a NOMADIC lifestyle.



Task: How did the buffalo allow the Indians to survive on the Plains?

How did the horse allow the Indians to survive on the Plains?

The buffalo was more important:	The horse was more important:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Extension:

Can you link any of these features of life together? Make 2 links and explain them.

1.

2.

Exam style question:

1. Explain two consequences of conditions on the Plains.

Helping hand: One consequence was... This was when... This meant that... x2

What were the Indians beliefs about nature and land?

Aspire	To explain the consequence of these beliefs on their way of life.
Challenge	To describe the Indians beliefs about nature and land.

The Sioux Indians believed in the *Great Spirit*. The *Great Spirit* was called 'Wakan Tanka.' They believed the *Great Spirit* had created them and every living thing around them. They believed that the sun, the earth, the sky, the mountains, the animals and all the things around them possessed a spirit. This meant that they treated humans, animals, birds, fish, insects and plants with the same sort of respect. The Sioux would only kill animals for food and believed that killing for sport or pleasure was more than just wasteful - it was an insult to the *Great Spirit*.

Plains Indians believed that they could contact the spirit world through 'vision quests', guided by spirit animals like spirit hawks or spirit foxes. Plains Indians also danced special ritual dances like the Sun Dance, to enter the spirit world. It was also possible to work with spirits to charge up magical items, which Indians would wear to bring them luck I hunting or protection from weapons.

The plains Indians lived close to nature and they believed that the events of the universe were governed by the sun (most important), the earth, moon, sky and rocks, wind and water. **They also believed the land was sacred and no one could own it.** All objects came from the earth and would return to the earth (hence why the Buffalo heart was buried). Some land was more sacred than other parts to the Indian tribes. Mountains were sacred as they were high up and closer to the spirits. For the Sioux the Black Hills were sacred.

Some tribes' farmed land as well as living by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plant resources. In these cases, a farming plot belonged to a family rather than all of the tribe using the land together. However much of the land was difficult to farm and no person or family owned this as their property.

Farming and mining were seen as disrespectful to the land. These activities in sacred places would be likely to disrupt the sacred link between the tribe and the spirits.

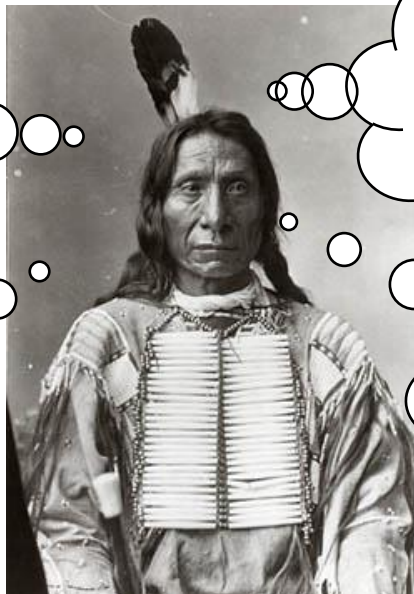
The Sioux also believed that the power of the earth worked in circles. Circles were all around them - the sun was round, the wind whirled in circles, birds built their nests in a circle, the seasons were one big circle and the lives of people. Tipis were built in circles with their entrances facing East. Medicine circles were also built. Life was one big cycle (birth, childhood, adulthood, second childhood or old age and death) controlled by the *Great Spirit*.

Task: Describe the beliefs of the Indians in each of the key areas.

Extension: What consequences do these beliefs have on the Indians way of life?

Beliefs about circles:

Beliefs about farming and mining:



Beliefs about spirits:

Beliefs about land:

What were the Indians attitudes towards war?



Aspire	To explain the impact of this on the views of white settlers.
Challenge	To describe the Indians attitudes towards war,

Indians were mainly peaceful tribes. When wars did occur it was usually in order to:

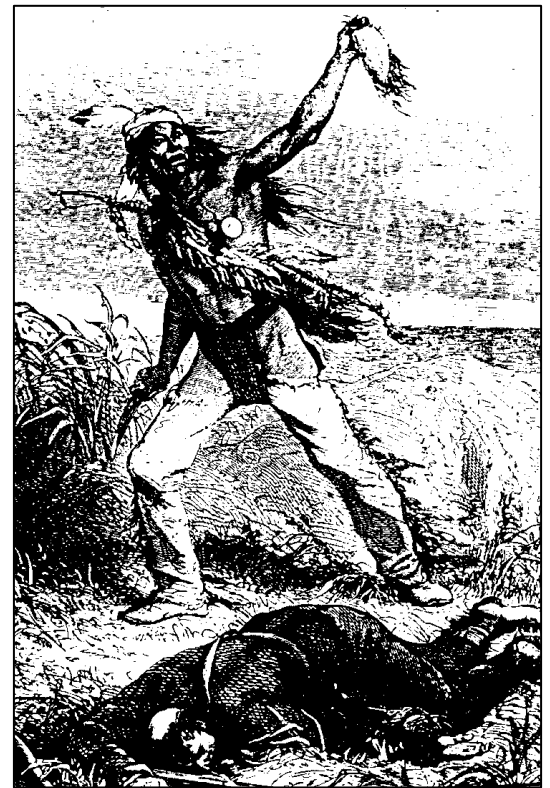
1. Prove bravery and achieve personal glory
2. Be allowed to enter a warrior society or gain a wife
3. Become a man
4. Wealthy (by capturing horses, weapons and slaves)
5. Test their spiritual power and standing within the tribe

Task: Which of these reasons do you think were the most important? Rank them in order of importance.

War campaigns did not involve large numbers of men. They were carried out by small raiding parties (hit and run tactics). Raiding parties would typically set out from the village three or four times a year. There was rivalry for hunting and living space but the Indians would not conquer land as they believed it belonged to no one. Wars were always fought in the summer. Tribes did not declare war or sign peace treaties however some tribes did have traditional enemies and allies. With the introduction of the horse, tribal warfare increased as tribes strived to steal horses.

Indian warriors would always carry a coup stick, Lance and a Bow and arrow quiver. It was also common to carry a TOMAHAWK, dagger and increasingly a rifle. The Coup stick was extremely important. Indians did not believe dying in battle was brave as you would no longer be able to provide for and protect your tribe. War was a ritual where bravery was tested by touching your enemy rather than killing them- 'counting coup'. Stealing horses also counted as counting coup. Each warrior would be decorated with feathers to show the coup he had achieved. Marking of the feathers showed many different braveries in battle.

Scalping was seen as a token of success. They were dried and hung as trophies outside the Tipis and could also be used to decorate war gear. It was also done for religious reasons. A warrior could not go into the afterlife if he lost his scalp-therefore could not fight you in the afterlife. Mutilation meant enemy would be disabled in the afterlife. Despite Hollywood movies, the majority of Indians did not scalp their enemies. The Plains Indians scalped their enemies when they were dead and mutilated bodies. To celebrate scalping, Scalps were worn on the warriors' shirts as were the victims' hair as a sign of bravery and great skill



Task: For each feature of Indian warfare; write a short description of what it involved and explain why it was important.

Tactic	Description	Why was it important?
Counting Coup		
Scalping		

Extension: How would the white Americans see this? WHY?

HINT: Compare with their own beliefs and way of life.

How did US government policy effect the Plains Indians?

Aspire	To explain the effect of this on the Plains Indians and their way of life.
Challenge	To describe the policy of the US government towards the Indians.



Reasons for conflict: White Americans recognised that the Indians had some rights to American land because they had lived there a long time. However, most White Americans also believed that Indians were savages who did nothing to improve the land: they just lived off the resources the land produced naturally. That meant, they thought, that white Americans had better rights to own land than Indians because they were trying to improve the land: ploughing it for farming, digging up its minerals for manufacturing and developing America into a civilised country. As a result it seemed wrong to most White Americans that the Indians should have good land that they were not doing anything with.

Government policy: All through the 19th century, the US federal government struggled for a solution to the Indian problem as the number of white Americans grew and conflict between whites and Indians over land increased.

US government policy had two main approaches to tackling this conflict:

- Keep white settlers and Indians apart
- Encourage Indians to become like white settlers.

It was very hard to follow both approaches at the same time, since keeping Indians away from white Americans meant that they continued to follow their traditional ways of life.

Event: Highlight SFD	<p>1. Why did the government and the Plains Indians come into conflict?</p> <p>2. What impact did this have on the Plains Indians and their way of life?</p>
<p>A 'permanent' Indian frontier</p> <p>In 1830, US President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, which pressured 46,000 Indians living in the east of America into giving up their lands in return for new lands west of the Mississippi river. Jackson promised that the Indians would never have to give up this new land, known as Indian Territory, and that they would be protected from other Indian tribes and from white settlers.</p> <p>Then, in 1834, the US government passed the Indian Trade and Intercourse Act that said that the Indian Territory was: 'all that part of the United States west of the Mississippi river and not within the states of Missouri and Louisiana or the territory of Arkansas'. To keep Indians and whites apart, the government established a 'permanent' Indian frontier, which divided Indian territory from the states of Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa.</p> <p>The 1834 Act also prohibited whites from settling on Indian lands, prevented any sale of guns or alcohol to Indians by white traders and gave the US army the role of policing the frontier to keep these laws. The US Army also had to protect the new Indian arrivals from attacks by the Indians already living there and prevent the Indians launching raids across the frontier onto white farms. The frontier was guarded by a chain of US army forts connected by a military road along the frontier,</p>	
<p>Westward expansion</p> <p>In the 1830s, a few white Americans thought that the land behind the Indian Frontier was worth having. The Great Plains were not suitable for farming using the methods then available and it was known as the Great American Desert because of its tough climate. Although the US army could not hope to control the whole of the vast frontier, there were not enough whites wanting to cross the frontier to cause major problems in the 1830s.</p> <p>However in the late 1840s the situation changed. The USA won a war with Mexico in 1848 and, as a result, the USA gained huge new territories in the West including California. In 1846, the USA also gained control of its territory in Oregon Country and in 1845 Texas officially became part of the USA. This expansion of the USA had major consequences for Indian policy. Instead of the Indian Frontier dividing the Indians in the West from the white Americans in the East, Indian lands were now in the middle of the USA.</p>	

Government support for westward expansion

The US government knew that if it wanted to hold onto its new territories in the West, it needed US citizens to go and live there. Although settlers could travel by sea to the west coast, it was a very long and expensive journey. People needed to be able to travel safely across Indian lands. People travelling from east to west followed trails across Indian lands. The US government used its army to force Indians to move away from the trails to stop Indians attacking the travellers. This meant that US policy started to change. The permanent Indian frontier still marked the boundary with Indian lands, but it was no longer the case that whites could not cross the frontier.

The Indians Appropriations Act 1851

In 1851 the US government passed the Indian Appropriations Act. This provided government money to pay for moving Indians in Indian territory onto reservations: the same Indians who had been forced to move from the Eastern states. Hunting lands were also allocated to some reservations, so the Indians could continue to hunt buffalo and other animals. Reservations were a continuation of the government policy of moving Indians away from land that the white people wanted to use, but the reservations were something new too. By reducing the amount of land Indians had available for hunting, the government hoped to encourage the Indians to take up farming. The idea was that once the Indians settled down to a farming lifestyle, they could begin to live like white Americans.

Reservations reduced Indians independence and undermined their traditional ways of life:

- Although reservations were supposed to encourage agriculture the land was sometimes very poor and not suitable for farming, and some tribes had to depend on food from the government.
- Reservations were often far from tribes sacred places and the burial places of their ancestors. This cut the tribes off from important sources of their tribal identity and culture.
- Indians were supposed to stay on their reservations, which was not compatible with the traditional way of life of nomadic hunters, who needed to follow buffalo herds.
- Indians were not given the same legal protection as US citizens. They could be moved off their land if the federal government decided the whites needed it.

Task: List the events/developments from 1831-1851 in chronological order using the information above. This will help you when it comes to looking at exam questions.

Extension: Which event do you think had the greatest effect on the lives of the Plains Indians? Write a paragraph to explain your answer.

Exam style question:

Write a narrative account analysing the ways in which US government policy towards the Plains Indians developed in the period 1835-51. You may use the following in your answer:

- The Permanent Indian Frontier 1834
- The Indians Appropriation Act 1851. You must also use information of your own. **8 marks.**



Why did settlers move west?



Aspire	To explain why these led to movement west.
Challenge	To identify push and pull factors for the movement west.

Manifest Destiny was a term first used by John O'Sullivan a newspaper editor from New York. He said 'It is our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty'.

Task: What do you think he meant? How would this encourage people to move west? What impact would this have on the American West and on the lives of the Plains Indians?

There were many different factors involved in people's decision to make the long and dangerous journey west. Some factors pushed migrants away from the East, while others pulled them west.

Push- Something negative that makes you want to leave. **Pull-** something positive that makes you want to move somewhere.

Task: Below are reasons for the movement west. For each reason you need to 1. Identify whether it is a push or pull factor. 2. Explain why it led to movement west.

1. In 1837 there was an economic crisis in the East and south of the USA. Many banks collapsed, people lost their savings, businesses failed and thousands lost their jobs. In some areas, unemployment was as high as 40% and those who still had a job faced wage cuts of up to 40%.
2. The promise of free farming land in the west was appealing. However the sea-route to Oregon was very expensive. The first land pass, the Oregon Trail, was publicised in 1825 by Jedidiah Smith.
3. In 1869 the Oregon Trail was replaced by the first transcontinental railroad. By this time, 400,000 people had migrated along the Oregon Trail.
4. In 1841 the US government provided \$30,000 for an expedition to map the Oregon Trail and publish reports that would help migrants. John Fremont published these and made the journey sound exciting and achievable.
5. In 1848 and 1849, gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada and California. Thousands of men travelled to find gold meaning that California's population reached 300,000 by 1855.
6. Manifest destiny led to the belief that the white Americans had the right to populate all areas of America as it was fulfilling God's will.
7. Jews, Amish, Mormons and other religious groups wanted to live their lives free from persecution.

Extension: In what ways did the government encouraged settlers to move onto the plains?
What do you think the main reason was for movement west?

Exam style question: Explain the importance of manifest destiny in the movement west.

What were the events of the gold rush?



Aspire	To explain the importance of the gold rush for the settlers and the plains Indians.
Challenge	To describe the events of the gold rush.

Date	Event	Impact
Early 1848	Gold was discovered in California by Henry Bigler and James Marshall.	Thousands of people flocked to California from all walks of life.
During the 1850s	The surface gold was quickly exhausted	More professional miners moved in. they built more permanent camps.
Between 1858-59	Gold was discovered in the rocky mountains.	This meant people moved back eastwards, crossing the Indians land once more.
In 1860, 1862, 1863 and 1874	Gold and silver were discovered in Idaho, Montana, Arizona and Dakota.	This had a devastating effect on the Plains Indians as permanent settlements were established on their land.

The gold rush happened in several stages, each one of them changed the lives not only of the miners but of those in the places where the discoveries were made.

Highlight: 1. Positive consequences. 2 Negative consequences

Then rank their significance in each category.

- Racial Violence: - Gold rush attracted people from across the world- Europe, China, Mexico, black Americans, Indians - the mining towns saw terrible racial riots- Mexicans and Chinese were targets and the Indians were almost wiped out.
- One in twelve Forty-Niners lost his or her life, as the death and crime rates during the Gold Rush were extraordinarily high.
- Improved transportation between California and the east coast led to development of new settled communities - cities like San Francisco went from sleepy villages to major city-ports.
- Other industries were stimulated like shipbuilding and later railroads
- Many people made money out of the miners by charging extortionate amounts for equipment and supplies - entrepreneurs like Levi Straus made his fortune from selling hardwearing denim to the miners.
- There was increased lawlessness as a result of the gold rush as gold attracted the 'dregs of society' there was no law and order and people had to abide by their own rules. Prostitution and gambling was rife.
- Claim - jumping was a common complaint when miners would try to steal the best land leading to fights and often murder.
- Towns and cities were charted. Roads, schools, and churches were formed. California's population reached 300,000 by 1855.
- Vigilantism where people governed themselves was common - they often lynched those they suspected of committing crimes.
- New states were created as a result of the expansion of the west caused by the gold rush. California was declared on September 9th, 1850 as the 31st state.
- For the early miners there was a very poor quality of life with people living in dirty tents or cabin with fever and cholera killing many.
- The Gold rush made the USA a world trader and California a very rich state - it forced the East to forge links with the West.

Exam style question: Explain the importance of gold rush in the movement west.

Why was the journey west a difficult experience?



Aspire	To explain why the journey was difficult, considering the experience of different groups.
Challenge	To describe the key features of the journey west.

The process and problems of migration

The Oregon Trail was 3,200 km long, starting from the Missouri river and ending in the Willamette Valley. Migrants splitting off the Oregon Trail and heading to California had a 3,800 km trip ahead of them. The journey was a major challenge and migrants needed to plan each stage carefully.

- Migrants needed to complete their journey before winter because otherwise they were likely to get stuck in the mountains and freeze to death.
- However, migrants were advised not to begin the journey until April, as otherwise fresh grass on the Plains would not have grown enough after winter to feed their animals.
- Migrants needed to take enough food to live on for the whole journey, as well as essentials for setting up their new home. Most people lived on salt pork, because it did not rot.
- The best animals to pull the fully-loaded wagons were oxen: very strong, obedient and able to live on the grass and sage bushes of the Plains. However, oxen were very slow: they moved at 3 km an hour. This slow progress meant time was very tight. With an April start, there could be no delays if the migrants were to get through the mountains before winter.
- Most wagon 'trains' (the name given to the long line of wagons) ended up with at least 20 wagons and some had many more. It was safest to travel in large groups with people that had a range of skills: for example, a carpenter to help repair damage to the wagons, hunters and fishermen to provide food, and people with medical skills.

How did they travel?	Specially made wagon. Tires fastened with bolts. Oxen and mules pulled wagons. Well suited to trail. Canvas tops good for weather. Called prairie scooters.
What did they take with them?	Supplies- spare wagon parts, tools, cooking utensils, bedding, clothing, food. Half a ton of provisions. Very heavy.
Where and when did they start?	Nearest river port, booked on steam boat. Down the Ohio and up the Mississippi. Reached settlements on Missouri river. Independence Missouri was the last town. When? Mud hardened, and mid-April to May. Earlier meant no food for animals, later meant snow. 6 months to travel 2000 miles.
What were the main problems they might encounter?	Weather extremes Wives pregnant or with small children scared. Altogether unprepared. Wagons overloaded with personal treasures, wilderness skills lacking, and no cash reserves to restock. Rifles discharged in weapons, wander off and get lost, animals crushed travellers, drowned in river crossings. Cholera epidemics. Killed thousands. Poor sanitary conditions at campsites.
How successful?	Human bones scattered along the trail. 1 grave for every 80 yards of the trail. 80,000 died.

The Stephens Party 1844



Who went?

- 23 men
- 8 women
- 15 children

- The Stephens Party were well organised and prepared. Before they set off they elected a blacksmith who would be the wagon master. They also brought along a doctor and an old Mountain Man who could provide guidance. They left Council Bluffs, Iowa in May 1844 with 11 wagons in total.

What was their journey like?

- The aim of the Stephens party was to reach California
- The first part of the journey was rather uneventful, until the family reached the point where the Oregon Trail ended.
- The party panicked when they reached a desert area but they were encouraged to follow the river by an Indian guide.
- They followed the river for a month but this got progressively more difficult as they headed further upstream.
- The party soon grew short of supplies and sent half of the group to nearby fort to gather more. The remaining members sought a pass through the mountains

Did they make it?

Eventually the family did find a way through the mountains and eventually made it across the Sierra Nevada into California. The party arrived in 1845.

The Donner Party 1846



Who went?

- 40 adults
- 41 children

- The Donner Party was pretty well equipped with wagons, oxen and cattle. They did not however have any experienced people to guide them through the harsh and often difficult terrain of the Great Plains.

What was their journey like?

- The party chose to leave the town of Independence very late in the year.
- They decided to follow a short cut suggested by the trail guide, Lansford Hastings. This shortcut would cut through Utah into Nevada however the party suffered in the desert conditions and lost valuable time.
- By the time they reached the Sierra Nevada they had almost no food left. In October 1846 the party was trapped on a mountain during winter as through lack of food, they lacked the strength to reach the peak.
- Many of the cattle and oxen died because of heavy snow and their food stocks rapidly depleted.
- No member of the group demonstrated a skill for fishing or hunting and although many volunteered to find food many froze to death during snow storms.
- Members of the party began roasting and eating those killed by the cold in order to survive.

Did they make it?

When a rescue party found them their numbers had shrunk from 81 to just 47.

Task: Using the information, answer the following questions:

1. What preparation did people need for the journey west?
2. What dangers could be faced on the event?
3. Why were the Stephens party successful?
4. Why were the Donner party so unsuccessful?
5. To what extent do you think the journey west was a difficult experience?

Extension: What SFD can you identify about the journey west and the problems faced? Identify 5 pieces of SFD.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



What was the experience of the Mormons?



Aspire	To explain the difficulties they faced and the consequences of these.
Challenge	To describe the experience of the Mormons.

Mormon beliefs- the 5 p's

Polygamy - A man could have more than one wife
Proselytisation - Mormons should try to convert other people to their faith.
Politics - Church leaders should try to find political power over Mormons and non-Mormons, known as gentiles.
Property - The Church held property. There were no rights to Individual ownership.
People of god. - Obedience would make Mormon's God's chosen people in Heaven and on Earth.

Task: What would be the potential consequences of these beliefs?

What was the story of the Mormons?

From the age of 14 onwards Joseph Smith had regular visions including one from an Angel Moroni who told him where to find the true story of Christ. Smith translated these plates and published the Book of Mormon in 1830. He soon had several hundred people following him. Other religious groups believed Smith was a fraud and blasphemous. Smith and his followers were driven out of New York by an angry mob.

The Mormons moved to Kirtland (1831-1837) where they became very successful. They owned mills, shops, a bank and a printing press. Their followers increased to 1000 members. In 1837 an economic crisis hit America, the Mormon bank collapsed and many Mormons and Gentiles lost all their life savings. The Gentiles blamed the Mormons for the financial collapse and they were driven out of Kirtland.

The Mormons moved to colonies in Missouri. Again they built successful businesses and farms. They angered local people by announcing any freedmen (ex-slaves) were welcome to join them in Missouri. Rumours ran wild that the Mormons were stirring up the Indians, with whom they shared a belief in polygamy, and freed slaves. Many gentiles believed the Mormons were trying to rise up against them. Days of rioting resulted when the local people tried to stop Mormons from voting into elections. The army had to be sent in to Missouri. The Governor of Missouri declared the Mormons to be public enemies and they should be killed or driven out. Smith was arrested and only released as he promised he would move on. The Mormons agreed to leave in 1838.

Smith did not want to lead his followers into the Great American Desert so they settled in a little town called Commerce in Illinois. In 1839 Smith renamed it Nauvoo. By 1844 he had built a successful city with a large temple. It became the biggest city in Illinois. The Mormons sent missionaries to Europe to encourage people to settle in Nauvoo. The Mormons governed themselves and created their own private army called the Danites.

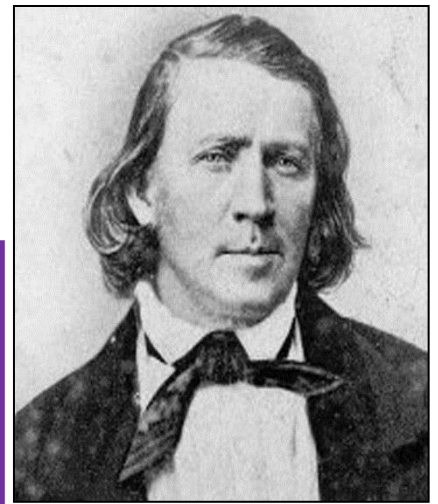
By 1844 the Mormon numbers were 35,000 and growing. Smith had a vision that split the Mormons in two. He believed he had a revelation from God which allowed Mormons to practice polygamy. Some Mormons did not believe Smith and criticise him for being a false prophet in the press. He had the press office destroyed. He appeared to be acting like a dictator and many Mormons left. People were also angry he was planning to run for President.

Smith and other Mormon leaders were arrested for their part in destroying the press office. On 27th June 1845 an angry mob of 200 people broke into the prison and killed Smith.

	Event 1	Event 2	Event 3	Event 4	Event 5
Date and event					
Description					
SFD					
Link to next date					

Task: Complete the table above using the story of the Mormons.

After the death of Joseph Smith, the decision of what to do next rested with Brigham Young, the new leader of the Mormons. He decided that he needed to take the Mormons to a place that they could call their own, a place that nobody else wanted, that was the place that God had decided was for them.



- Before the Mormons had left Illinois, Young organised a count of all the Mormons and all the wagons they had available, finding that there were around 3,000 families and 2,500 wagons. This enabled him to plan the logistics of the migration: what would each person need to survive.
- Young consulted with as many trail guides and explorers as he could to find out as much about the Salt Lake Valley as he could. He wanted to be sure that the Mormons were as prepared as possible to make a success of the new home that he believed God had set aside for them.
- The migrants were divided into manageable groups, each with a leader. This meant that even if groups were separated on the journey, everyone would still know what to do.
- Young insisted on strict discipline, giving everyone a specific role to play. As a result, there were none of the arguments and splits that had caused the Donner Party such problems. Also, each group had the right mix of skills to help them survive.
- Young taught the migrants how to form their wagons into a circle at night for safety. This meant they could keep their livestock safe from attack, or from getting lost.
- Regular resting places were planned all along the route. This ensured that people did not exhaust their livestock, which had been a major problem for the Donner Party.

Task: Explain why the Mormons were able to make the journey west successfully.

When the Mormons arrived in Salt Lake City this was not the end of their story. In many ways their problems were just beginning. Brigham young was going to need all his powers of leadership and organisation if they were going to survive and flourish. First the land on which they had settled had to be shared fairly between the Mormon families. The Mormons had to grow crops if they were going to survive. The soil, although it looked rich, was very very dry, water was desperately needed and the lake was far too salty to be used. They also needed to find a way to get their supplies without contacting the hostile outside world!

Task: The information boxes below explain what happened when the Mormons tried to settle in Salt Lake. You need to identify whether each is a success or a failure.

The US government passed an anti-polygamy law in 1862 but it was ignored in Utah. When the Mormons applied for Utah to become a state for the first time, the US government demanded a ban on polygamy. This time the Mormons agreed and in 1896 Utah became a state.	In 1848 the United States defeated Mexico in war and gained the land at the Salt Lake. Young decided to form a Mormon state called Deseret and apply to join the United States. But the US government refused to recognise Deseret.	Farming was success, with wheat production increasing by 300% between 1850 and 1860.
Water was essential. The Mormons worked together to build a main irrigation ditch through the farming land. Side ditches were then dug so that all the land could be irrigated. Each person was given an exact time when they were allowed to draw water from the main ditch.	In 1857 a group of non-Mormons were passing through Utah. They had not time for the Indians. They abused the Indians who had become converts to the Mormon faith. Their actions caused the Indians to respond and they killed 7 of them. They sought out help from the Mormons who joined them and killed the rest of the non-Mormons. They tried to cover it up but failed. This was known as the mountain meadow massacre.	The city was laid out like a dartboard, with the temple in the middle. Each family was given a plot of the land around it. Farms between 10 and 80 acres were given to larger families. 10 acre plots went to those with small families. 5 acre plots went to artisans who had little time to work on the land.
Settlers were carefully selected with a balanced number of farmers, shopkeepers and craftsmen.	The church would be in control of land. It would assign farm land to people according to their needs. This helped prevent resentment between the Mormons.	The Mormons believed that Young was inspired by God and so they accepted his decisions without question.
To develop further, the Mormons needed more people. Young sent missionaries to Europe, the far east and south America to win converts. In England alone nearly 33,000 converts were ready to depart by the end of 1851.	Following the mountain meadow massacre the US government offered the Mormons a full pardon if they accepted the authority of the US government. A gentile governor was elected and the Mormons were allowed to develop in peace.	Young managed to compromise with the US government and the territory of Utah was created. It was smaller than Deseret but Young was named as the first governor. Although some gentiles were appointed to the government along with him, his word was law.
They achieved little in education. The schools were badly equipped and the parents resisted attempts to expand the school year beyond three months, insisting the children were needed on the farms.	In order to continue the flow of new settlers, a perpetual emigrating fund was set up to help pay for their passage to the Salt Lake. Money was lent to the emigrants that they repaid after reaching Utah.	The Mormons charged gentiles to cross their lands. This was particularly helpful when the Gold rush crossed their land. However the gentiles complained that the Mormons were charging high prices

Extension: What factors contributed to the success of the Mormons? How could you group the reasons?

Exam style question: Write a narrative account of the experience of the Mormons. You may use the following in your answer: the death of Joseph Smith, the settlement at Salt Lake City. **8 marks.**

Why was life difficult for homesteaders?



Aspire	To assess the extent of the problems faced
Challenge	To describe the problems faced by homesteaders.

Why did they go west?

Reason 1: The actions of the US government

In 1854 the government created two new territories, Kansas and Nebraska these had previously been behind the permanent Indian frontier. Now they were opened up to white settlers. The Homestead Act was passed in 1862. It was intended to encourage people to settle in the West by allowing each family 160 acres of land. The land was given to them for free provided they lived on it and farmed it for five years.

Reason 2- The success of farming in California.

In California and Oregon farming conditions were good. Thousands of disappointed gold miners found that California's mild climate and fertile soils were excellent for growing spring wheat. By the 1850s, farmers there were producing so much wheat that California began exporting wheat to Europe. There was a lot of money to be made, and farming became big business, with large farms that could afford steam powered farm machinery and large workforce.

Reason 3- The building of the railways

The US government had long wanted to build a transcontinental railroad to link East and West. In the 1860s, two companies started building, one from the east, the other from the west. Eventually they met in Utah.

This had two main effects. Now it was easy for homesteaders to get to the Plains and it was also cheap to get land as the railroad companies sold off the land at either side of the track at low prices.

Task: Which of these reasons do you think was the most important in causing homesteaders to settle on the Plains?

When the homesteaders arrived on the Plains, they found that their life was not as simple as they had anticipated.

Task: The table below contain information about the problems the homesteaders face, each of these fit into one of the categories below:

Water supply, Natural hazards, Lack of fuel, Dirt and disease, Ploughing, Protecting crops, Building materials, Growing crops, Land size, Indians

Next to each problem, write which category it goes into.

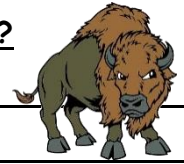
<p>The Sod Houses that the homesteaders built were made of earth and so were continually dirty. They leaked dirty water into the living accommodation. The floors were dirt. There were no medical facilities and diseases like cholera, pneumonia were common</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>Cattle and buffalo were a problem. The cows from neighbouring ranches would stray and trample the homesteaders' crops. Buffalo were simply roaming wild, still in large herds until the 1870s. The lack of trees on the Plains meant that there was no material to build adequate fences.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>The grass that covered the Plains had thick deep roots that grew in tangled clumps that were difficult to cut. The traditional iron ploughs broke when used on the Great Plains.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>
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<p>The Plains are vast open space with very few trees. The homesteaders needed to find other ways of building their homes. They could not get supplies of wood from the East as it would be too expensive, and a lack of money was one of the homesteaders' major problems.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>Homesteaders faced the risk of Indian attacks from 1860. Although many tribes had moved on to reservations, the reservations did not provide them with enough food or supplies. There were outbreaks of violence in the Plains Wars in the 1860s and 1870s, During Little Crow's War, over 700 Homesteaders were massacred by Santee Sioux warriors.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>The plains were known as the Great American Desert - annual rainfall on the plains was only 38 cm, the hot summers evaporated any water that did fall. There were few lakes and rivers to provide water for irrigation, crops, or to drink</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>
<p>Homesteaders needed fuel to heat their houses against the cold Plains nights and freezing winters. They also needed fuel for their ovens. The lack of trees on the Plains meant that wood was not available to them. The homesteaders had to find an alternative material.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>Crops of maize and wheat that they brought with them from the Eastern states did not grow well on the dry hot Plains. No crops meant no food for the homesteaders. Even if they could grow enough to eke out a living, they could not grow a surplus to sell. This meant they had no income, and could not pay for supplies or machinery for their farms.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>Plagues of grasshoppers destroyed everything the homesteaders possessed. They could eat a homesteader family's entire crop in a few hours, leaving them with nothing to eat or sell. The grasshoppers ate boots, tools, clothes, even the wooden door frame of the sod house.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>
<p>The Plains experienced massive variations in temperature. Winters were long with freezing temperatures and snow. Summers were very hot. The Plains were also regularly struck by dust storms. The vast open spaces of the Plains encouraged high winds and tornadoes. Such storms did severe damage to the homes and equipment of the homesteaders.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>The Homestead Act of 1862 gave the homesteaders 160 acres of land each. However this was not enough to support their families. The lower yields of crop caused by the harsh climate and lack of water meant that many thousands of homesteaders simply gave up their plots.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>	<p>The dry Plains provided the perfect conditions for fires to start. The long hot summers left the Prairie Grass and the homesteaders' crops bone dry. Accidental fires started by a spark or a bit of broken glass lying on the ground and reflecting the sun were a disaster for the homesteaders.</p> <p>Problem:</p> <p>Seriousness /10:</p>

Extension: Which problem was the most serious? Why?

Which problem will be most difficult to solve? WHY?

Why did tension increase between settlers and Plains Indians?



Aspire	To explain why these increased tension and assess their importance.
Challenge	To describe the reasons for the increase in tension.

Life for both settlers and Plains Indians was very challenging because of the harsh environment of the West. One bad decision or one unfortunate accident could put a group of settlers or a band of Indians at great risk. This made settler and Indians very wary of possible threats.

However this also included each other.

Task: Read the information below and colour code:

- 1- Reasons for conflict
- 2- Examples of conflict
- 3- Examples of cooperation



Conflict was an unavoidable part of life for Plains Indians because resources on the Plains were scarce and raiding other tribes for food, horses and people was an important survival strategy. When white settlers, travelling the Oregon Trail, got caught up in these conflicts, they often thought the war parties or warriors were threatening to attack them. Indian attacks on migrants were very rare, but white settlers scared each other with stories of Indian attacks and misunderstood the intentions of any Indian war parties they spotted on the trail.

White settlers had strongly racist views about Indians. Most were certain that the white race was naturally superior to the Indian race, which meant Indians were doomed to be swept aside by whites/ they felt contempt for Indians who begged supplies from them, and were angry when they stole horses and cows from them. At the same time, white settlers were very afraid that the Indians would attack them, scalp the men and carry the women and children off into slavery.

Some settlers did seek to benefit from Indian experience and knowledge about their environment. The Mormon settlers for example, learned a lot about how to survive at salt Lake Valley from studying the crops and farming methods of the Pueblo Indians. Some Indians also went to live among white people and learn more about white laws, religion and culture. However this sort of interaction was not common. It was more usual for both whites and Indians to have very little understanding of how each other lived and why they acted as they did. This led to mistrust.

The discovery of gold in California meant hundreds of thousands of whites travelled along the Oregon Trail in 1849 and 1850. This led to serious problems for plains Indians along the Oregon Trail because the migrants caused disruption to buffalo hunting. The whites killed large numbers of buffalo along the trail for meat. Also, the Indian way of hunting buffalo depended on managing the herd carefully, but the migrants spooked the buffalo and caused stampedes. Hundreds of thousands of migrants also meant hundreds of thousands of oxen pulling their wagons and many migrants brought livestock with them. This meant shortages of grass in a wide area long the Oregon Trail for all the animals the Indian's hunted and for the Indians horses.

Tribes did keep an eye on the migrants, therefore. The migrants tended to assume that any Indian warriors they saw watching them were actually planning to attack them. More and more migrants demanded that the government protect them. They wanted forts along the Oregon Trail so soldiers could crack down on any hostile Indian threat.

Reasons for conflict	Examples of conflict	Examples of cooperation

Extension: How would this change the governments approach towards the Plains Indians?

What was the significance of the Fort Laramie treaty?



Aspire	To explain the importance of the treaty.
Challenge	To describe the key features of the Fort Laramie treaty.



Figure 1.10 Key events leading to the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851).

Task: What were the aims of the council?

The US government responded to the growing mistrust between Whites and Indians by organising a council of Indian tribes from the northern Great Plains, including the Arapaho, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Crow, Dakota, Sioux, Lakota Sioux and Mandan nations. The government's aim was for the tribes to agree to a treaty that would end the conflict between the tribes and guarantee safe access for whites across Indian lands. The negotiators also wanted to get the tribes to agree to live in fixed territories.

But there were problems in getting agreement which had consequences for the treaty's success.

Extension: What problems do you think they would face?

Problem	Explain why this would make agreement difficult
Choosing council representatives: the government negotiators wanted each tribe to name a chief who would represent the whole tribe. Indian society did not work this way. The Sioux nation in particular could not find a way to meet this request. Frustrated, the negotiators picked a representative from the Brule subtribe called Conquering Bear. He was not a chief but a respected warrior.	
Getting representatives from the tribes: Although a large number of Indians had come, not all tribes attended, including the Blackfoot and the Comanche's. Most of the Indians who attended had no real interest in the council or its decision, they were therefore there for the government food and gifts.	
Agreeing boundaries: The government negotiators wanted to pin down precise boundaries to each tribe's land to keep warring tribes apart, and they produced a map that was used in negotiations. However Indians did not view the land in this way. Bands from different tribes travelled far and wide to find food and even tribes who were enemies used the same land. Bands from tribes that were allies, for example the Sioux and Cheyenne often moved together.	
Translation difficulties: The treaty was written in English but there were not enough translators to make sure that all the representatives for the different tribes understood what it said.	

Extension: What would be the potential solutions to these problems?

On 17 September 1851, the treaty was finally signed by the council members, after over a week of negotiations.

The main terms of the treaty were:

The Indians would:	The US government would:
end the fighting between the tribes	protect Indians from white Americans (including whites trying to settle on Indian land)
allow migrants to travel through their lands in safety	
permit surveyors from railroad companies to enter their lands in safety	
allow the government to build roads through their lands and construct army posts	pay the tribes an annuity (a yearly payment) of \$50,000 as long as the Treaty terms were kept to.
pay compensation if any individuals from their tribe broke the Treaty terms (e.g. by attacking white migrants).	

The significance of the treaty:

- The Fort Laramie treaty did not introduce reservations for the rest of the Plains Indians, but by identifying areas of territory for each tribe, it took the first step towards moving all of the Indians onto reservations. This, in turn, led to the opening up of what had been Indian land for settlement by non-Indians.
- The Fort Laramie Treaty stated that white travellers must be allowed to travel safely across the plains. This undermined the Permanent Indian Frontier in the Northern Plains as the Indian Appropriations Act of 1851 had done for the frontier of Indian Territory.
- The US government introduced annuities, paid in food and products, to compensate Indians for allowing white Americans across their lands. Instead of remaining separate and independent of the US government, Indian tribes now had a relationship with the government that depended on Indians behaving as the government wished.

Problems with the treaty:

- There was no tradition in Plains Indian society for one man to represent the wishes to the whole tribe. Although individual chiefs had signed the treaty, each band would make its own decision about whether not follow it or not. For the Sioux, for example, Conquering Bear was not even a chief.
- Not all the Indian representatives understood what they signed up to, due to translation difficulties and because of completely different cultural understandings about land as property. This affected what they were able to tell their tribes about the terms of the treaty.
- The boundaries of the tribes' territories were not seen as meaning anything serious. When the Sioux complained that their hunting grounds were larger than those on the map. The government representatives said that all Indians were still free to hunt in other tribes territories.

The result of these problems was that neither side had any lasting success in sticking to the treaty terms. Indian bands continued to fight each other, which the US government saw as breaking the treaty. And white Americans did not stick to the Oregon Trail but trespassed into areas that Indians views as strictly off limits, actions that should have been stopped by the US army, but were not.

Task: What were the outcomes of the Fort Laramie treaty?

What do you think the most serious problem was?

What long term impact would the Treaty have on- the Plains Indians? The White Americans?

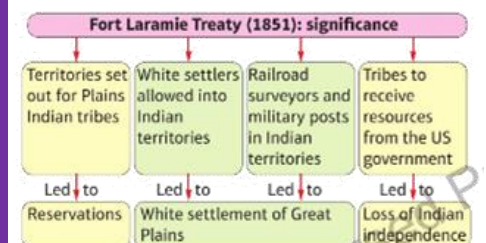
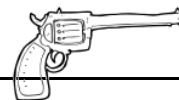


Figure 1.12 Key consequences of the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) and their later significance.

Extension: To what extent was the Treaty doomed from the start? Explain your answer.

Exam style question: Explain the importance of the Fort Laramie Treaty to relations between the Plains Indians and white Americans. **8 marks.**

How far were issues of law and order a problem in the West?



Aspire	To assess the significance of these problems and the effectiveness of the solutions.
Challenge	To explain the reasons for problems with law and order and attempts to solve these problems.

Task: Below are a range of reasons why law and order was a problem in the West. After each reason you need to explain how important you think each reason is and why.

1. Political factors

The new mining towns which sprang up so quickly were particularly lawless in their early years. By 1855 there were 300,000 people in California. There was a shortage of reliable law enforcement officers and politicians did not think the issue was important enough to spend money on employing and training more, or better, officers.

2. Social factors

There were many potential sources of conflict between the different ethnic groups: blacks, Chinese, Europeans, Indians, Mexicans and settlers from the Eastern USA. In 1852, a famine in China led to a huge increase in Chinese migrants coming to California; from 20,000 in 1851 to 200,000 in 1852. After the civil war thousands of soldiers, confederates and unionists were demobilised. For many, readjusting to civilian life was difficult. Also, many people on both sides were unable or unwilling to forgive or forget what had happened.

3. Values and attitudes

The west was dominated by a primitive code of honour: it was your responsibility to settle things yourself. You had no duty to retreat in a confrontation. Since most westerners carried guns this meant an argument could end in a shooting. If you shot a man in self-defence, then you had not broken the law, as long as the other man was armed. This attitude lay behind the willingness of big businessmen, cattle barons and railroad owners to resort to violence. There were also prostitutes and alcohol in mining camps which led to drunken fights between men who had formed attachments to the same women.

4. Economic factors

There were many potential sources of conflict between the different economic groups: between cowboys and townspeople, homesteaders and ranchers, miners and hunters, sheep herders and ranchers, cattle barons and small ranchers. Many of the thousands of disappointed prospectors who returned to San Francisco could not find work. This contributed to a wave of crime in 1851 as criminals would kill people, take their money and leave.

5. Geographical factors

The west was a vast area and transport was very slow. This made it very difficult to enforce law and order.

Extension: What do you think the main reason was for lawlessness in the West? Explain your answer.

Crime	Explanation
Bank robbery	Ex confederate soldiers turned to bank robbery. The most famous were the James-Younger gang who carried out a series of robberies between 1866 and 1882.
Claim jumping	In the gold and silver mining areas claim jumping was a particular problem as late arrivals tried to steal the land others had already claimed. When mining first began in these places, the nearest forces of law and order were a long way away.
Horse stealing	This was seen as a serious crime. Horses were both valuable and vital for life on the Plains. Horse thieves were frequently hanged.
Racial attacks	Thousands of Chinese were encouraged to immigrate to the United States, where they made a major contribution to the building of the railroads. However they were often the victims of racial attacks in the mining and cow towns. These attacks often linked to fears about job competition.
Shootings	Some historians have estimated that between 1866 and 1900, 20,000 people died of shooting in the west. This works out at 600 a year. Others have argued this has been exaggerated. Much has been made of the violence in cow towns but whatever the number; some men did become famous gunslingers.
Robbery-road agents	In the vast open spaces, robbery was a common crime. Individual's travellers and stage coaches could be held up well away from the towns and the forces of law and order.

Task: Below are attempts to deal with the problems of law and order in the West. For each reason you need to explain how it would solve the problems and assess how effective it would be.



<p>Attempt to solve problems</p>	<p>1. Why would that solve problems of law and order? 2. How effective would it be?</p>
<p>Federal law enforcement and the sheriff: the territories of the West were under the direct control of the federal government. Only when a territory reached a population of 60,000 could it apply to become a state and have its own state government, laws and legal system.</p> <p>The federal system decided on the laws for each territory. They appointed a governor for the territory, three judges to hear court cases and a US marshal who was responsible for law enforcement. The marshal could also appoint deputies to help him and could order any man to join a posse to hunt down lawbreakers. Once a territory had a population of 5000 it could elect a sheriff for their county. These had no legal training but were usually chosen for their ability to fight.</p> <p>However there were problems with this system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Territories were huge with scattered settlements. News took too long to spread and there were not enough officers. - The federal did not spend much money so law enforcement was badly paid. This meant that many took bribes and were corrupt. - With a lack of legal training, sheriffs did not always act fairly. This increased tension. 	
<p>Mining camps: Mining communities did not have access to a legal system of judges and courts in order to settle disputes. Therefore they got together to agree and write down the rules that would govern all mining in their district. A recorder was chosen to record all the claims made in the district and who had claimed them. The community then created its own court, with someone that many prospectors respected being chosen to judge the disputes and a jury to make the ruling.</p>	
<p>Vigilance committees: The gang crime wave in San Francisco produced a new form of law enforcement- the vigilance committee. This involved around 200 men who took the law into their own hands. The committee captured suspected criminals, tried them and punished those they found guilty. In 1851 89 suspects were captured and tried by the vigilance committee of whom around half were found not guilty, a quarter were deported, 15 were handed over to law enforcement and the rest were hanged. This idea spread rapidly through the mining towns. These were very effective however there was not often a fair trial, the committee had decided that someone was guilty by the time they came for them. This often led to the lynching of suspects.</p>	
<p>Dealing with racist crimes: Attacks on people of race increased due to mass settlement in California. However the state government was also deeply racist. White Americans were encouraged to murder Californian Indians and laws were passed that discriminated against Chinese migrants. A law was also passed saying that Chinese people could not be witnesses in court- the same was true for black Americans and Indians. This meant that white men accused of killing Chinese men were not convicted when the only witnesses were other Chinese.</p>	

Exam style question: Explain two consequences of mass settlement on law and order. **8 marks.**

How did the West develop between 1835 and 1862?



Aspire	To explain the importance of these events.
Challenge	To identify and describe the main events between 1835 and 1852,

Task: For each of the topics below, you need to identify 5 dates and describe each event.

Topic	5 dated events and a description of what happened.		Extension: Can you explain the importance of 2 points?
The Plains Indians	Date and event	Description	
Government policy including Fort Laramie	Date and event	Description	
Movement west- including reasons, events and the gold rush.	Date and event	Description	

The Mormons	Date and event	Description	
Homesteaders	Date and event	Description	
Law and order	Date and event	Description	

Task: Choose one of the topics above. How do the events link together? Link them together in a flow diagram. Consider key phrases such this led to... as a result... This meant that...

Extension: What were the consequences of these events? Choose two events and explain the consequences.

How far did the Civil War effect the development of the West?



Aspire	To explain the impact of the Civil War on the development of the West and government policy.
Challenge	To describe the situation following the end of the Civil War.

Before the 1860s, the California Gold Rush had been the main factor bringing large numbers of migrants to the West. Many travelled by sea, but two thirds crossed the USA along the Oregon Trail. After the end of the Civil War, new factors contributed to a new wave of settlement in the west as people moved to start a new way of life as independent farmers on the Plains. Each was significant in its own right, but there were also strong connections between many factors, for example US government policy and the Civil War were strongly connected.

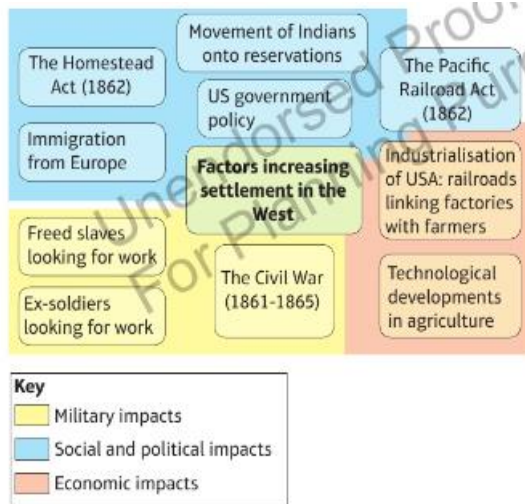


Figure 2.1 Key factors in the new wave of settlement in the West, 1862-76.

Reconstruction

In 1861, seven southern states left the USA and set up their own Confederacy, joined soon after by four more, triggering the Civil War. After four years of fighting, the Union (what was left of the USA after the Confederate states left), defeated the Confederacy in 1865. Over 600,000 Americans died and another 400,000 were wounded. Many of the southern state were left devastated by the war.

Once the Civil War ended, the US government set about rebuilding the USA. This involved repairing the enormous devastation through the south and reconstructing politics in the south so that former African American slaves had full democratic rights. Military control of some southern states continued for several years whilst this was happening.

Economic problems and social changes in the defeated southern states meant that people looked to start a new life in the west, many of them ex-soldiers. US government control was still weak in the west which suited southerners who wanted nothing to do with a victorious northern government. African Americans also began to look for new lives away from continued oppression in the South.

Task: What was the situation in America following the end of the war? Describe this in detail.

Government support for settlement in the west

Before the Civil War began, the US government was made up of representatives of southern states and representatives of northern states. North and South both had different ideas about the west.

- Southern states relied on slave labour for their plantation farms. They wanted slavery to be legal in new states in the West, as it was legal in the southern states.
- Northern states wanted new states in the west to be free from slavery. Instead of large plantations owned by rich whites and worked by slaves, northerner's wanted family farms worked by free, independent individuals.

When the southern states left the USA in 1861 to set up the Confederacy, it meant that the US government was not controlled by the northern states. Free from opposition from southern states, in 1862 the government passed two laws that had huge significance for the west:

- **The Homestead Act May 1862** aimed at settlement the west with individual farms owned and worked by free men and women.
- **The Pacific Railroad act July 1862** aimed at developing connections between the new lands of the west and the northern industrial cities.

Task: What impact did the Civil War have on the development of the West?

Why was the Homestead Act significant in the development of the West?

Aspire	To explain its significance considering its achievements and limitations.
Challenge	To describe the key features of the Homestead Act.



The Homestead Act promised the settlement of the West. It provided incentives for people to take up unclaimed land in the West and build a new life there.

Before 1862m the government had tried to encourage settlement of its Western frontier territories by dividing up public land owned by the government into sections of 640 acres that were put up for sale at \$1 an acre. This was too much for ordinary families to afford.

The Homestead Act fixed this problem by making the plots of land smaller and essentially giving them away to ordinary people.

- The plots were 160 acre 'homesteads'. A homestead meant a family house and enough land to support the family. People taking up homesteads were called homesteaders.
- It cost just \$10 to register a claim to a homestead plot, called filing a claim.

The US government did not want all the land in the West to be bought up by a few rich landowners. It wanted to encourage the settlement of the West by lots of individual farmers. Thousands of small farmers all paying property taxes would give a big boost to the US economy.

As a result:

- Anyone could file a claim as long as they were the head of a family or single and over 21, or younger than 21 but an ex-soldier. This meant that ex slaves and women could file claims. Anyone intending to become a US citizen could file a claim though Indians could not.
- Anyone filing as claim had then to live on the land and work the land themselves. There were limits on how many claims one person could take up. The government wanted to prevent businessmen snapping up lots of land cheaply under the scheme and then selling it on at a profit.
- Once someone had lived on the land for five years, built a house and planted five acres of crops, they could pay \$39 and own the homestead outright. This was called proving up.

Task: What were the key features of the Homestead Act?

- 1.
- 2.

How did the Homestead Act help the development of the West?

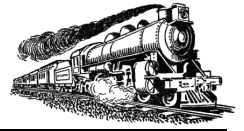
Task: Below are a number of boxes about the Homestead Act. You need to colour code each box as an achievement or a limitation.

By 1876 over 5 million acres of government land had successfully become homesteads.	Only 13 million acres of land had been proved up by 1884, 24 million acres by 1900.	60% of homestead claims were never proved up often because of the challenges of farming the plains. Half the population of western Nebraska in the 1860s had left the state by the 1880s.	Although 80 million acres was eventually homesteaded, this was out of a total of 500 million acres of public land (16%). The government granted far more land to the railroads- 300 million acres- and sold the rest for higher prices.
The Homestead Act was important in encouraging immigration from Europe. By 1875 more than half of Nebraska's population of 123,000 were recent immigrants and their children.	The Homestead Act also allowed people to buy their claim for \$1.25 per acre once they had ploughed one acre of it and lived there for six months. As a result many people filed claims in order to sell it on at a profit. The consequence was that the family that eventually farming the land had usually paid someone for it rather than proving up by the Homestead Act.	The Homestead Act ensured that parts of the Great Plains were being settled for the first time. Eventually 80 million acres of public land would be settled as a direct consequence of the Homestead Act. The biggest success was in Nebraska; nearly half of the settled land here was homestead land and Nebraska's population growth led to it becoming a state in 1867.	Many more homesteads were formed by people buying land from the railroad companies than were through the homestead act.

Extension: How far was the Homestead Act a success? Explain your answer.

Exam style question: Explain two consequences of the Homestead Act. **8 marks.**

Why was the railroad important in the development of the West?



Aspire	To explain the impact of this on the development of the West as a whole.
Challenge	To describe the events that led to the development of the railroad.

The Pacific Railroad Act provided the incentive for transcontinental railroad building. The railroads made migration to the west much easier and quicker, they promoted the development of towns, they boosted the sale of land to settlers from the USA and abroad and they enabled the industrial centres of the North and east to connect to the developing areas of the West.

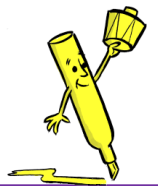
There were two main problems against building a railroad to connect the eastern and western halves of the USA before 1862. First was the enormous difficulty and cost of building a 2000 km railroad, especially through the mountains of the west, which meant that no private company would risk it. Second, was disagreement between northern and southern states. The north wanted to connect California with the big industrial cities of the East, like Chicago. The southern states recognised this would disadvantage them and wanted a southern route.

Like the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railroad Act was a consequence of the southern states leaving the union in 1861, which handed control of federal government to the northern states. In 1862, the railroad network in the east was extensive, but reached only so far as the Missouri river. The government selected a route that went from Sacramento, California, to Omaha, Nebraska. From Omaha, the First Transcontinental Railroad would link up with the existing eastern railroad network.



Figure 2.2 The route of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

Task: Highlight SFD and answer the question: Why was it difficult to develop the railroad network?



The Pacific Railroad Act split the job of building the First Transcontinental railroad between two companies; the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific. The Union Pacific started in Omaha and built its track westwards. The Central Pacific started in Sacramento and built its track eastwards. In order to make the job possible and profitable for the two companies, the Pacific Railroad Act committed the US government to:

- Extinguishing any rights Indians might have to land along the route.
- Lending each company \$16,000 for every mile of track they laid with \$48,000 for mountain areas.
- Granting each company large sections of public land along the railroad for them to sell.

As well as funding the building of the First Transcontinental Railroad, the Pacific Railroad Act also set up the first transcontinental electric telegraph: the route of this ran along the railroad tracks.

In all, the government gave the two railroad companies 45 million acres of free land and loaned them over \$61 million. Despite this, both companies nearly went bust partly because of the extreme challenges of this enormous engineering feat, and partly because the Union Pacific company was caught charging the government more than it spent in order to make more money for its investors.

The railroads and the settlement of the West: The companies invested heavily in marketing to encourage settlers to buy their land grants. They laid on special trips to show possible buyers the attraction of the area, organised loans to help with the purchasing of land, and sent successful settlers on tours to recruit new customers.

Each railroad company had a Bureau of Immigration to persuade people from foreign countries to come to settle on the Plains. An agent for the Union Pacific claimed to have persuaded 10,000 Scandinavians to settle in Nebraska whilst C B Schmidt, an agent for the Santa Fe Railroad, was directly responsible for 60,000 German peasants emigrating to Kansas. By 1880, the railroad companies had settled 200 million acres in the West. They were more influential than the Homestead Act in encouraging settlement because they had more land to sell, better marketing and because people wanted to settle near the railroad because it meant a connection to 'civilisation'.

Task: Highlight SFD. **Then:** What impact did the railroads have on the development of the West?

Extension: How does the influence of the railroads compare to the Homestead Act?

How were the problems of Homesteading solved?



Aspire	To explain how these solved their problems and assess their importance.
Challenge	To describe the inventions and events that helped Homesteaders.

The promotional marketing for homesteads minimised the serious challenges of farming the Plains. The railroad companies even claimed that the steam from their trains would encourage more rain to fall on the Plains, this was not true.

Homesteaders needed savings of between \$800 and \$1000 to get started: for ploughing fields, digging a well, buying horses and farming equipment, and building a house and outbuildings. If a lack of rain then meant there were no crops to sell, homesteaders could quickly run out of money.

Task: What can you remember? What problems did Homesteaders face when it came to farming the land?

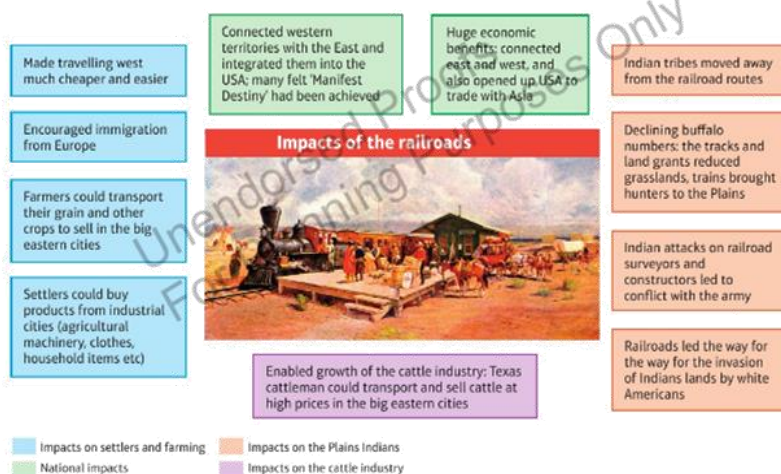


Figure 2.3 Major impacts of the railroads on the development of settlement in the West.

The railroad did make homestead life easier than before as:

- Homesteaders could visit relations much more easily and cheaply than before, which was important because it reduced the isolation of homestead life.
 - Homesteaders could order manufactured products that made life easier- most came from the Chicago based 'Sears, Roebuck and Company' catalogue, transported by rail to a nearby station.
 - Towns sprang up at regular distances along the railroads, which gave homesteaders a place to meet each other, compare farming ideas, sell crops and buy products, and access entertainment.
- These improvements to homesteader life meant that more homesteaders came to the Plains to settle.

New inventions: The combination of large numbers of settlers and major farming challenges was very attractive for the USA's inventors and manufacturers. If solutions to the problems of farming in the West could be found, then a lot of money could be made.

As new inventions were improved, became cheaper and proved their worth to farmers, they began to be used all over the west. Before 1876 however they were still in development and not widely used.

Task: For each of the developments, explain how it would solve problems of farming on the Plains

	1854: 'self-governing' windmill', 1870 steel blades	1874: barbed wire	1875: sulky plow
Purpose	Windmills were used to pump water out of the ground to help farmers irrigate their land and make it more fertile for crops.	Barbed wire was used to fence off crops to protect them from livestock and other animals.	Strong ploughs were used to plough up the tough weeds and prairie grass on the Great Plains.
Advantage	Halladay's windmill (or wind pump) could pump water out of quite deep wells (30 feet) and, in 1870, steel blades meant the windmills could stand up better to the strong prairie winds.	Much cheaper than buying in timber for fences, and much more effective at blocking livestock than smooth-wire fencing.	A very strong, easy-to-operate ride-on steel plough that made ploughing up tough weeds and prairie grass much easier. 50,000 sold in the first six years of production.
Problems	Not powerful enough to pump up water from deep wells and needed constant maintenance. It was not until the 1880s that these problems were overcome: see page 00.	Not widely used until after 1880. Early types broke and rusted and in 1874, it was ten times more expensive than in the 1880s.	Six times as many 'walking' ploughs were sold in the same period - these were cheaper and farmers understood them. Early sulkies were unstable and could tip up.

The railroad	The windmill	Barbed wire	Sulky Plow

Extension: Which is the most important development? Why?

New crops: In 1873, railroad agents succeeded in persuading a religious community called the Mennonites to move from Russia to the Great Plains. The Mennonites were tough, independent minded farmers who had farmed grassland in Russia with a similar climate to the Great Plains. Mennonites discovered that 'Turkey red wheat' grew well on their Kansas farms. Soon farmers with good land were able to export grain, which was a major boost to settlement on the Plains.

The Timber Culture Act 1873: Although 160 acres of land was sufficient for a family farming the East, where rainfall was higher than in the West, it was not enough for successful farming on the Great Plains. The Timber Culture Act allowed a homesteader to claim a further 160 acres if they promised to plant trees on a quarter of it.

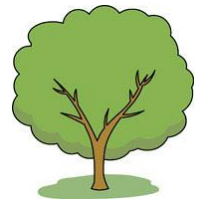
Trees were important because they could:

- Act as a wind break and slow down the Great Plains winds to shelter crops from damage.
- Provide settlers with timber for building houses and furniture and for making repairs to equipment.
- Provide settlers with fuel.

The Timber Culture Act was a correction to the Homestead Act that aimed to reduce the high rate of failure of homesteads in the Great Plains. 16 million acres had been claimed under this act by 1878, adding 50% more land to that claimed under the Homestead Act. The majority of the claims were in Dakota Territory, Kansas and Nebraska but unfortunately most of the trees planted there died because there wasn't enough water for them. It was only in the state of Minnesota where large increases in tree cover took place. People also exploited loopholes in the Act to claim land that they had no intention of settling; after waiting a few years for the value of land to rise, they sold their claims for a profit. The act was heavily criticised for this.

Task: How did new crops solve the problems on the Plains?

How did the Timber culture Act solve the problems?



Extension: How successful was the Timber Culture Act?

How does it compare to the Homestead Act?

Problems solved for homesteaders	Problems that remain for homesteaders

How did problems of law and order develop between 1862 and 1876?



Aspire	To explain how far these problems were solved and assess their seriousness.
Challenge	To describe the problems of law and order from 1862.

The impact of the railroads- 'Hell on Wheels': The new towns created by the railroads were very lawless places at first- they were known as 'hell on wheels'. The most lawless railroad towns of all were the 'cow towns'. After long weeks of herding cattle to these towns, cowboys would load the cows onto railroad wagons and then be paid their wages. The cowboys would then go out celebrating which would lead to trouble.

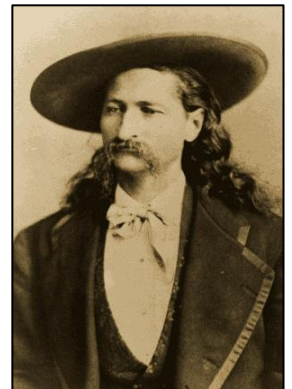
Abilene was a cow town in Kansas. Its population boomed from 500 to 7000 once the railroad reached it in 1867. Lawlessness boomed too. By 1870 many of the residents were desperate. Cowboys were regularly having gun fights, murders were common and the cowboy pay day celebrations had attracted saloons and brothels to the town; along with gamblers, swindlers, prostitutes and outlaws. The lawlessness was too much for local residents to control themselves. When the town constructed a jail in 1870, cowboys immediately tore it down again. A sign banning the carrying of guns in the town was short so full of holes that the words could no longer be read.

In 1870, the town's leaders hired Thomas Smith as town marshal. He immediately issued a ban on carrying guns, and established a forceful reputation, using his boxing skills to knock out cowboys who disobeyed. He was able to enforce his gun ban quite successfully, but by November of 1870 he was short and then killed with an axe whilst trying to arrest a suspected murderer. His murders were caught and given long sentences in prison.

Abilene returned to lawlessness again until April 1871, when 'Wild Bill' Hickok was appointed marshal. Hickok was a famous gunslinger who commanded fear and respect among the cowboys, but he did very little to enforce the law, spending all his time gambling in the saloons. By the end of the year, the town leaders sacked Hickok and decided the only way to end the lawlessness was to stop the cowboys and their herds from coming into the town at all.

Task: Using the information above, identify and describe five events that happened in Abilene.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Impact of the Civil War: The Civil War added significantly to the potential for trouble in the West because of army deserters and because of the arrival of large numbers of ex-soldiers in the West after the war. Gangs of outlaws were often made up of former soldiers. Often, these men were traumatised by the brutality of the war and were unable to find work in peacetime. Outlaws who were former Confederate soldiers who were often very resentful towards the victorious US government. In many places in the west, law enforcement was still far too weak to control outlaw gangs, and the gangs often terrified local people and law officers into doing what they said.

The Reno Gang: The Reno gang were a group of Civil War deserter, con men and thieves who terrorised communities in the Mid-West region so that no one dared to inform on them. They also bribed local law officers to avoid arrest. In 1866, the Reno Gang carried out America's first peacetime train robbery, breaking open a safe to get away \$16,000. The owners of the safe hired detectives from the Pinkerton National Detective Agency to hunt down the Reno Gang. The detectives quickly apprehended John Reno, but the gang struck again in 1867 and in 1868; this time the Pinkertons ambushed them but the gang escaped. A fourth train robbery netted the gang \$96,000. Their fifth attempt saw one member of the gang captured and he gave up the rest of the gang in return for a reduced sentence. However, when the Pinkertons used this information to arrest the gang, a vigilance committee arrived, took the men from the detectives and lynched them.

Task: Describe the actions of the Reno gangs

Lawlessness and the West

Lawlessness in towns like Abilene happened when big social changes, like a booming population or a civil war, meant that local communities could no longer enforce the law themselves and state or federal government lacked the resource to help. Victims of lawlessness had to meet force with force; either by hiring a tough sheriff or marshal to keep the peace, or by hiring a private police force like the Pinkertons.

However most places in the west were not lawless. Even in the wildest cow towns, murders were rare: only one or two a year. Because life was very hard and many people were struggling to make a living, theft was common throughout the west. But because no one could afford to lose property in this way, local communities tried hard to ensure that thieves were caught and punished.

Task: How were problems of lawlessness solved?

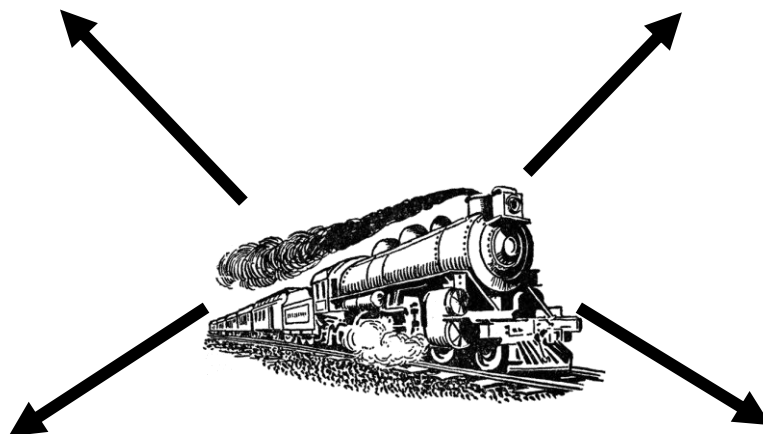
Extension: How far do you think lawlessness was a problem in the West? Explain your answer.

What were the consequences of the development of the railroad?



Aspire	To explain the consequences with well selected SFD.
Challenge	To identify and describe the consequences of the railroad.

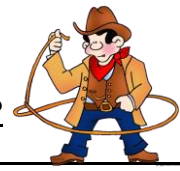
Task: Using your information from the last three lessons, you need to produce a spider diagram of the consequence of the railroad. You need to: 1- identify the consequence 2- Identify 2 pieces of SFD 3- explain that consequence



Extension: What do you think the most significant consequence was? Explain your answer.

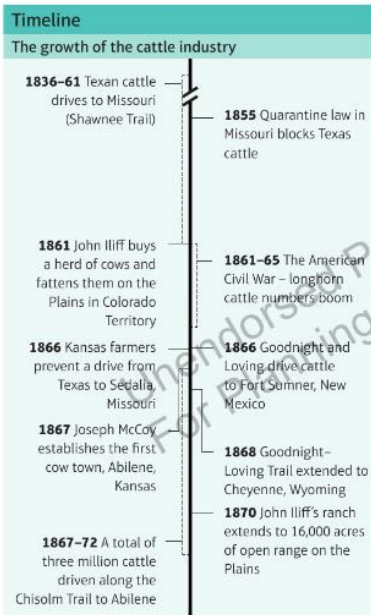
Exam style question: Explain two consequences of the development of the railroad. **8 marks.**

How did the cattle industry develop between 1862 and 1876?



Aspire	To explain the problems faced by the cattle industry at this time.
Challenge	To describe the situation in the cattle industry before and after the Civil War.

In the 1870s, the West was developing due to the impact of settlers spreading westwards along the railroad tracks to states and territories across the Missouri River and due to prospectors spreading eastwards towards the Rocky Mountains looking for gold. The growth of the cattle industry also impacted on the development of the west: spreading up from the South, from Texas.



When Texas became independent from Mexico in 1836, Texans took over the Mexican cattle industry and the skills and traditions of the vaqueros- horse riding cattle herders that the Texans named cowboys. Cows were sold for their hides, to make leather, and for their fat, which was used to make tallow for candles and soap: very important resources in the 19th century. The cowboys herded the cows on long drives along cattle trails across the South to New Orleans and up through Missouri to towns like Sedalia and St Louis. Sedalia was as far west as the railroad extended in 1860. From Sedalia, the cattle could be transported to the big cities of the eastern USA.

Task: Define the following key terms:

- Vaqueros
- Cattle trails
- Long Drive
- Sedalia

Extension: Can you think of any problems with this system based on your knowledge of the American West as a whole?

A cattle disease, known as Texas fever, had major impacts on the cattle drives. If a Missouri cow mixed with a Texas cattle, or even ate from grass that the Texas cattle has travelled over, they often caught Texas fever, which was almost always fatal. As a result, farmers in both Missouri and southern Kansas were strongly opposed to Texan cattle drives across their land. In 1855, Missouri farmers formed vigilance committees to block the drives. Then a quarantine law was passed preventing infected Texan cattle from entering Missouri. Kansas passed a similar law in 1859. Texans were looking for alternative routes for cattle drives when the Civil War interrupted everything.

Task: What problems were the Texas cattle causing?

What was done to try and stop this?



After the Civil War ended in 1865, beef was in great demand in the large industrial cities in the East. In 1865 a cow was worth \$4 in Chicago where industrial meat packing had been developed and cows could be turned into food quickly, easily and cheaply. But in the South, the price had dropped dramatically. The Longhorns in Texas had been left unmanaged during the war, becoming half wild, and their numbers had increased dramatically: there were five million cows in Texas in 1865. The southern economy was badly damaged by the war and there was little demand for cows. Although a cow was worth \$40 in Chicago, in Texas it was only worth \$5. In 1866, to cash in this extra money in the North, Texans organised a large cattle drive to Sedalia, but they were prevented from crossing through Kansas by farmers worried about Texas fever.

Task: What was the problem in Texas following the end of the Civil War? Why could this problem not be solved?

How did individuals influence the development of the cattle industry?



Aspire	To explain their significance in the development of the cattle industry.
Challenge	To describe the work of Joseph McCoy, Goodnight and Loving, John Illiff and the cattle barons.

Joseph McCoy and Abilene

In 1867, a branch line of the railroad, the Kansas Pacific, had reached the town of Abilene, Kansas. A Chicago livestock trader called Joseph McCoy realised that Abilene could be a new transit point for cattle drives. It had three key advantages:

- Kansas had relaxed their quarantine rule in 1867, allowing Texan cattle to be driven through the state if they kept to the west of where farmers had settled. Abilene was in this westward zone.
- There was grassland all the way south from Kansas, through Indian Territory, to Texas, and there was a trade route called the Chisholm Trail that cowboy's could use to bring the herds north.
- Cattle could be loaded onto railroad trucks at the railhead at Abilene and shipped from there to Chicago.

McCoy acted quickly. He purchased 450 acres of land at \$5 per acre and built large stockyards where cattle could be kept safe. He negotiated with the Kansas Pacific Railroad for a depot to be built on a side track where 100 railway cars could be loaded, and he constructed a hotel called the Drovers Cottage. He arranged for the Chisholm Trail to be marked out through Indian Territory and extended where it ended in Wichita to Abilene.

Most importantly of all, McCoy spent \$55,000 marketing his new venture. He sent riders down to Texas to tell the cattlemen there about Abilene and its facilities, promising them a safe trail up from Texas and a great opportunity to profit at the end of it. McCoy's venture was an outstanding success. 35,000 cattle were driven long the Chisholm trail to Abilene by the end of 1867 and three million between 1867 and 1872. Abilene expanded rapidly and became famous as the first cow town. McCoy became enormously rich and lent his name to the expression the real McCoy.

Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving

The Goodnight-Loving trail was established in 1866 by Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving, both cattlemen. They realised the opportunity of selling cattle directly to new population centres in the West, not to middlemen representing the eastern cities.

Bad government planning in 1866 meant that the Navajo Indians in a reservation near Fort Sumner were close to starvation. Goodnight and Loving with 18 cowboys, drove 2000 cattle through hostile Comanche Indian territory to reach the fort, where they were able to sell 800 cattle for around \$12,000: nearly four times as much as they would have sold it for in Texas. Then, while Goodnight returned to Texas for another herd, Loving moved the 1200 cattle north and sold them to a cattleman named John Illif, who had built a successful business selling beef to government workers and reservation sin Colorado and Wyoming.

In 1867, Oliver Loving was injured in a Comanche attack and died of his wounds, however Goodnight continued to drive cattle north to the booming mining towns of Colorado- 700 miles from Texas. In 1868 in a deal with Illif, Goodnight drove cattle all the way up to Cheyenne, Wyoming on the Union Pacific Railroad. By 1878, Goodnight was so successful that his ranch had expanded to one million acres. Other cattle drivers started to use the trail to Wyoming too. As a result, Wyoming began to develop its own cattle industry.

John Illif

In 1861, John Illif sold a trading company near Denver, Colorado, to buy a herd of cattle for \$500- a cheap price because the herd were exhausted after a long drive across the Plains and were too thin to sell for beef. Illif had spotted an opportunity that would bring significant changes to the cattle industry.

In the same year, Colorado Territory had been created following a gold rush in the Colorado rocky mountains. Denver City grew rapidly, meaning there was great demand for meat. However Denver had no railroad connection and it was difficult and expensive to transport supplies there. Illif spotted the opportunity, if he could fatten his new herd up on the grass of the Plains, he would be able to sell beef for a good price to the mining towns with none of the expense of the long drives.

In 1866 Illif bought land for a ranch near Denver. By 1870 he had built up a herd of 26,000 on the Colorado Plains and extended his ranch to cover 16,000 acres north of Cheyenne. He became Denver's first millionaire: selling beef to the mining towns, to the teams building the Union Pacific railroad and to the government for Indian reservations. In 1872 he won a contract to provide beef to a reservation of 7000 Sioux Indians, followers of the chief red Cloud.

What was important about his success was that he had raised the majority of his herd on the Plains rather than relying on cattle driven up from Texas. This was the start of a new phase in the cattle industry: ranching on the open range.

The cattle barons

The 1870s saw a beef bonanza in the West. Although the long drives from Texas continued to railheads in Kansas, the big growth was in ranching on the Plains. Through the 1870s, the cattle industry was seen as a sure way to make money: costs were low with free grass, almost free land and cheap transportation by rail, while profits were high. As a result, investors poured money into the industry.

The best way to make a lot of money was to have very large ranches and enormous herds of cattle. The consequence was that a few men, backed by rich investors, came to dominate the cattle industry. They were called the cattle barons because of their wealth and influence. In new territories, like Colorado and Wyoming, cattle barons controlled local politics as well as almost all the land. They defended their interests fiercely, especially against cattle rustling.

Task: For each of the individuals above you need to 1. Highlight SFD 2. Explain how they would contribute to the development of the cattle industry. 3. Assess their importance.

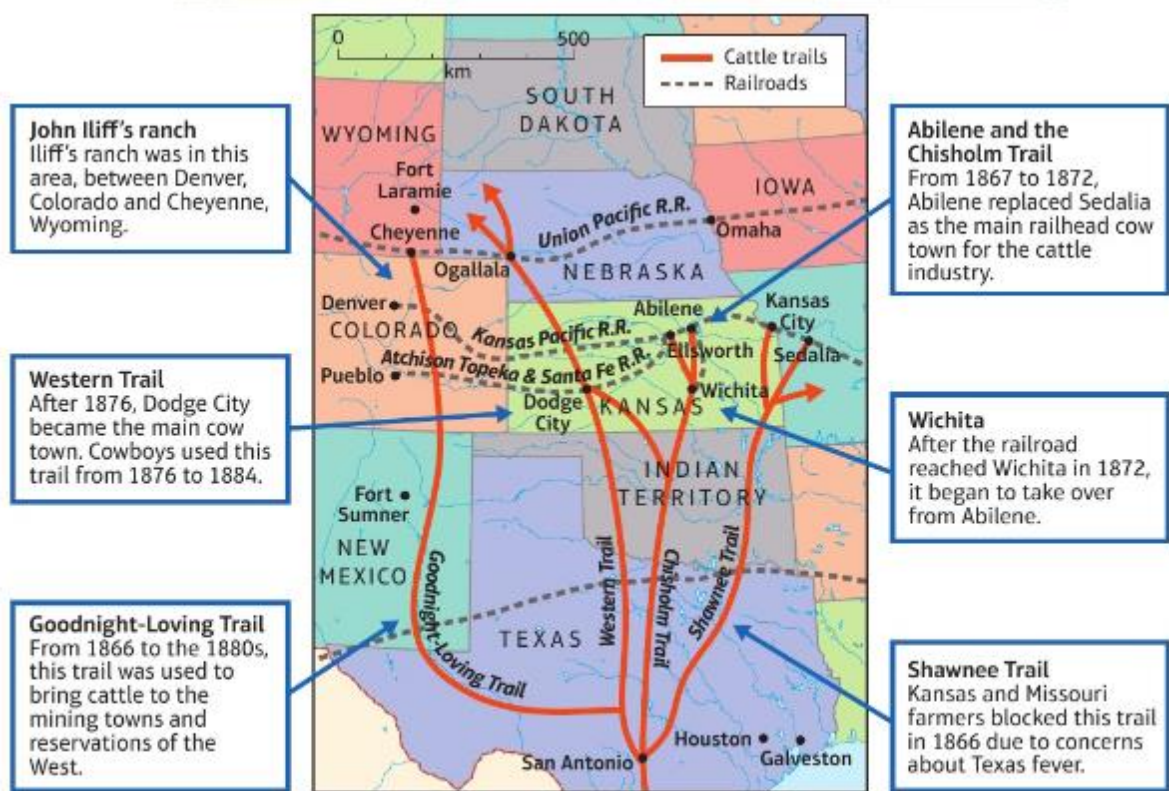


Figure 2.4 The main cattle trails and cow towns in the West from 1866 to the 1880s.

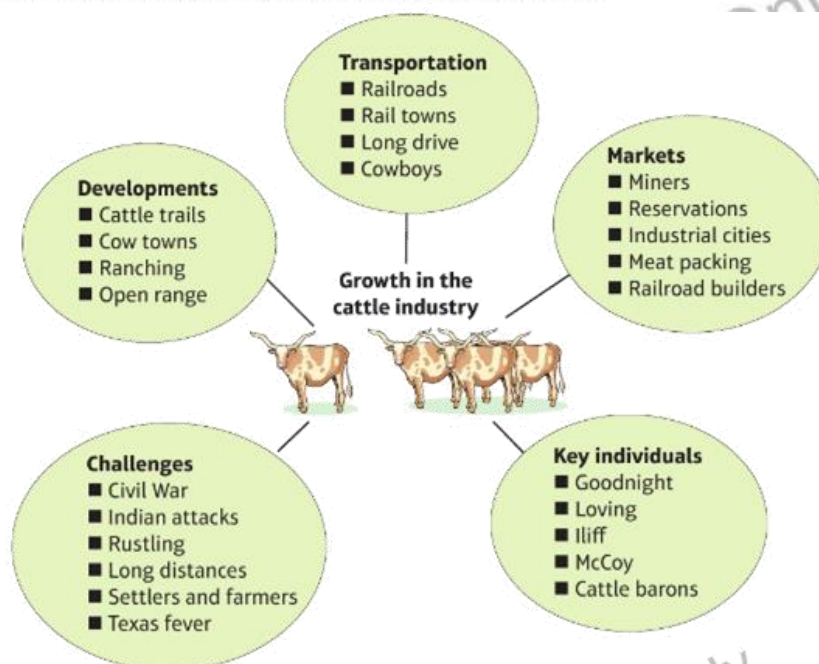


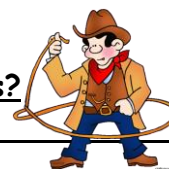
Figure 2.5 Factors affecting the growth of the cattle industry before and after the Civil War.

Extension: Who do you think the most significant individual was in the development of the cattle industry?

Can you compare between them?

Exam style question: Write a narrative account of the experience of the development of the cattle industry. You may use the following in your answer; The Civil War, the Goodnight Loving trail.
8 marks.

What was the experience of cattle ranchers and cowboys?



Aspire	To explain the similarities and differences between these ways of life.
Challenge	To describe the key features of life on the long drive and of life on the ranch.

Life on the long drive

Driving a herd of cows from Texas to Kansas up the Chisholm Trail took between two and three months. Herding cattle all the way up the Goodnight Loving trail to Cheyenne could take six months. It was very challenging work, even for highly skilled cowboys, because half wild Longhorn cattle were very easily spooked into a stampede.

Stampeding cattle could get lost, injured or killed, and even if the herd stayed safe and together. Running for long distances meant the cows lost weight and that made them less valuable. The worst stampedes happened at night, when the cowboys would have to chase after the cattle, trusting that their horses could see what they were running into. Then there were the challenges of swimming cattle across rivers, dealing with snakes and wild animals, negotiation permission to cross Indian Territory or farmers land, guarding the herd from theft, and fending off attacks by Indians or outlaws.

Long drives often involved about 3000 cattle, which needed around 12 cowboys to manage. Cowboys worked in outfits led by a trail boss, who was responsible for the speed the herd was moving at, and where camp would be made each night. The outfit always included a chuck wagon which transported the outfit's food, water and equipment, and a cook. There was also a wrangler, who cared for the outfit's horses: each cowboy would change horse several times a day to prevent horses getting exhausted or injured. Outfits were hired by the owner of the herd to deliver his cattle in good condition by an agreed time. In the 1870s, trail bosses were paid around \$100 a month for the Chisholm Trail while the rest of the outfit each got between \$25 and \$30. Cowboys on the trail slept in the open, taking it in turns to wake up and guard the herd through the night. When the cattle woke up, they were allowed to graze for a while in preparation for the day's travel, and then organised into a long line, with cowboys at the front, along the sides and at the rear. At the end of the day, having travelled 15 or 20 miles, the cowboys would herd the line of cattle round in on itself, bringing the herd together so it was easier to guard.

At the end of the trail, in a cow town like Abilene, the cowboys would herd the cattle into stockyards for the buyers to inspect, and then once they were sold, would get the reluctant cattle into the railroad boxcars. Then the outfit was paid. Once they had been paid, cowboys would get cleaned up, purchase the fanciest new clothing they could afford and proceed to get drunk, go dancing with the towns female population, gamble and fight. Cowboys often spent all their money in town and would then have to borrow money to get back to Texas to find work until the next trail the following spring.

Task: Using the information above, identify and describe five features of life on the long drive and draw a quick sketch to go with each.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
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Extension: What dangers or problems were involved in life on the long drive?

How dangerous do you think the life of a cowboy was? Explain your answer.



Life on the ranch

Cattle in Texas were raised on ranches, which often covered huge areas of open land. Through the winter, the cattle roamed freely, mixing together with cattle from these ranches. During the winter months, most ranches did not employ many cowboys. Cowboys either got a different job, such as working in a bar, or rode from ranch to ranch hoping to earn some money. Cowboys who were kept on over winter spent their time repairing equipment, riding out to see if any animals had got into difficulty, and planning the year ahead.

The real ranch work began in early spring with the round up. This often involved cowboys from several ranches all working together, under the command of the round up boss. Teams of cowboys fanned out from a central location on the range, then gradually worked their way back in, driving ahead of them all the cattle they had found. Some cattle took a lot of finding, hiding in dense bushes or at the bottom of gullies, sometimes getting themselves stuck in marshes or quicksand. When all the cattle were rounded up, cowboys began the work of separating them out according to ownership.

Cattle were branded to show which ranch they belonged to, but in the spring new calves would have been born. The cowboys would separate out the calf and its mother, lasso the calf and flip it to the ground so it could be branded with the same mark as its mother.

Life on the ranch was hard work: too hard for anyone much older than their early 20s. Older cowboys either found new jobs in towns, or set up ranches of their own. Ranch hands on smaller ranches would live with the rancher and his family, but on most ranches there was a bunk house where all the cowboys lived together. The bunkhouse was more comfortable than living outdoors, but they were usually cold and draughty during the winter. There was also not much entertainment and often there were strict rules, for example Charles Goodnight banned gambling on one of his ranches. Once or twice a year there were dances at ranches at local towns, which was the high point of the ranch's social life.

Task: Using the information above, answer the following questions:

1. How did the life of ranchers depend on the seasons?
2. How were the cattle rounded up?
3. Why was life on the ranch difficult?
4. What were the positives of life on the ranch?



Changes on the Plains

Ranches on the Plains were open range and they carried out spring round ups in just the same way as in Texas. Although the plains ranches in the 1870s were much closer to railheads than Texas ranches in the 1860s, cowboys still needed to drive the herds over the Plains from the ranch to the railhead: but now the job took days rather than months.

A significant difference was winter on the Plains. Heavy snow brought new problems: cattle would put their backs to blizzards and trudge long distances to try and find shelter. If snow and ice was too deep, the cattle could not get to the grass underneath, or could not break through ice to get water. Cowboys would have to ride out during winter blizzards to find the herds, make paths for them to get out of snowdrifts, break the ice at waterholes for them to drink, and find sheltered spots where they could stay out of the wind. On the biggest ranches, cowboys would be sent out over the winter to stay in sod houses or cabins dotted around the perimeter of the ranch.

Task: Compare the lives of the cowboys on the long drives and on the ranches.

Similarities between lives on the long drives and the ranches	Differences between lives on the long drives and the ranches.

Extension: John Illif introduced the idea of ranching on the Plains. Describe three ways in which ranching on the plains meant changes in the life of cowboys.

Why did homesteaders and ranchers come into conflict?



Aspire	To explain why this would lead to conflict and assess its importance.
Challenge	To describe the events that led to conflict between homesteaders and ranchers.

Ranching on the open range needed a lot of land- at least 2000 acres and preferably much more. The ranchers did not buy all this land; even the richest ranchers would not be able to afford it. Instead they made use of public land. Federal law said that everyone was able to pasture livestock on public land. This worked fine when there was no competition for the land. Ranchers divided up the range between themselves, usually agreeing boundaries along watersheds a ridge of land which separated two river drainage basins.

The Homestead Act allowed people to file claims up to 160 acre chunks of public land. When homesteading spread to ranching country, it threatened ranching. Ranchers used different tactics to block homesteading on their public land.

Tactics used by ranchers to block homesteading

- They would file claims under the Homestead Act themselves for the bits of land on the ranch that contained waterholes or springs. This made all the rest of the public land on the ranch very unattractive to prospective settlers as there would be no access to water.
- Ranch-hands and family members would file Homestead Act claims to parcels of land throughout the ranch area and then hand those rights over to the ranch.
- Ranches involving railroad land did buy a lot of land from the railroad companies (if they had the money). This land was mixed together with public land, in a design like a chessboard. By fencing off the ranch's sections, the ranchers could make it impossible for anyone else to access the public land mixed up with it.
- Rich ranchers took homesteaders to court over claims, knowing that most homesteaders did not have the money to pay lawyers and court costs and so would have to give up their claims.
- Some ranchers also threatened homesteaders with violence, damaged their crops and accused them of rustling cows from the ranch's herd: stealing a cow carried severe punishments in all the 'cattle states', whose economies depended on the cattle industry.

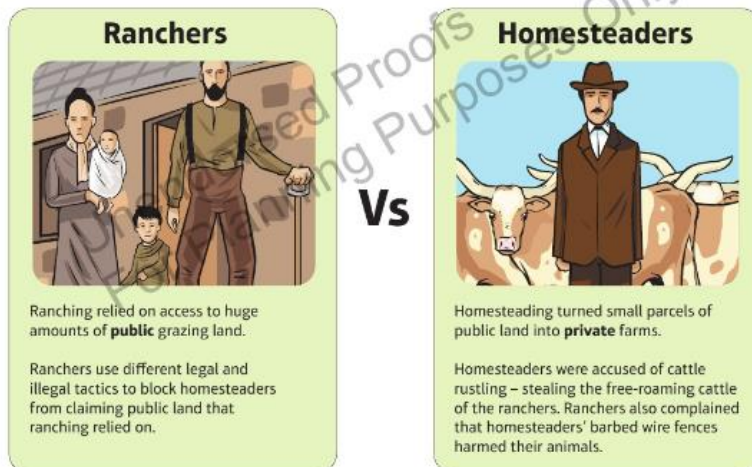


Figure 2.6 The rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders.

This all led to tension and conflict between the original ranchers and those claiming homesteads on public land the ranch relied on. Those homesteads were not always crop farmers- many were setting up small ranches of their own. Where they were farmers, there were big problems when cows strayed onto fields and ate crops. The ranchers said that cows had a legal right to roam on the range and farmers were to blame if they had not fenced their land, or if fences were not strong enough to keep the cattle back. Farmers said the ranchers were to blame if they had not fenced off their property to prevent the cattle from straying.

As farming spread westwards, farmers began to get more influence in state government. This led to laws being debated about fencing' whose responsibility it was and even how many strands of barbed wire a fence needed in order to be legally recognised as a fence. While state governments wrestled with laws over responsibility, disputes between ranchers and homesteaders added to the strain on local law enforcement. Long running tensions sometimes developed into open conflicts between ranchers and homesteaders, known as range wars. The most famous of which was the Johnson County War.

Conflicts over sheep farming

There were also conflicts between cattlemen and sheepherders, both of whom were competing for the use of public lands for grazing. Cattle ranchers claimed that sheep ate grass down to the roots, leaving nothing for cows and that sheep spread the disease sheep scab.

Large scale sheep farming started in the 1870s in the West, in places where cattle herding was already established, such as Texas and Wyoming. When cattle ranchers began fencing off grazing land to stop other livestock using it, sheepherders would cut the fences. Cattle barons in this areas dominated local government, which meant that cattle ranchers tended to win all the court cases, including over fence cutting. There were also violent clashes between cattle ranchers and sheepherders, resulting in several deaths in the 1870s

Task: Using the information about conflict between ranchers and homesteaders, complete the spider diagram below. Contain as much detail as possible!



Reasons for conflict between homesteaders and ranchers

Tactics used by ranchers to block homesteading



Arguments used by both groups

Issues with sheep farming

Extension: How significant do you think the conflict between ranchers and homesteaders was? What would be the impact of this?

Exam style question: Explain two consequences of the development of ranching on the Plains in the years 1866-76. 8 marks.