

Homestead Act: May 20, 1862: Allowed anyone to purchase 160 acres of land for 10 dollars. People living in the US began moving west and immigrants arrived heading west all for the dream of becoming farmers.

Obstacles settlers encountered as they moved west

- Native American tribes land conflicts
- Hard sod (Steel Plow)
- Extreme weather
- Drought (Windmills)
- Roaming cattle/buffalo (Barbed wire)

Changes taking place:

- In the late 1800s, new cities sprang up and existing cities, such as Chicago, grew larger.
- The Great Plains formerly known as the Great American Desert was growing to become the Nation's Breadbasket.
- The primary crop farmers grew was wheat and corn. Inventions like the McCormick reaper led to an agricultural revolution
- Ranchers raises sheep and cattle

Cowboys:

- Cowboys drove cattle and worked long hours, and where on the trail for months at a time under dangerous conditions
- While the cattle business became very profitable with the invention of refrigerated rail cars to transport cattle east. Cowboys did not live a glamorous life.
- Cowboys were very diverse.

Transcontinental Railroad: "United Nation" Pacific Railroad Act of 1862 – Promontory Summit May 10, 1869

- Challenges included: Brutal weather, occasional Indian attacks, avalanches, using hand tools, lack of proper equipment and supplies, natural barriers (mountains, rivers), and very poor work conditions
- Legal and illegal means used to finance railroad construction
 - Legal: received government aid, paid workers low wages, sold stocks
 - Illegal: Overcharging government and allowing poor and unsafe conditions for workers.
- Workers: Paid less than a dollar a day, lived in tents
 - Union Pacific: Started in Kansas Former slaves and Irish Immigrants
 - Central Pacific: Started in California Chinese immigrants
- Harmful to the native animals, Native Americans, cowboys

Native American Conflicts:

- Incompatible with the homesteaders: Native American relied on buffalo; settlers were taking their land and putting up fencing leading to near extinction of the species. Native Americans were forced to fight and be killed, move on to reservation land, or adopt the white culture.

American History B: Unit One: Changing and Growing Study Guide

- Nez Pierce (tribe) and Chief Joseph(leader): After being forced from their land, they raced for Canada for freedom. They fought troops from the US Army in a great battle, but ended up being out gunned. Chief Joseph made a famous speech.