

The West The Great Frontier



1860 - 1900



CROSSING OVER THE GREAT PLAINS BY OX-WAGONS

"Altho I was but a girl of 11 years I distinctly remember many things connected with that far-off time when all of our western country was a wilderness...

We were six months in crossing the plains in ox-wagons.


In our home, In Illinois, in the early fifties, there was much talk and excitement over the news of the great gold discoveries in California—and equally there was much talk concerning the wonderful fertile valleys of Oregon Territory—an act of Congress giving to actual settlers 640 acres of land.

My father, John Tucker Scott, with much of the pioneer spirit in his blood, became so interested that he decided to "go West".... The spring of 1852 ushered in so many preparations, great work of all kinds. I remember relations coming to sew, of tearful partings, little gifts of remembrances exchanged, the sale of the farm, the buying and breaking in of unruly oxen, the loud voices of the men, and the general confusion."

—Harriet Scott Palmer, 1852

Editor's Note: Spelling reflects that which was used in the original documents.

2. According to the document, what were *two* reasons people wanted to "Go West."



AIM:
EXPLAIN THE POSITIVE
AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS
THE MINERS,
COWBOYS/RANCHERS,
AND
HOMESTEADERS
HAD ON THE GREAT
FRONTIER

Why Move West?



1849 – Early settlers came because of the gold rush

Miners – Wanted to be rich (gold or silver)

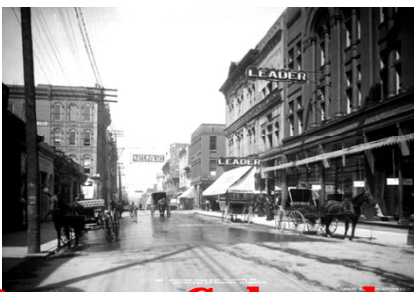
Problems – no government, no law, little order, robbery, murder and no courts

Role in the West:

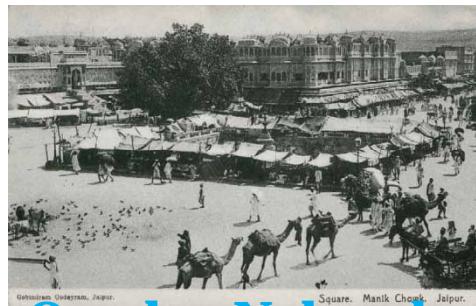
Positive: Opened up settlement in the west, created boomtowns (cities)

Negative: – They displaced Native Americans, left ghost towns, damaged the land

City	1860	1890
Denver	2,603	106,713
Omaha	1,883	140,452
Portland	2,874	46,385
San Francisco	56,802	298,997



Denver, Colorado

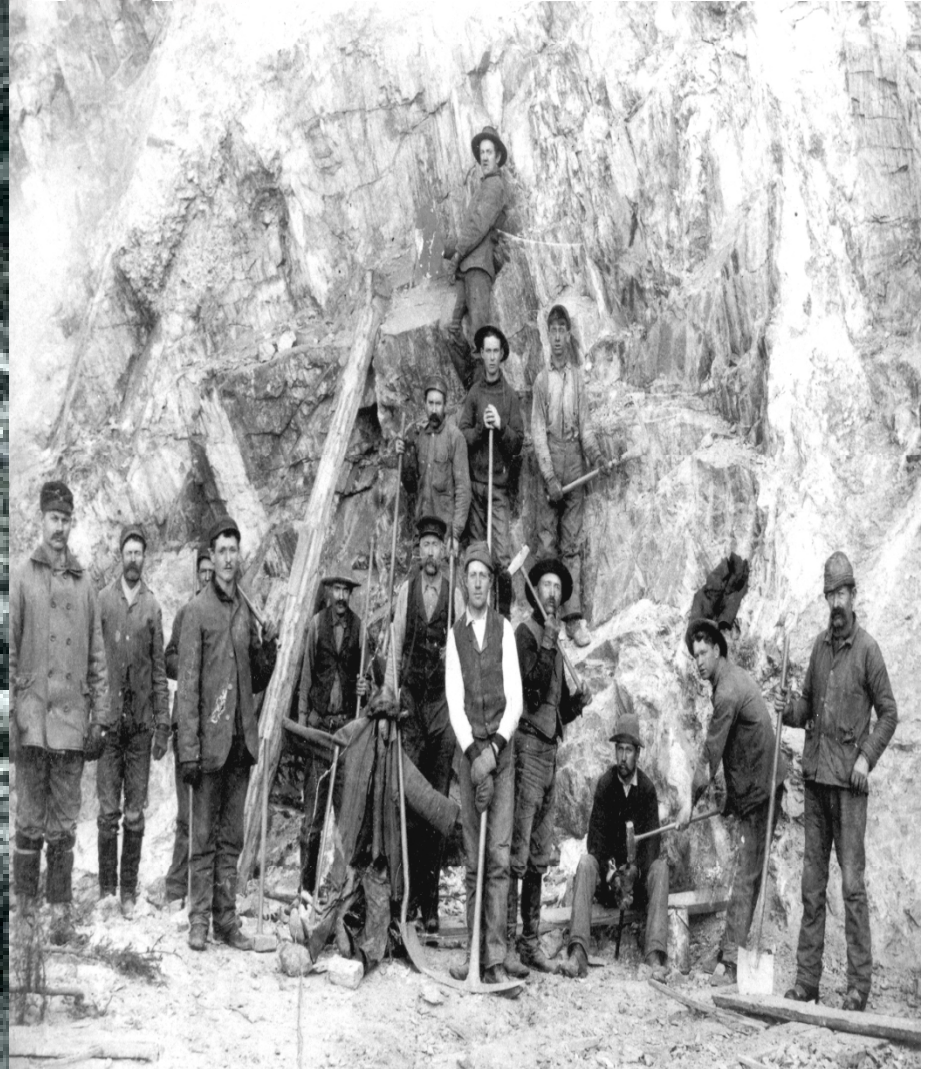


Omaha, Nebraska



Portland Oregon

MINERS



Ranchers & Cowboys



Cowboys & Ranchers: Mexican, African American but mostly Texans moved West for adventure and profit from the cattle industry

Problems: Freezing weather, long hours, dangerous cow towns, and stampeding buffalo

Role in the West: A profitable cattle industry was developed

Chisholm Trail: Cowboys moved cows from San Antonio, Texas to Abilene (Kansas) on the long drive.

Vaqueros - Spanish name for cowhands.

They helped the Spaniards and Mexicans ranchers learn how to rope and ride. Cowhands taught them how to adapt the saddle, spurs, lariat (used to rope calf or steer) and chaps

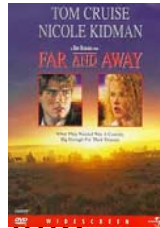




Homesteaders

Homesteaders (Farmers): Eastern farm families, Former slaves, European immigrants ventured west for Land and/or Religious freedom

Homestead Act – 160 Acres of land in exchange for cultivating the land for 5 years



Problems: Unpredictable rain, Locusts, Little wood for home, land was difficult to overturn for farming

Role in the West:- Made the Great Plains the most productive wheat-growing region in the world

Sodbuster – A farmer on the Great Plains

Grange – Worked to improve the economic conditions for farmers


Grange members formed Cooperatives

Populist Party – National political party formed by farm groups





	Positive Impacts	Negative Aspects
Miners		
Cowboys And Ranchers		
Homesteaders		



AIM:
EXPLAIN THE POSITIVE
AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS
THE TRANSCONTINENTAL
RAILROAD HAD ON
THE WEST

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD



Transcontinental Railroad - Linked
the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts

Two Main Railroad Companies:

1. Central Pacific - Sacramento,
California to the East

2. Union Pacific - Omaha,
Nebraska to the West

- On May 10th, 1898 the 2
companies met at Promontory
Point (in Utah)









Positive Impacts of the Transcontinental Railroad



- ❖ **Mail Services (catalogues)**
- ❖ Goods and natural resources can be shipped from East to West and West to East

- There was an increase in the Coal and timber industry

Interstate Commerce:

The buying and selling of products and services across state borders

- ❖ **Transportation of Civilians**
 - Traveling across country took days not months
- ❖ Increased the population in the West
 - New states were formed



© Francis Livingston

Workers

- Workers were mostly Irish and Chinese and African Americans
- The Irish worked from Nebraska to Utah and the Chinese worked from California to Utah
- Many Americans wouldn't hire the Irish because they were Roman Catholic
- The Chinese left China due to war and unrest which drove many Chinese into poverty and debt
- More than 12,000 Chinese laborers worked on the Central Pacific clearing tress, shoveling dirt, blasting through tunnels, and laying tracks
- 1,000 Chinese lost their lives

Problems: Indian attacks, accidents, rough tent cities



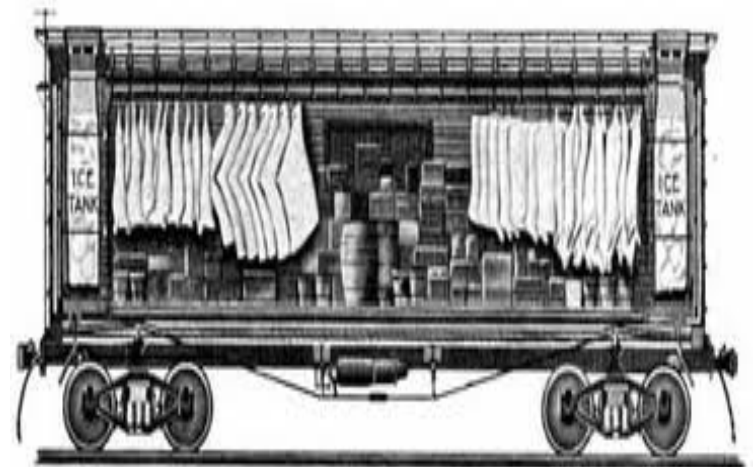
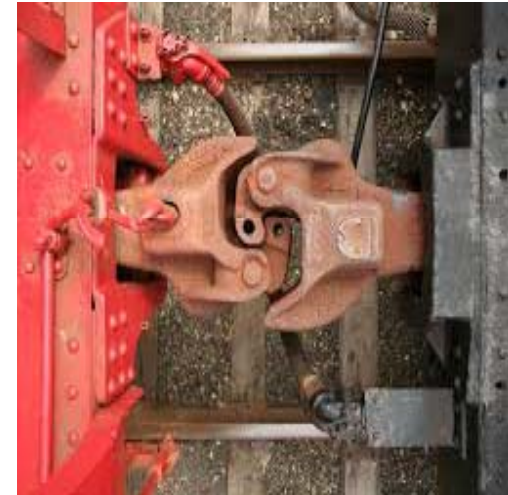
NEW TECHNOLOGY

George Westinghouse- air brakes that improved the system for putting the trains to a halt, which made the trains themselves much safer.

Eli H. Janney- Janney car couplers made it easier for railroad workers to link train cars.

Gustavus Swift- refrigerated cars helped railroads to ship meat, and other perishable goods over long distances.

George M. Pullman- the Pullman sleeping car- a luxury railway car with seats that converted into beds for overnight journeys. Pullman also made improved dining cars, raising train travel to a new level of comfort.



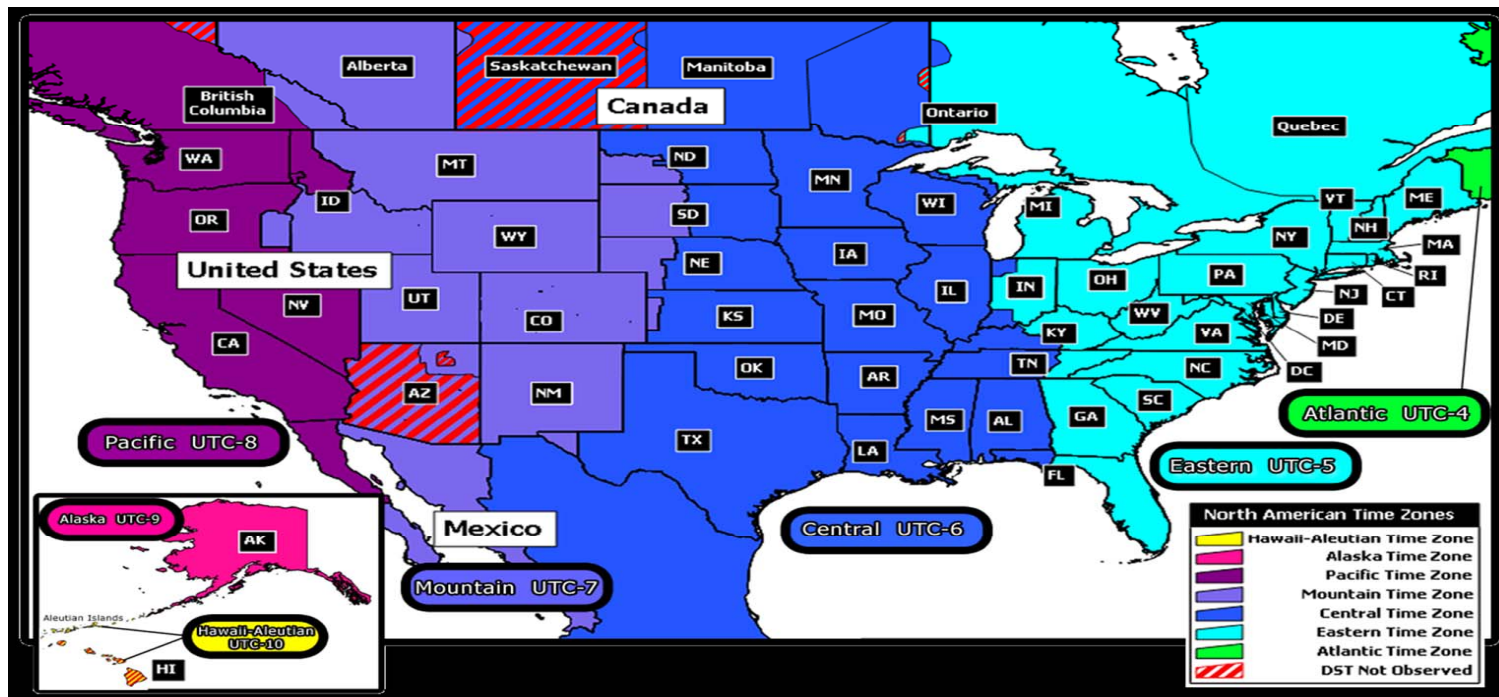
Time Zones

Solar Time: Each community determined its own time, based on calculations of the sun

Problem: Trying to catch a train on a time schedule



Standard Time: Divided the US into 4 time zones



Women in the West

Women

Positive

- New job opportunities such as sheriffs, gamblers, outlaws
- Could own property
- Control of their own Money

Negative

- Lonely, far away from neighbors
- No doctors



Calamity Jane



Legendary career as a wagon driver, scout, and Wild West performer

ANNIE OAKLEY



Annie Oakley was a renowned markswoman and star who worked for years with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Wyatt Earp & Billy the Kid

Wyatt Earp was a frontier peace officer, gunfighter, and gambler in towns such as Dodge City, Kansas, City and Tombstone, Arizona

-Wyatt honed his skills as a sharp-shooter when he was a buffalo hunter

-Wyatt was a sheriff in Tombstone, Arizona

-Most famous exploits was a gunfight near the o.k. Corral in Tombstone. Along with brothers Virgil and Morgan as well as friend Doc Holliday they faced off against the Clan family



BILLY THE KID

William Booney was a hired gun and died at age 21

Vigilantes -People who took the law into their own hands

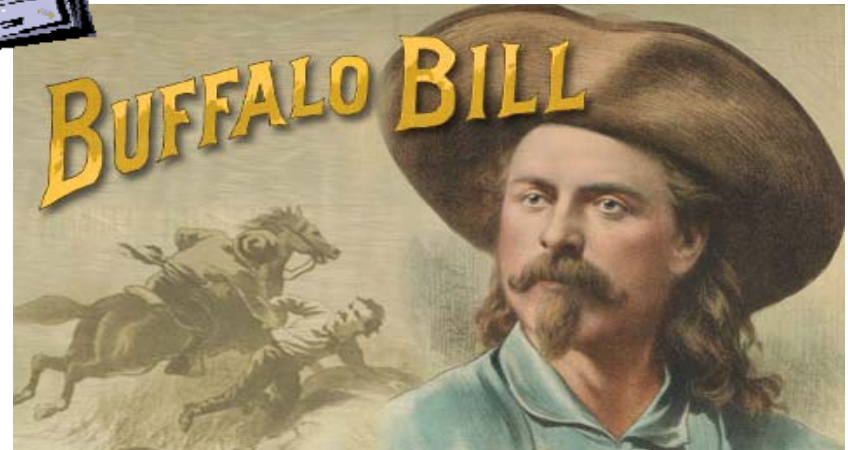
-The caught and punished criminals without a trial (hanging)

Boot Hill

During the wild and lawless years of the settling of the West, some sort of graveyard could be found near almost every town or camp.

Many of the people in those settlements died rather quickly and unexpectedly, usually with their boots on.

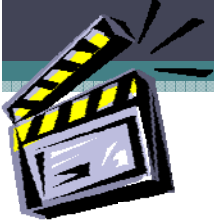
These cemeteries became known as 'boot hills.'



Cody Williams aka Buffalo Bill got his nickname because he hunted and killed over 4,000 buffalo

In 1883, Cody founded his own show, "Buffalo Bill's Wild West," a circus-like extravaganza that toured widely for three decades in the United States and later in Europe.

Besides Buffalo Bill himself, the Wild West show starred sharpshooter Annie Oakley and, for one run, Chief Sitting Bull.

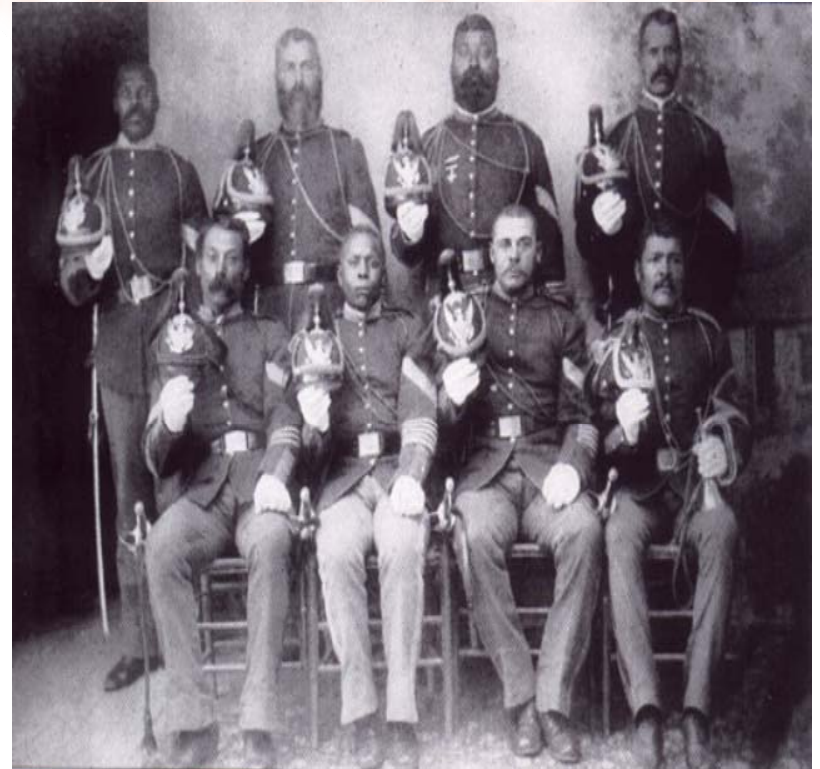


BUFFALO SOLDIERS

The Buffalo Soldiers got their name from the Indians because of the way they looked (short curly hair and dark faces resembled the buffalo and they also had the spirit of an animal)

Buffalo Soldiers, comprised of former slaves, freemen and Black Civil War soldiers, were the first to serve during peacetime.

These African Americans were in charged and responsible for escorting settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews. They made up the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments

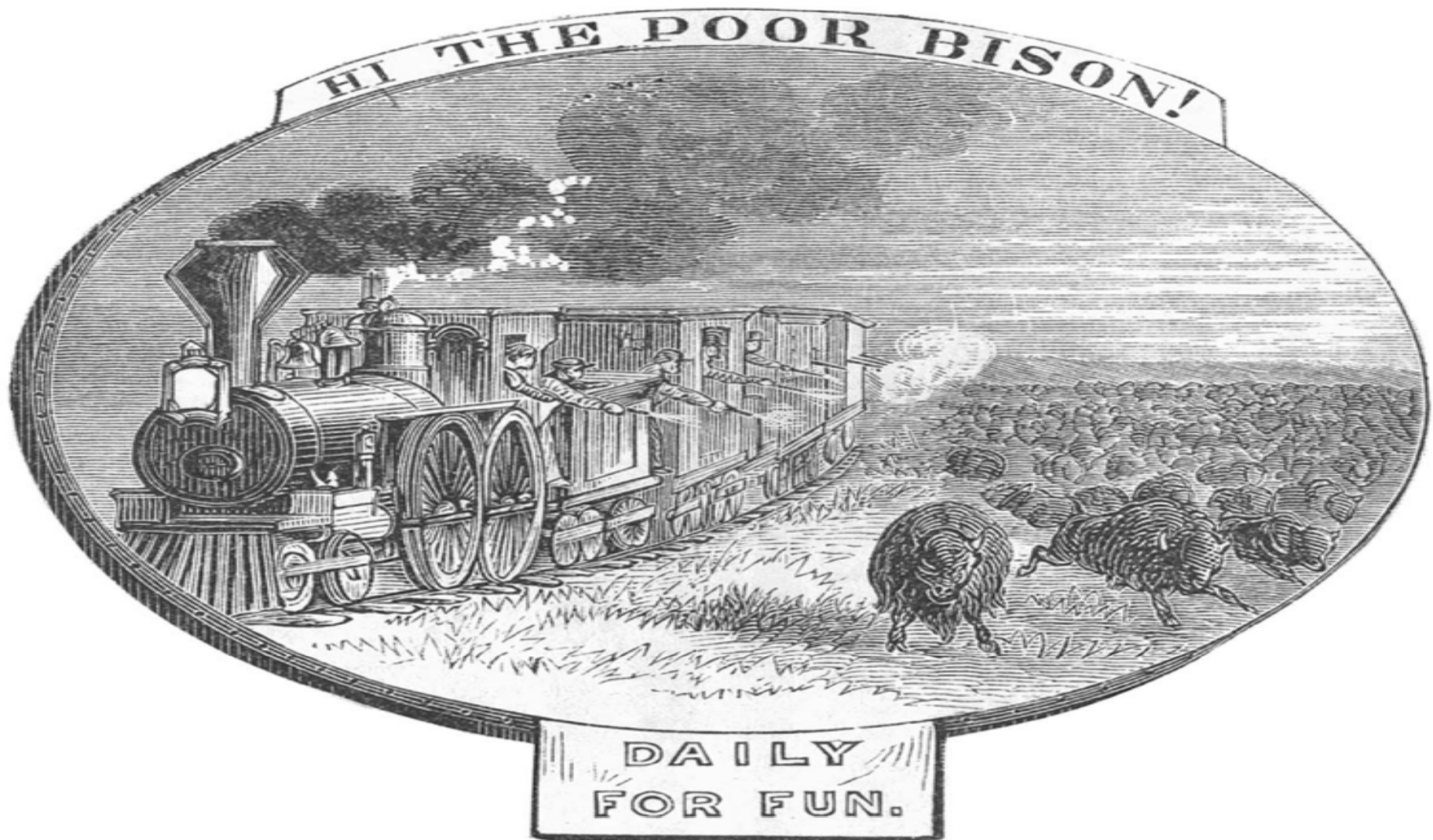


On September 6, 2005, Mark Matthews, who was the oldest living Buffalo Soldier, died at the age of 111. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



AIM

**HOW DID DEVELOPMENT
IN THE WEST AFFECT
NATIVE AMERICANS**



Between 1872 - 1874 nine million buffalo were killed. Fewer than 50 were left in the U.S.



Event	Native American Tribe/leader	State	Year	Outcome
Laramie Treaty				
Sand Creek Massacre				
Battle of Little Bighorn				
Nez Perce				
Ghost Dance				
Wounded Knee Massacre				



Native American

After the Civil War many people were beginning to migrate out West.

Plain Indians such as Arapaho, Cheyenne, Comanche, Sioux and the Nez Perce did not want to live on reservations.

Following the roaming buffalo herds were a central part of their culture and their way of life.

Buffalo served as food, clothing, shelter and toys. The buffalo chips (dried manure) served as cooking fuel

Settlers and Native Americans Conflicted over:

- Settlers were killing buffalo
- Settlers were taking over Native American lands.



Fort Laramie Treaty 1851

A Broken Promise

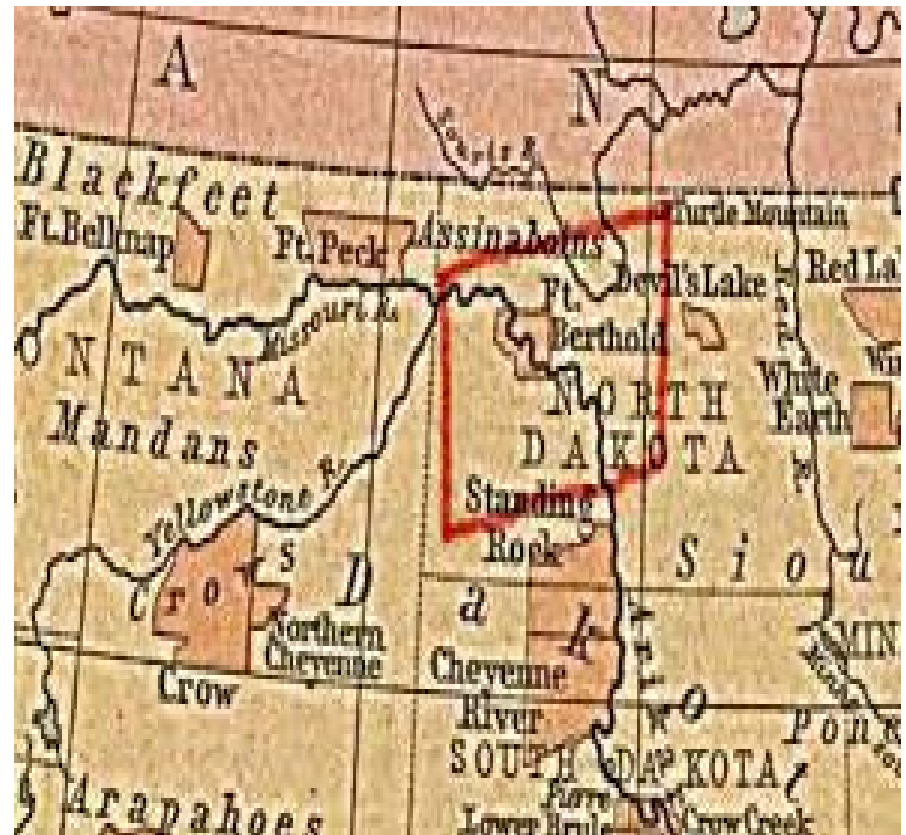
"The land will be yours as long as the grass grows or water runs"

Fort Laramie was located in present day Wyoming.

American Indians (Sioux, Cheyenne's and Arapahos, and other Plains tribes) were promised money, domestic animals, agricultural tools and other goods.

This land was to be the Native Americans forever.

This promise was broken in 1858 when gold was discovered in this area.



Some Indians did not agree with forced reservation life and warriors attacked miners and soldiers in Southeastern Colorado. The result:

Sand Creek Massacre Colorado, 1864

U.S. Army colonel John M. Chivington led the U.S. Army of 1,200 Colorado militia

Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle was ready to surrender

While the Native Americans were camped along the Sand Creek River, the U.S. Army opened fire

200, mostly children and women, were killed on this day because the men were out hunting for food



Fetterman Massacre

- As a result of the Sand Creek Massacre, some warriors raided white settlements.
- The government was building a road, called the Bozeman Trail, across Sioux hunting grounds
- The Sioux attacked construction workers
- In 1866 - Captain W. J Fetterman and 80 troopers stepped into a deadly ambush set by the Sioux
- All the soldiers were killed



Second Laramie Treaty

-As a result of the Fetterman Massacre, a second treaty of Fort Laramie was signed.

-The tribes of the Sioux, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho was given the Black Hills in South Dakota.

The land was taken away from the Native Americans when gold was discovered there in 1874

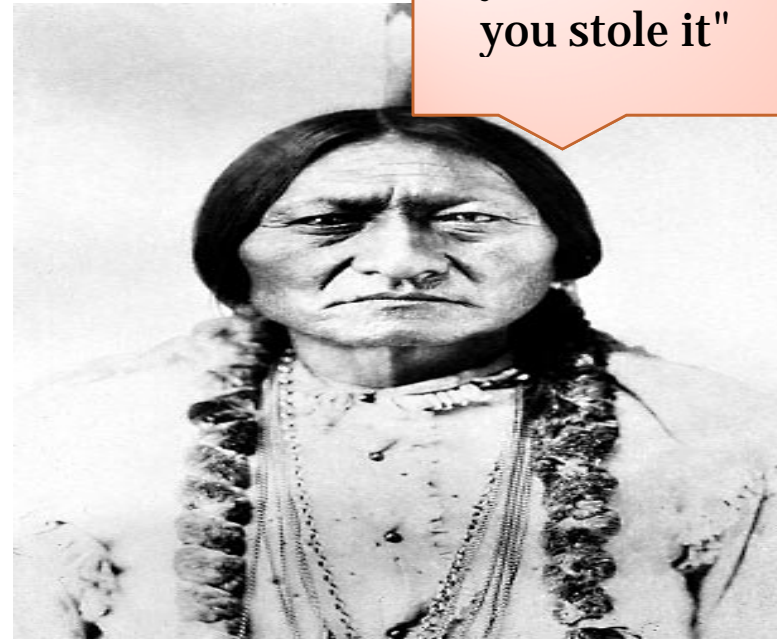
ANOTHER BROKEN PROMISE



Native Americans United Under Sioux Chiefs



Crazy Horse



"We did not give
you our country,
you stole it"

Tatanka-Ioytake
A Lakota Sioux
nicknamed: Sitting Bull

Battle of Little Bighorn

1876, Montana

- Generals George Custer was trying to force Native Americans out of the Black Hills because there was gold there
- The battle took place by a stream known as “Little Bighorn River”
- In less than 2 hours the Sioux won this battle killing over 200 of Custer’s men
- This was the last victory for the Sioux
- The battle only lasted less than 2 hours

CUSTERS LAST STAND



Colonel George A Custer



•The Nez Perce roamed the lands and mountains of Oregon as per treaty in 1855

-The government forced them into a narrow strip of land in Idaho

•Chief Joseph was given a choice to fight or give up peacefully

•He chose peace

•A few angry warriors went out and murdered several white folks. This led to a war

•The Nez Perce tried to flee to Canada. for four months they traveled 1,000 miles of rugged terrain with the Army on in pursuit but were caught 40 miles before the boarder.

•The Nez Perce was forced to surrender.

Nez Perce

1877



CHIEF JOSEPH

"I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed. He who led the young men is dead. It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them have run away to the hills and have no blankets, no food; no one knows where they are-perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children and see how many I can find.

Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me my chiefs. I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."



Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, upon his surrender to the U.S. government troops, September 1877—

--Legends states that Chief Joseph died of a broken heart

GERONIMO

"Once I
moved about
like the wind.
Now I
surrender"



Geronimo and a few
followers refused to settle
on reservations

Geronimo survived by
raiding settlers homes

He was captured many
times but always managed
to escape until he
surrendered in 1866 and
went to prison



Ghost Dance

Pine Ridge Reservation

South Dakota 1889

Wovoka claimed that the “ghost dance” could make white settlers disappear

Shirts, like the one on the right, were worn to support the “ghost dance.” Some believed the shirt protected them from bullets

Government officials feared a religious movement so they sent the military into the reservations.

Sitting Bull was killed in skirmish between the Military and a few Native Americans.



Massacre at Wounded Knee Pine Ridge Reservation South Dakota, 1890

- After the death of Sitting Bull, many Sioux Indians joined other Ghost Dancers following a leader named Big Foot.
- This led to the Military searching camps for guns or weapons.
- A fight broke out and this marked the end of the bloody conflict between soldiers and American Indians on the Great Plains.



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Painting, Mary Wright, Smithsonian Institution

Photo A



Photo B



Outcome

- Native Americans were forced to live on reservations and live the “American” way of life (Assimilation)

Assimilation means that Native Americans had to attend white schools to learn the white culture, they were forced to learn English, they had to change their clothing and cut their hair

Dawes Act - (1887)

Gave Native Americans land to farm.

However, this act failed because:

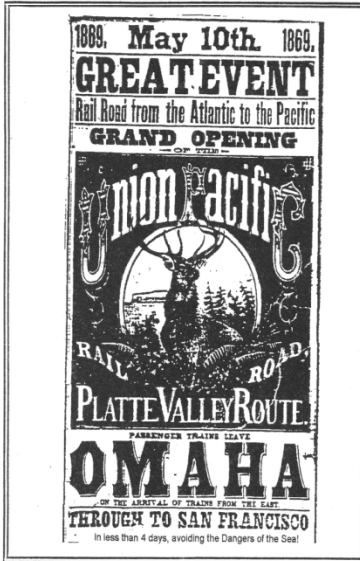
- Native Americans didn't want to be farmers
- And they lacked the tools, training, and money to be successful farmers



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Positive and Negative Effects

Document 4



4. Based on this poster, state two reasons people took passage on the railroad from Omaha to San Francisco.

a. _____


b. _____

Positive

- Need a faster, safer way to transport: processes goods, raw materials, civilians the military and mail
- Created Boomtowns and cities such as Reno, Denver
- Increased population which led to the development of states

Negative

- Killed buffalo needed by Native Americans
- Led to battles such as the Sand Creek massacre, the Battle of Little Bighorn and Wounded Knee Massacre
- Displaced Native Americans onto reservations



There were a myriad of ways the transcontinental railroad effected the West. The transcontinental railroad linked the Atlantic and pacific costs. As you can see in the poster, the Union Pacific celebrated its grand opening on May 10th, 1968. Travelers used this system of traveling because it only took 4 days to travel from Omaha to San Francisco as opposed to traveling by wagon, which took months. In addition, traveling by rail avoided the dangers of the sea. (Doc 4) **Furthermore, the railroad shipped raw materials, civilians, mail and the military. As a result, the population increased leading to boomtowns and the building of cities. Eventually, this led to the development of states. Shipping of mail allowed families to keep in touch through letters while catalogues helped Westerners get products from eastern factories. Conversely, the railroad led to negative impacts on the Great Plains. Railroad builders and settlers shot buffalo for fun or for sport. This impacted the Native Americans culture negatively because they used the buffalo for food, shelter, clothing, tools and toys. The slaughter of the buffalo and the displacement of land led to many battles such as the Sand Creek Massacre, the Battle at Little Bighorn, and the Wounded Knee Massacre. Subsequently, the Indians were forced to live on reservations and assimilate to the American way of life by cutting their hair, changing their clothing, becoming farmers, and learning English in schools.**