

Opening the West 1858-1896



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Eighth Grade

Section 1: The Mining Booms



❧ Essential Question:

- ❧ What were the causes and effects of mining booms in the West?
- ❧ We will describe the “Market Clearing Price of a Good or Service.”

Gold, Silver, & Boomtowns

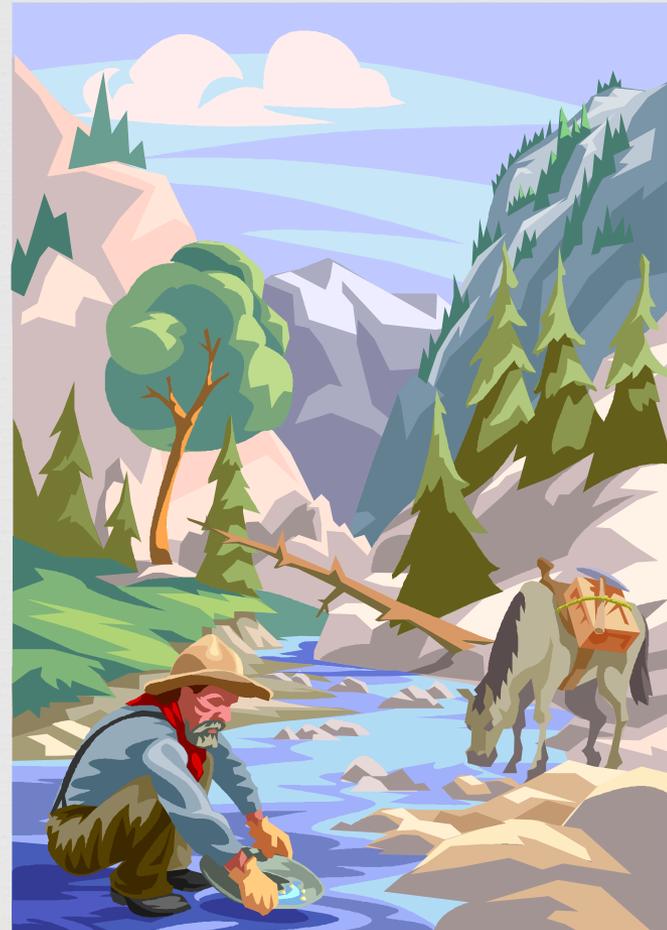


- By mid-1850's California Gold Rush Ended (so – they looked elsewhere)
- In 1858 Gold was found at Pikes Peak (Colorado)
- Newspaper said prospectors (individuals searching for gold) made \$20.00 a day!
- By 1859, approximately 50,000 prospectors had flocked to Colorado.



Gold Mining

- ❧ Prospectors did skim (pan) for gold dust on banks of streams, but most of the gold found was from the earth.
- ❧ **Mining** then ore, then **extracting (removing)** the gold, required machinery, workers & organized business.
- ❧ **Companies were able to get “rich” while individuals remained poor.**



Boom & Bust



- ❧ Discovery near Nevada's Carson River was called "Comstock Lode" after Henry Comstock who owned a share of the claim.
- ❧ Thousands of mines opened near but none were as profitable.
- ❧ Gold strikes created Boomtowns (Towns that developed almost overnight)
- ❧ Boomtowns were lively, lawless places, where money came quickly through spending and gambling. Violence was also seen here.
- ❧ Ordinary people acted as vigilantes (people who punished criminals)
- ❧ Men ran the boomtowns but women often founded school & churches

The United States Expands



- ❧ **Gold & Silver went away, mining for zinc, copper, & lead became the top resources to mine for.**
- ❧ **Colorado became a state in 1876**
- ❧ **North & South Dakota, Washington, & Montana became states in 1889**
- ❧ **Wyoming, & Idaho became states in 1890.**



Railroads

connect to the west

❧ Railroads transported gold & silver to market and brought supplies to the miners.

❧ Wagons & Stagecoaches were not able to move shipments as fast as the Western Expansionists needed the materials.



❧ Construction was often helped by government **subsidies (financial aid and land grants from the government.)**

❧ **Companies made an arrangement that they should receive FREE public land so they could connect the Eastern & Western United States.**

Spanning the Continent



- ❧ **Transcontinental railroad (rail line that would span the continent & connect the Atlantic & Pacific coasts)**
- ❧ Two companies fought over who could cover the most land with their tracks



The Transcontinental Railway



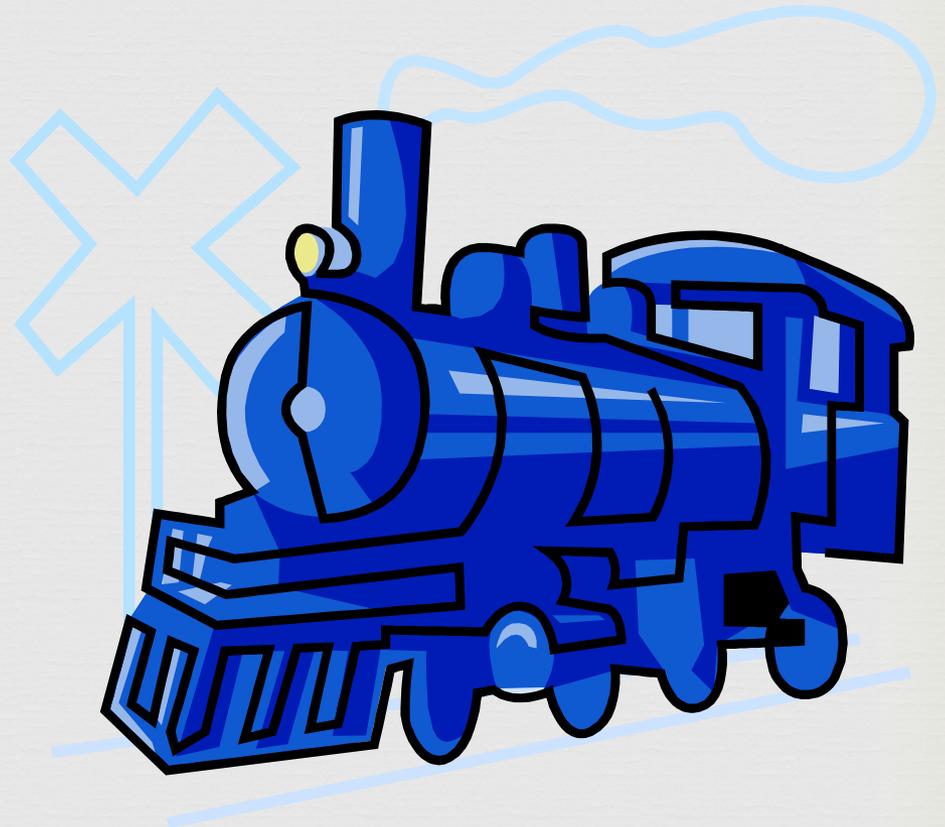
- ❧ May 10, 1869 construction was complete. A Chinese crew was chosen to lay the final 10 miles (16km) of track, which was completed in 12 hours.
- ❧ **The 2 sets met at Promontory Summit in the Utah Territory.**
- ❧ **Leland Stanford governor of California drove the final spike joined the two railroads**
- ❧ The Pacific Railroad was complete & **can now be seen on your Monopoly Game!**



Effects of the Railroads



- ⌘ In 1883 the American Railway Association (organization that controlled the nation's railways) divided the country into 4 time zones.
- ⌘ All communities living in the same area would share the same time zones.
- ⌘ **Congress made the time zones official in 1918.**



Ranchers & Farmers



Section 2:

Essential Questions: **How did cattle ranchers & farmers adapt to life in the West?**

Cattle on the Plains



- ❧ Ranchers herded their cattle to railroad towns & shipped them to new markets in the North & East.
- ❧ Ranchers would burn a brand (or symbol) into the animals' hides to show who owned the cattle



Railroads & Cow Towns



- By 1865 the Missouri Pacific Railroad reached Kansas City Missouri, and the value of cattle soon increased.
- Texas cattle could now be herded to Missouri & loaded onto trains & be shipped East.
- Longhorns value went from 3\$ each to 40\$ each!



The Long Drive



- ❧ The increase in the value set off the **LONG DRIVE** (herding of cattle 1,000 miles (1,609km) or more to meet the railroads).
- ❧ From the late 1860's to mid 1880's more than 5 million cattle moved north on cattle drives.
- ❧ Drove cattle to **cowtowns** (towns located near railroads)



Life on the Great Plains



- ❧ Cowhands & ranchers lived difficult lives on the great plains
- ❧ Cattle driving was hard work! Cowhands rode in the saddle up to 15 hours every day, in the driving rain, dust storms, & blazing sun.
- ❧ Faced terrible danger, violent storms, “rustlers” (people who attempted to steal cattle for the herd), and stampedes (where thousands of cattle ran in panic)

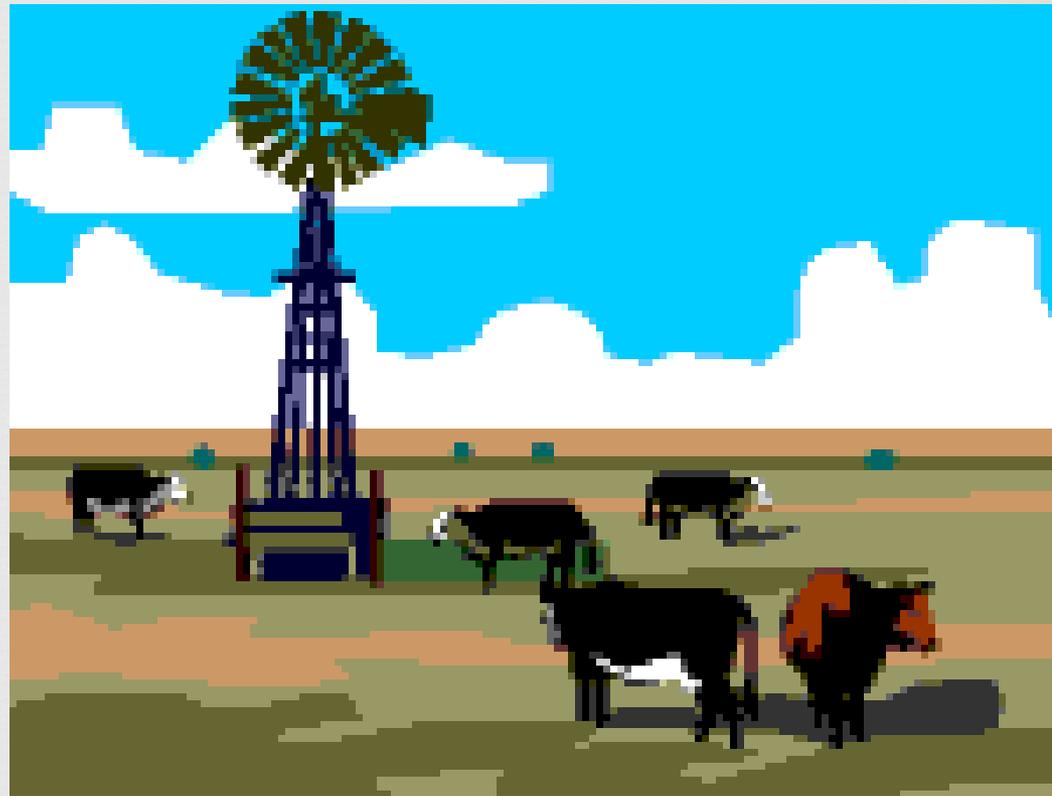
- ❧ Cowhands included veterans of the Civil War, and African Americans who moved west in search of a better life.
- ❧ Hispanic ranch hands were known as vaqueros – developed riding, roping, and branding.
- ❧ Words used in ranching comes from the Spanish language. **Ranch comes from the Spanish word rancho.**

The Cattle Kingdom Ends



❧ Ranching began to replace the cattle drives, because ranchers were able to produce hardier, plumper cattle. The ranchers became rich when cattle prices boomed.

❧ **Farming** then began to rise on the plains.



Farmers Settle on the Plains



- ❧ Free land & new farming methods brought many settlers to the Great Plains
- ❧ Several factors or contributing circumstances brought settlers to the Plains.
- ❧ New laws offered FREE land!



The Homestead Act



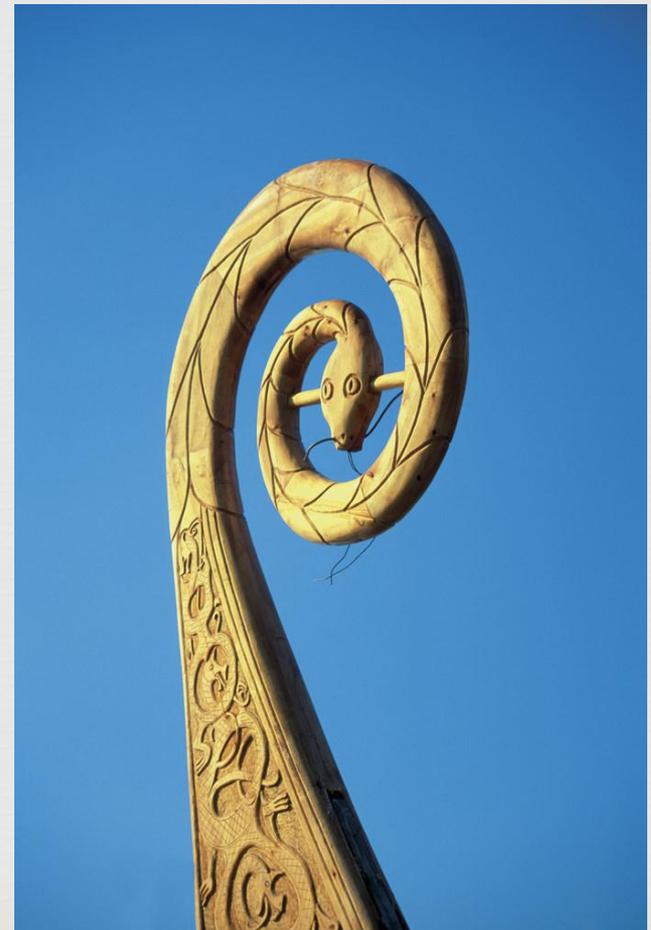
- ❧ 1862 the Homestead Act was passed – laws that gave 160 free acres of land to a settler that paid a 10\$ filing fee & lived on the land for 5 years.
- ❧ The federal land policy earn ownership of land (Homestead) – by settling on it.



New Groups of Settlers

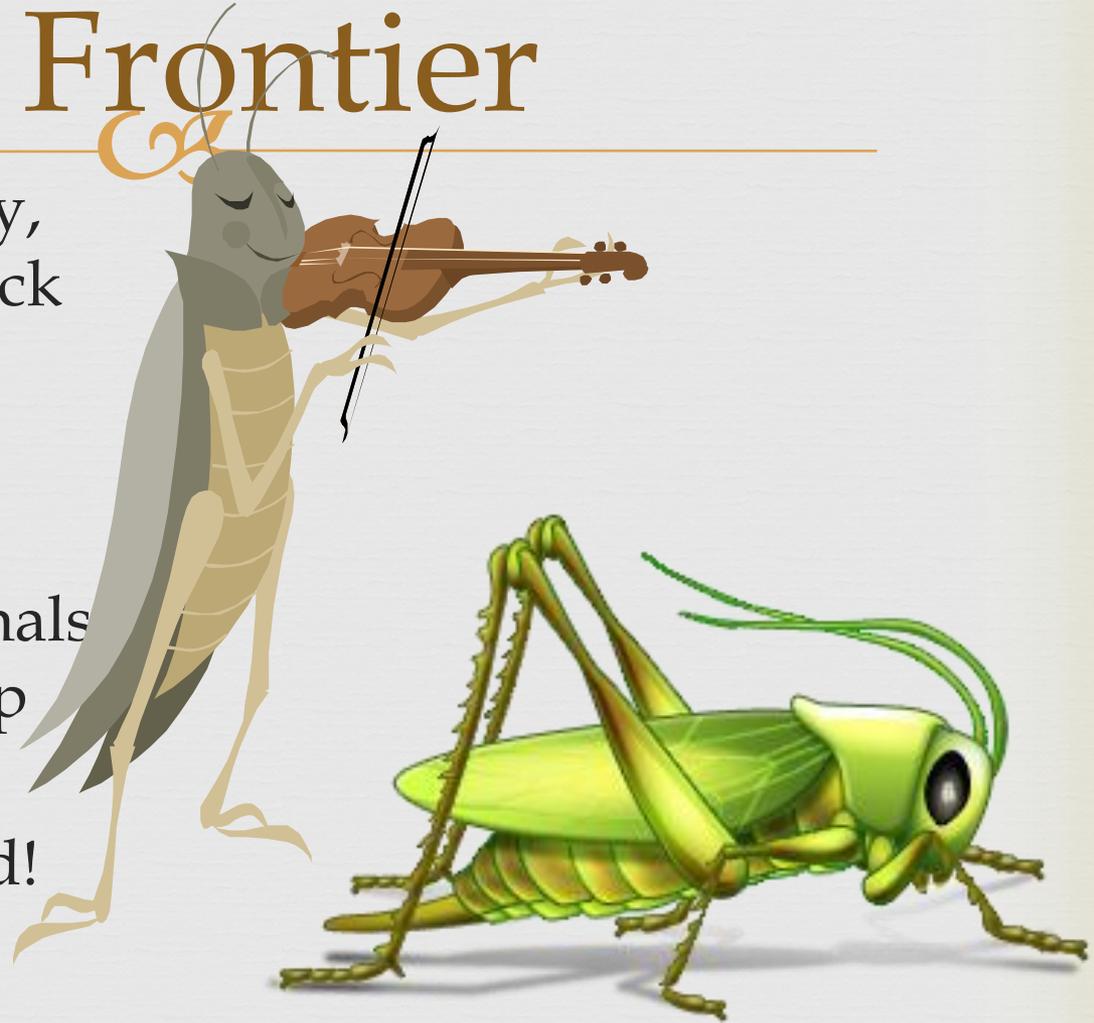


- ❧ Railroad companies lured people to the Plains by selling strips of land alongside the rail lines to raise \$.
- ❧ Rail companies advertised in Scandinavia which led to strong roots continuing today in Minnesota, & the Dakotas.



Challenges of Farming of the Frontier

- ❧ Brushfires spread rapidly, destroying crops, livestock & homes.
- ❧ Summer could bring plaques of grasshoppers
- ❧ Winters could bury animals and trap families in deep snow.
- ❧ People had to plan ahead!



New Farming Methods

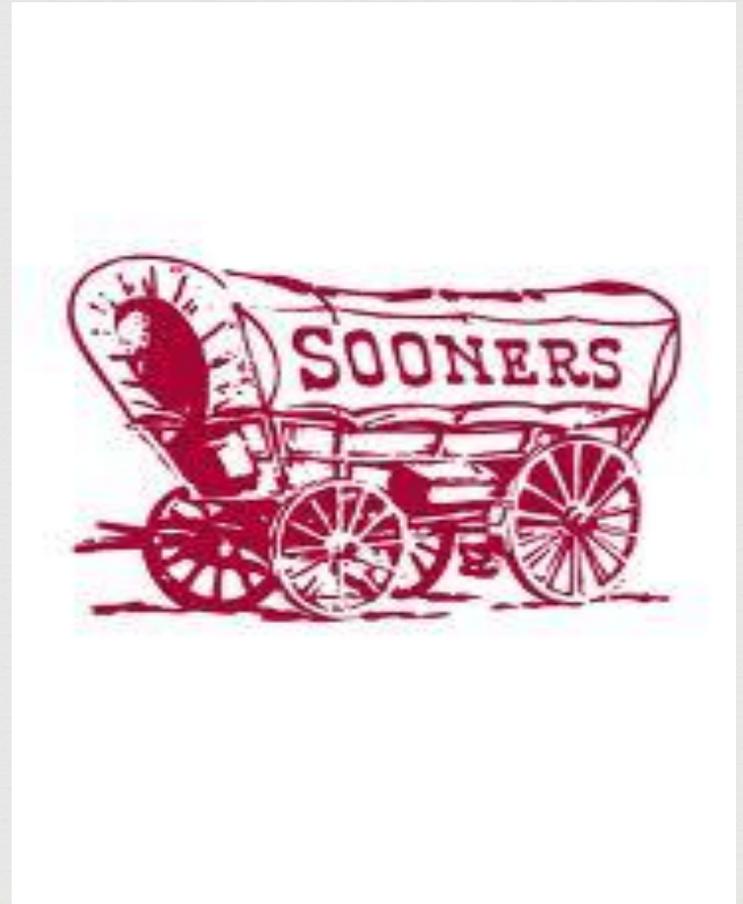


- ❧ Pains farmers were known as sodbusters – little rainfall led to hard soil that farmers had to bust!
- ❧ Dry Farming techniques – plant seeds deep in moist ground.
- ❧ Farmers had to develop a lightweight plow to be able to farm the plains.



The Oklahoma Land Rush

- ❧ The last territory to be settled, Congress designated as Indian Territory.
- ❧ In 1889 – pressure from homesteaders opened the Oklahoma Territory to settlers.
- ❧ On April 22, 1889 the official opening day, 10,000 people lined up on the edge on the land.
- ❧ **Some people had already slipped onto the land – these people were known as “sooners”**



Native American Struggles



Section 3:

Essential Questions: **How did westward expansion affect Native Americans?**

Following the Buffalo



- Native Americans of the Great Plains depended on the buffalo to survive, but railroads threatened this lifestyle.
- The government officials who met Red Cloud, wanted to ensure (make certain) of the safety of whites moving onto Native American territory.
- By mid 1850's miners, ranchers, and farmers, began to settle on the Plains.



Home to Natives



- ❧ The Great Plains had been home to the Natives for centuries.
- ❧ The Omaha, & Osage Nations lived in communities as farmers and hunters.
- ❧ The Sioux, Comanche, and Blackfeet lived nomadically (traveling vast distances to follow their food source – great herds of buffalo)



Slaughter to the way of life



BATH & WRIGHT'S BUFFALO HIDE YARD IN 1878, SHOWING 60,000 BUFFALO HIDES. SIOUX CITY, IOWA

1878. J. W. WRIGHT

Slaughter to the way of life continued...



- ❧ After the Civil War, thousands of troops went west in search of a new life.
- ❧ They found that skins from Buffalo were in demand in the East so they killed as many, as fast as they could.
- ❧ This fed the railroad workers, but did not use the entire animal as the Natives did.
- ❧ The Railroad companies hired these men to slaughter the Buffalo away from the Plains.



Conflict



- Conflict between Native Americans & whites grew as Native Americans were forced onto reservations.
- 1867 Congress appointed the Indian Peace Commission** to develop policies for Natives
- They recommended moving Natives to large **reservations (tracks of land set aside for them).**



Reservation Life



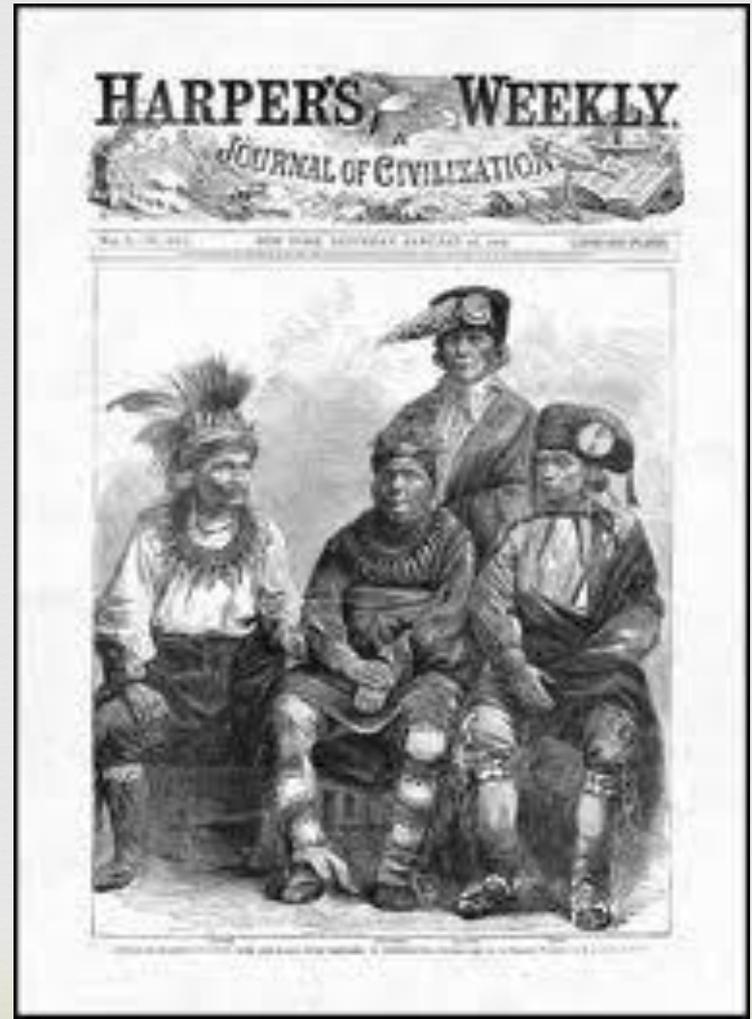
- ❧ Large reservation located in Oklahoma (for Natives relocated from the Southeast)
- ❧ A Second large reservation was created for the Sioux in the Dakota Territory
- ❧ The federal bureau of Indian Affairs would manage the reservations.
- ❧ Government officials often used trickery to persuade Native Americans to the reservations.



Reservation Life Continued



- ❧ Reservations were located on poor land & the government often failed to deliver promised food & supplies & goods that did arrive were often in poor condition.
- ❧ Some did move to the reservations, many who did move then chose to leave once the government failed to deliver their promises.
- ❧ Conflict was arising.



Conflict Begins - Fetterman Massacre



- ❧ Minnesota was the stage for one of the bloodiest conflicts.
- ❧ Red Cloud burned & looted white settler's homes in the summer of 1862. Hundreds died before troops put the uprising down.
- ❧ The Sioux, Cheyenne & Arapaho held many attacks between 1865 - 1867.
- ❧ December 21, 1866 Army troops were stationed at a fort on the Bozeman Trail (used by prospectors to reach gold mines in Montana)
- ❧ Crazy horse lured troops into a deadly trap, where hundreds of warriors wiped out the entire division.



Read page 569!



What does this cartoon mean?



Little Big Horn



- ❧ The government had promised “No white person or persons shall be permitted to settle in the Black Hills”
- ❧ The hills however had been rumored to contain gold, & white prospectors swarmed into the area.
- ❧ Instead of protecting the Sioux rights the government tried to buy the Black Hills



Little Big Horn Continued



- ❧ Sitting Bull a great leader in the Lakota Sioux “I do not want to sell any land. Not even this much (holding a pinch of dust)”.
- ❧ He joined together Sioux, & Cheyenne warriors along the Little Bighorn River in present day Montana.
- ❧ Crazy horse & his soldiers joined him.



Little Big Horn Continued



- ❧ Lieutenant Colonel George Custer of the U.S. Army & 209 of his men were facing thousands of Sioux & Cheyenne.
- ❧ In less than 30 minutes Custer & almost all of his men were killed.
- ❧ Sitting Bull & his followers fled to Canada.
- ❧ Soon starving, The Lakota & Cheyenne agreed to live on the reservation.







The Apache Wars

Southwest Trouble



- ❧ Trouble also broke out in the 1870's.
- ❧ The Chiracahua Apache were moved to a reservation in Arizona.
- ❧ Their leader Geronimo, fled to Mexico.
- ❧ Thousands of troops pursued Geronimo.
- ❧ He was the last Native to surrender.



Changing Culture



- ❧ Many factors changed Native American's experience.
 - ❧ Slaughter of the buffalo
 - ❧ U.S. Army attacks
 - ❧ & Reservation Policy
 - ❧ ALSO...
- ❧ Reformers who wanted to absorb Native Americans into White Culture.
- ❧ 1887 Congress passes the DAWES ACT – aimed to remove what white regarded as 2 weaknesses of the Native life!



The DAWES ACT



- ❧ Private Property
- ❧ Nomadic Tradition

- ❧ Reformers hoped that Natives would become like farmers & in time American citizens.
- ❧ Some Natives did succeed as farmers but many thought the land was too small or profitable so they sold it.



Wounded Knee



- ❧ A ceremony called the Ghost dance became popular with many Native Tribes.
- ❧ The ceremony celebrated a hopeful day when the settlers would leave & the buffalo would return.
- ❧ As the ritual became popular & white officials banned the ritual.
- ❧ Believing that Sitting Bull led the movement, the police tried to arrest him.
- ❧ During a scuffle, they shot & killed him.



Wounded Knee Continued



- ❧ After Sitting Bull's death, several hundred Lakota Sioux gathered at a creek called Wounded Knee in southwestern South Dakota.
- ❧ In December 1890, the army went there to collect weapons.
- ❧ When a shot rang out, the army responded with fire.
- ❧ More than 200 Sioux were murdered, only 20 soldier died.
- ❧ Wounded Knee marked the end of the armed conflict between the U.S. government & Native Americans.







Farmers in Protest



Section 4: **Why did the economic reform movements develop in the late 1800's.**

The Farmers Organize



- ❧ *The National Grange & the Farmer's Alliances tried to help farmers.*
- ❧ After the Civil War, farming expanded in the West & South.
- ❧ The supply of crops grew faster than the demand for them, & prices fell.
- ❧ Farmers expenses for transporting their good to market, seed costs & equipment remained high!



The Farmers Organize Continued

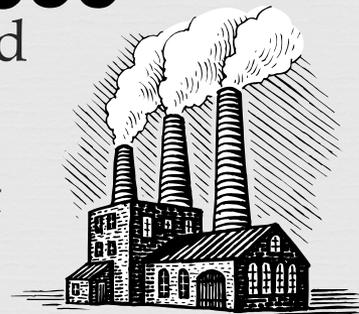


❧ **Farmers blamed their hardships on 3 groups**

❧ **Railroad companies** – which charged farmers more to ship crops than they charged manufactures to ship goods.



❧ **Eastern Manufactures** – charged high prices for their products



❧ **Bankers** – charged high interest rates to farmers when they borrowed & for seed, equipment, & other necessary items.



The National Grange



- ☞ Farmers began to organize
- ☞ **The National Grange - the first farmers organization was a network of local organizations**
- ☞ **The grange offered farmers education, fellowship & support, with a library of books, & organized social gatherings.**
- ☞ **The grange also tried to establish economic self-sufficiency by setting up “cash-only” cooperatives (where farmers only bought items from each other).**



The National Grange Continued



- ❧ Cooperatives charged lower prices, & the cash-only policy prevented families from buying on credit (which led to debt)
- ❧ The cooperatives did fail due to farmers being short on cash & having to borrow money.
- ❧ By the late 1870's the Grange had declined.



The Farmer's Alliance

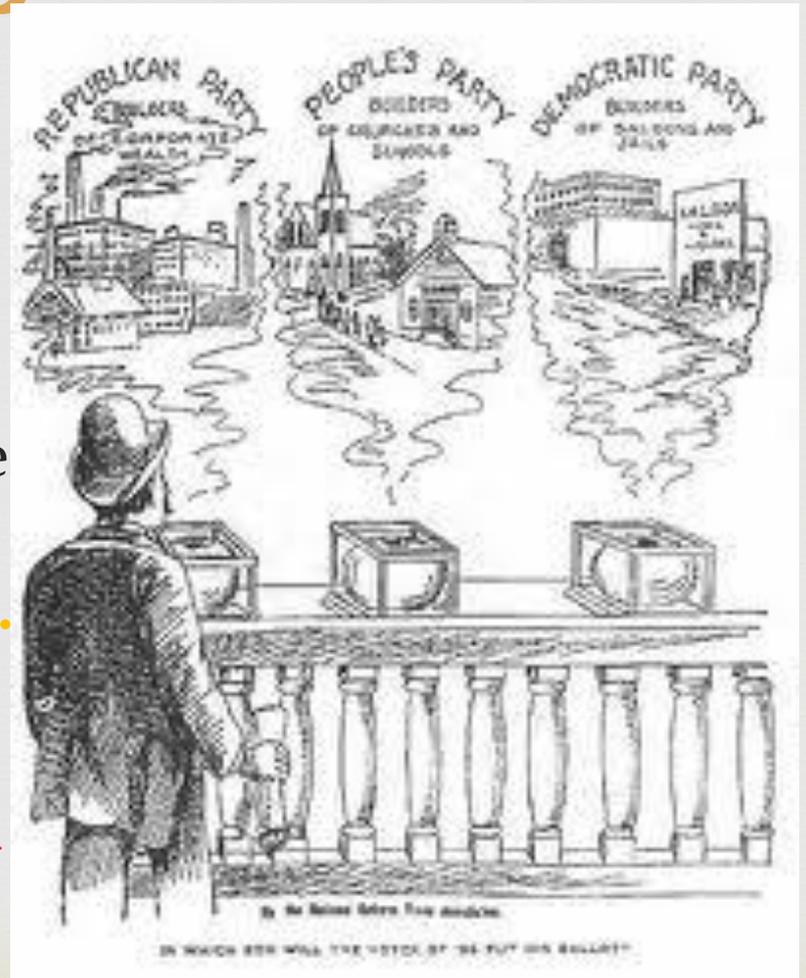
- ❧ **The Farmer's Alliances were a network of organizations that sprang up in the West & South in the 1880's.**
- ❧ Alliances grew rapidly.
- ❧ Like the Grange the Farmer's Alliances sponsored education & cooperative buying & selling.
- ❧ **They also proposed a plan that had the federal government store farmer's crops in warehouses & lend \$ to farmers.**
- ❧ This would have worked but regional differences & personalities kept the alliances from working together.



A Party of the People



- ✧ **In the 1890 election** the Farmer's Alliance active participated in political campaigns.
- ✧ Candidates won 6 governorships, 3 seats in U.S. Senate, & 50 seats in the House of Representatives.
- ✧ **Political Party est. in Feb 1890. Formed the People's Party of the U.S.A (Populists Party)**
- ✧ Roots est. in **Populism (appeal to the common person)**



The Populists Party

☞ Claimed that the government should own the RRX & telegraph lines.

☞ Also wanted to replace the **gold based currency** (money system) with a **flexible currency system based on free silver** (unlimited production of silver coins).

☞ Thought - putting more silver into the economy would give farmers more money to pay debts.

☞ Wanted to **limit the presidents term to a single term**, electing senators directly & introducing secret ballots.

☞ Called for shorter work hours & the creation of a national income tax (that would tax higher income earners more)

☞ Lack of \$ & organization they were not able to win the 1896 election.



THE CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION!

Political ignorance is the Populists' bane. The altar is the bed of work, which "Christ" forbids and is the only hope of the nation.

Free Silver?



- ❧ The Populists Party was divided.
- ❧ In the South over race relations.
- ❧ Voting rights in the south limited to race so the Southern Democrats were able to keep control of their offices.



