History

The American West c1835-1895

NAME:

The American West c1835-c1895

Topics you need to know

The early settlement of the West, c1835-c1862

The Indigenous peoples of the Plains: their beliefs and ways of life
● Social and tribal structures, ways of life and means of survival on the Plains.
● Beliefs about land and nature and attitudes to war and property.
● US government policy: support for US westward expansion and the significance of the Permanent Indian Frontier.
● The Indian Appropriations Act 1851.

Migration and early settlement
● The factors encouraging migration, including economic conditions, the Oregon Trail from 1836, the concept of Manifest Destiny, and the Gold Rush of 1849.
● The process and problems of migration, including the experiences of the Donner Party and the Mormon migration, 1846–47.
● The development and problems of early settlement farming.

Conflict and tension
● Reasons for tension between settlers and Indigenous peoples of the Plains. The significance of the Fort Laramie Treaty 1851.
● The problems of lawlessness in early towns and settlements.
● Attempts by government and local communities to tackle lawlessness.

Development of the Plains, c1862-c1876

The development of settlement in the West
● The significance of the Civil War and post war reconstruction, including the impact of the Homestead Act 1862, the Pacific Railroad Act 1862, and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, 1869.
● Attempts at solutions to problems faced by homesteaders: the use of new methods and new technology; the impact of the Timber Culture Act 1873 and of the spread of the railroad network.
● Continued problems of law and order in settlements, and attempted solutions, including the roles of law officers and increases in federal government influence.

Ranching and the cattle industry
● The cattle industry and factors in its growth, including the roles of Iliff, McCoy and Goodnight, the significance of Abilene and of the increasing use of the railroad network.
● The impact of changes in ranching on the work of the cowboy.
● Rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders.

Changes in the ways of life of the Indigenous peoples of the Plains
● The impact of railroads, the cattle industry and gold prospecting on the Indigenous peoples of the Plains.
● The impact of US government policy towards the Indigenous peoples of the Plains, including the continued use of reservations and the Second Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868.
● Conflict on the Plains: Little Crow's War (1862) and the Sand Creek Massacre (1864), the significance of Red Cloud's War (1866–68) and the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868).

Later developments in the West, c1876-c1895

Changes in farming, the cattle industry and settlement
● Changes in farming: the impact of new technology and new farming methods.
● Changes in the cattle industry, including the impact of the winter of 1886–87. The significance of changes in the nature of ranching: the end of the open range.
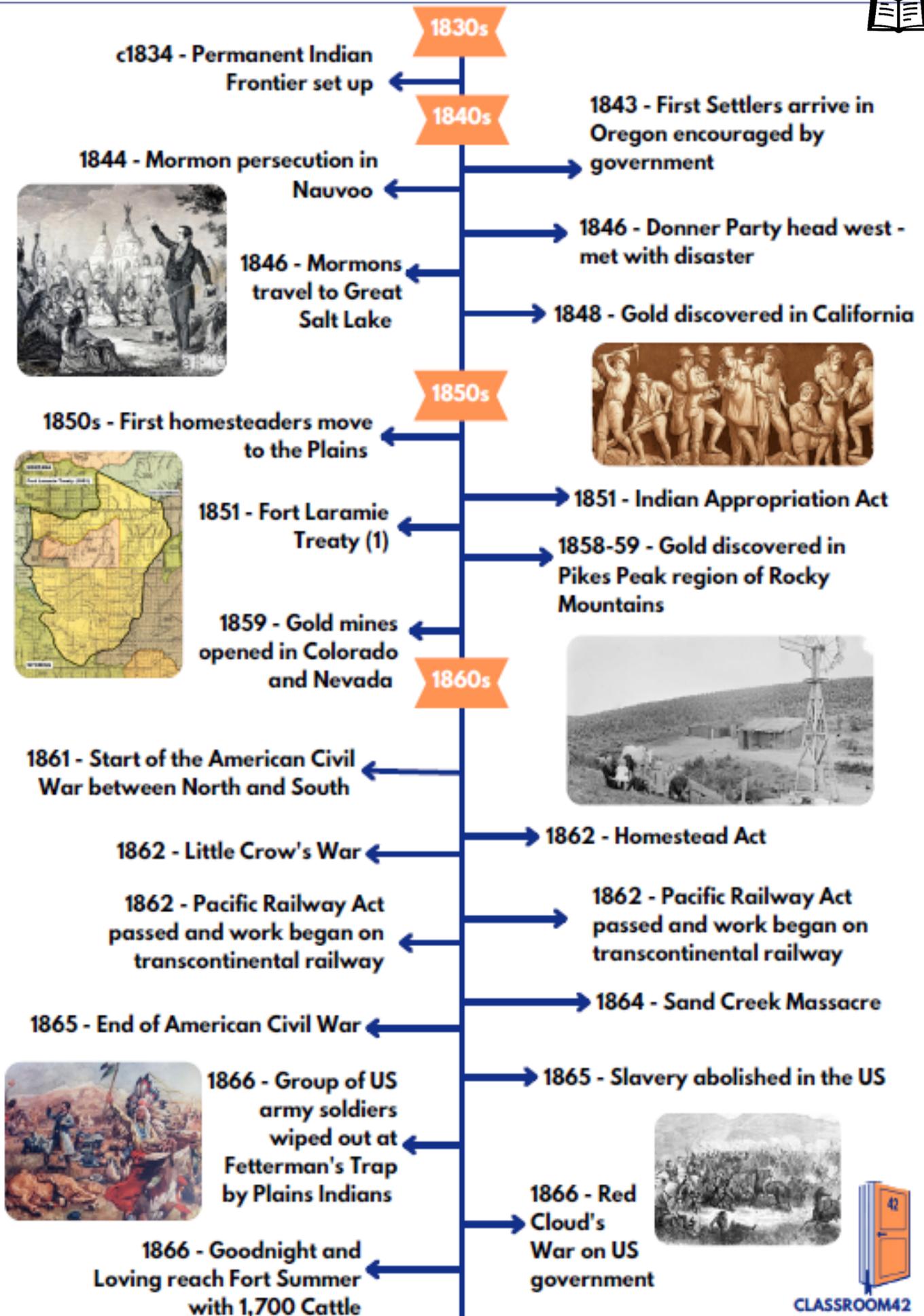● Continued growth of settlement: the Exoduster movement and Kansas (1879), the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1893.

Conflict and tension
● Extent of solutions to problems of law and order: sheriffs and marshals. The significance of Billy the Kid, OK Corral (1881), Wyatt Earp.
● The range wars, including the Johnson County War of 1892.
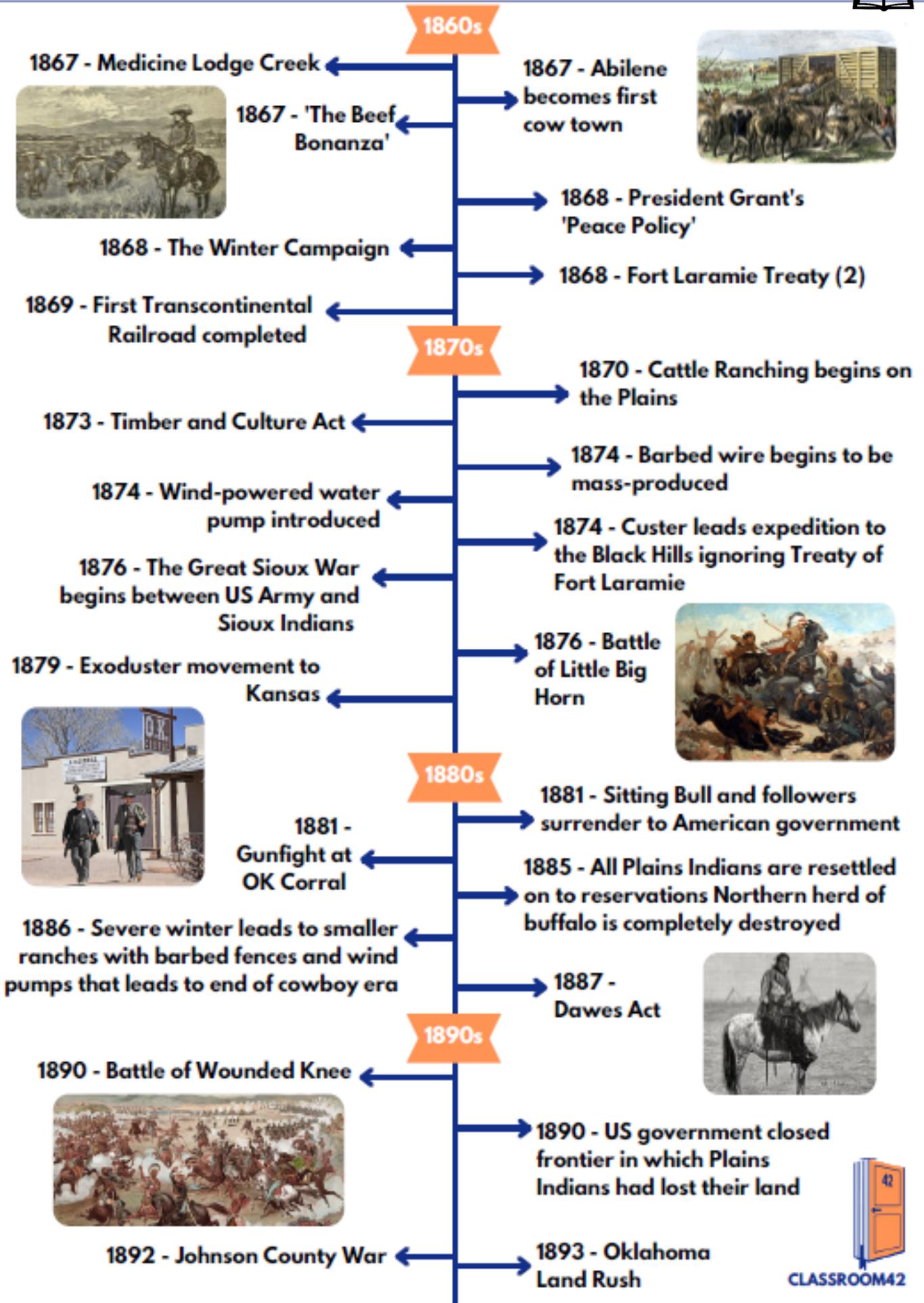● Conflict on the Plains: the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876 and its impact; the Wounded Knee Massacre, 1890.

Indigenous peoples of the Plains: the destruction of their ways of life
● The hunting and extermination of the buffalo.
● The Indigenous peoples' lives on the reservations.
● The significance of changing government attitudes to the Indigenous peoples, including the Dawes Act 1887 and the closure of the Indian Frontier.

Timeline

1830s

c1834 - Permanent Indian Frontier set up

1840s

1843 - First Settlers arrive in Oregon encouraged by government

1844 - Mormon persecution in Nauvoo

1846 - Donner Party head west - met with disaster

1846 - Mormons travel to Great Salt Lake

1848 - Gold discovered in California

1850s

1850s - First homesteaders move to the Plains

1851 - Fort Laramie Treaty (1)

1851 - Indian Appropriation Act

1858-59 - Gold discovered in Pikes Peak region of Rocky Mountains

1859 - Gold mines opened in Colorado and Nevada

1860s

1861 - Start of the American Civil War between North and South

1862 - Homestead Act

1862 - Little Crow's War

1862 - Pacific Railway Act passed and work began on transcontinental railway

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1864 - Sand Creek Massacre

1865 - End of American Civil War

1866 - Group of US army soldiers wiped out at Fetterman's Trap by Plains Indians

1865 - Slavery abolished in the US

1866 - Red Cloud's War on US government

1866 - Goodnight and Loving reach Fort Summer with 1,700 Cattle

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Timeline

1860s

1867 - Medicine Lodge Creek

1867 - Abilene becomes first cow town

1867 - 'The Beef Bonanza'

1868 - President Grant's 'Peace Policy'

1868 - The Winter Campaign

1868 - Fort Laramie Treaty (2)

1869 - First Transcontinental Railroad completed

1870s

1870 - Cattle Ranching begins on the Plains

1873 - Timber and Culture Act

1874 - Barbed wire begins to be mass-produced

1874 - Wind-powered water pump introduced

1874 - Custer leads expedition to the Black Hills ignoring Treaty of Fort Laramie

1876 - The Great Sioux War begins between US Army and Sioux Indians

1876 - Battle of Little Big Horn

1879 - Exoduster movement to Kansas

1880s

1881 - Sitting Bull and followers surrender to American government

1881 - Gunfight at OK Corral

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 leads to end of cowboy era

1887 - Dawes Act

1890s

1890 - Battle of Wounded Knee

1890 - US government closed frontier in which Plains Indians had lost their land

1892 - Johnson County War

1893 - Oklahoma Land Rush

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Key individuals and Government Treaties/Acts

Below is a list of all the key knowledge you need to be aware of. Fill in the blank column as you discover them through the booklet.

Key knowledge	Year/Time period	What did it do/mean?
California Gold Rush	1848-1849	
Oregon Trail	1826	
Donner Party	1846	
Fort Laramie Treaty	1851	
The Indian Appropiations Act	1851	
Pacific Railroad Act	1862	
Homestead Act	1862	
Little Crows War	1862	
Sand Creek Massacre	1864	
McCoy and Abilene	1867	
Joh Ilif		

Key individuals and Government Treaties/Acts

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Key knowledge	Year/Time period	What did it do/mean?
Second Fort Laramie Treaty	1868	
Timber Culture Act	1873	
Battle of Little Big Horn	1876	
Goodnight-Loving Trail	1886	
Billy the Kidd Wyatt Earp	1878 1881	
Exoduster Movement	1879	
Dawes Act	1887	
Wounded Knee Massacre	1890	
Johnson County War	1892	
Oklahoma Land	1893	

Read through this mind map. You will be tested on the next page.

Buffalo - provided food, clothing and faster than travelling on horseback

Nomadic Lifestyle - tipis ideal to protect against winds and easy to move around

Band Size - bands would change size depending on how much food was available

Everything in nature has a spirit and they can be contacted through rituals and dances

Nature

Plains Indians Beliefs & Attitudes

Property & Land
Some areas are sacred, most land was not owned

War
Highest respect to warriors, tried to avoid fighting as young men were vital to survival of tribes

Lawlessness:
- Racial tensions
- Lack of enforcement
- New crimes
- Prostitution, gambling, alcohol

Fort Laramie Treaty 1851
Agreement that defined clear territories and Indians agreed to allow migrants through in return for protection and payment from US government
Neither side followed treaty

The Indian Appropriations Act 1851
US gov placed Plains Indians into reservations where they were restricted
Government paid Plains Indians to give up land desired by white settlers
Reservations limited amount of area Plains Indians could hunt buffalo

Children ➡ Highly valued as future of band

Women ➡ In charge of tipi, preparing food and getting water, highly valued as bearers

Men ➡ Responsible for hunting, protecting band and horses and assessed on abilities as hunters, warriors and horsemen

Elders ➡ Considered important due to advice they could give, sometimes left behind if too weak - band survival was more important

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

The Gold Rush
- Gold discovered in 1848 by James Marshall
- Thousands travelled to California, by Spring 1849 there were 40,000 miners there
- Few made their fortune through gold

1. THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST c1835-c1862

Manifest Destiny
White settlers saw their culture and religion as more advanced and saw it as their mission to 'civilise' the Plains Indians

Oregon Trail 1836
- Established in 1825 by Jedediah Smith
- Used by thousands to cross from the east to the west - was 3,200km long
- Started in Missouri and ended in Oregon City

Mormon Migration
- Persecuted mostly for their practice of polygamy
- In 1845 their leader was killed and Brigham Young became leader
- They were forced to leave Illinois and migrate to the Great Salt Lake
- They were successful in their migration due to planning, leadership and tests

Donner Party 1846
- Travellers going from the east to California
- They were trapped in the mountains and turned to cannibalism to survive
- 87 people left for California but only 46 arrived

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Fill in the mind map as best you can **from memory.** Afterwards, check the answers from the completed mind map on the previous page. NO CHEATING!

Buffalo - provided food, clothing and faster than travelling on _____

_____ **Lifestyle** - tipis ideal to protect against winds and easy to move around

Band Size - bands would change size depending on how much food was available

Everything in nature has a _____ and they can be contacted through rituals and dances

Nature

Plains Indians Beliefs & Attitudes

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Highest respect to warriors, tried to avoid fighting as young men were vital to survival of tribes

Lawlessness:
→ Racial tensions
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The Indian Appropriations Act 1851
US gov placed Plains Indians into _____ where they were restricted Government paid Plains Indians to give up land desired by white settlers Reservations limited amount of area Plains Indians could hunt _____

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Answer the quiz questions as best you can **from memory.** Give yourself a mark out of 10 using the answers on the next page! NO CHEATING!

The Early Settlement of the West
Quiz Questions

Take 5 minutes to study the Cheat Sheet on this topic, then see how many questions you can get right without looking!

1. In what year was gold discovered?

   _____

2. By Spring 1849, how many miners were in California

   _____

3. What term is used when white settlers saw it their mission to 'civilise' Plains Indians as believed their culture was more advanced?

   _____

4. Who established the Oregon Trail in 1836?

   _____

5. What practice were Mormons persecuted for ?

   _____

6. Where did Mormons migrate to because of their persecution?

   _____

7. How many people in the Donner Party survived after being trapped in mountains while travelling the Oregon Trail?

   _____

8. What 1851 Act placed Plains Indians into reservations?

   _____

9. In which year was the first Fort Laramie Treaty passed?

   _____

10. Give one reason for lawlessness:

    /10

    _____

The early settlement of the West, c1835–c1862- Revision Review

Based on how you did with the previous activities, RAG the sub-topics based on your confidence within early settlement of the West. Green = You understand it really well. Amber = I know a bit but could know more. Red = Not confident in my knowledge on this at all.

Sub-topic	Confidence Level
Indigenous Peoples of the Plains	
Early Pioneers	
Farmers	
Mormons	
Gold Miners	

The Early Settlement of the West
Quiz Questions

Take 5 minutes to study the Cheat Sheet on this topic, then see how many questions you can get right without looking!

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1848

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40,000

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Manifest Destiny

4. Who established the Oregon Trail in 1836?

Jedediah Smith

5. What practice were Mormons persecuted for ?

Polygamy

6. Where did Mormons migrate to because of their persecution?

Great Salt Lake

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46 (out of 87)

8. What 1851 Act placed Plains Indians into reservations?

The Indian Appropriations Act

9. In which year was the first Fort Laramie Treaty passed?

1851

10. Give one reason for lawlessness:

Racial tension, lack of enforcement, new crimes, prostitution, gambling, alcohol

/10

Now you have completed some general revision and have an overview of early settlement of the West. The purpose of completing the RAG activity afterwards is you have now clear priorities of what you should revise first. The red sub-topics should be your first priority, then the amber sub-topics and finally the green.

Development of the Plains (c1862-1876) - General Revision

Read through this mind map. You will be tested on the next page.

Pacific Railroad Act 1862
Tasked two firms to construct the first transcontinental railroad: Central Pacific and Union Pacific
Government lent each operator $16,000 per mile of track
Voided the rights of Plains Indians' land across railroad
First Transcontinental Railroad was completed in May 1869

Homestead Act 1862
Provided incentives for people to take up the unclaimed land in the West
By 1876 homesteaders had claimed over 6 million acres of federal land
Some landowners sold their claims for profit which violated act's provisions

Problems Faced by Homesteaders:
- Lack of timber
- Hard, arid land
- Lack of water
- Natural disasters
- Small land holdings
- Disease
- Isolation

Ways to Overcome Problems
- Timber Culture Act 1873 - allowed homesteaders to have more land if they planted trees on half of it
- Mass produced machinery cultivated land
- New techniques of dry farming

Red Cloud's War 1866-68
The Bozeman Trail violated Fort Laramie Treaty by passing though hunting grounds of the Sioux
Red Cloud (leader of Sioux) assaulted path travellers
Captain William Fetterman and troops were massacred by Sioux in 1866
US army negotiated second Fort Laramie Treaty

Law & Order
- When a territory reached 60,000 people it became a state with its own legal system, before the federal government was in authority
- Federal government established the territory's laws and appointed a government, three judges and a federal marshal

John Iliff
One of the first ranchers to maintain cattle on the Plains
He sold meat to mining towns, Indian reservations and railroad employees and became Denver's first millionaire

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAINS, c1862–c1876

Cowboys - mostly young, single men, many of which where former soldiers, drifters or criminals on the run
Roles included:
- Driving cattle from Texas to cow towns
- Treating sick cattle
- Protecting cattle from rustlers

Goodnight-Loving Trail - established in 1886 and let to growth of cattle industry

- In 1867 McCoy created the cow town Abilene by building stockyards and hotels
- Was ideal location for cattle as there was grassland and water

Sand Creek Massacre 1864
Crop failure led to starvation of the Cheyenne on Sand Creek reservation
Chief Black Kettle led attack on wagon trains and stole food
Despite negotiations, Colonial Chivington conducted a raid, killing more than 150 Indians

Impact on Plains Indians
- Railway - disrupted buffalo
- Cattle - cattle and buffalo fought for pastures, cattle trails traversed Indian land
- Gold - Plains Indians were murdered or forced to leave if gold was discovered on their territory
By 1885 Plains Indians lost the right to govern themselves

Second Fort Laramie Treaty 1868
US Army closed forts on Bozeman Trail, Sioux agreed not to attack travellers, gave US power to punish anyone who broke treaty

Little Crow's War 1862
Crop failure in 1861 and food promised by gov did not arrive
Little Crow and others stormed agency in 1862 and stole food, burned building and killed several US soldiers
Most Santee surrendered, were captured or killed

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By 1885 Plains Indians lost the right to _____ themselves

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Answer the quiz questions as best you can **from memory**. Give yourself a mark out of 10 using the answers on the next page! NO CHEATING!

Development of the Plains
Quiz Questions

Take 5 minutes to study the Cheat Sheet on this topic, then see how many questions you can get right without looking!

1. In which year was the Pacific Railroad Act passed?

   _____

2. What did the Homestead Act 1862 do?

   _____

3. Give two problems faced by homesteaders:

   _____

   _____

4. What population did a territory need to have before it became a state?

   _____

5. Who was Denver's first millionaire?

   _____

6. Which town did McCoy make into the first cow town?

   _____

7. What year was the second Fort Laramie Treaty passed?

   _____

8. During what event did Colonial Chivington conduct a raid killing more than 150 Indians?

   _____

9. Which trail violated the Fort Laramie Treaty by passing through hunting grounds of the Sioux?

   _____

10. Which captain and his troops were massacred during Red Cloud's War?

    /10

   _____

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Sub-topic	Confidence Level
Government Acts and Treaties	
Problems for Homesteaders and their solutions	
Conflict with Plains Indians	
Cattle ranching and the impacts of it	
Law and Order	

Development of the Plains Quiz Questions

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1862

2. What did the Homestead Act 1862 do?

Provided incentives for people to take up unclaimed land in the West

3. Give two problems faced by homesteaders:

Lack of timber, hard land, lack of water, natural disasters, small land holdings, disease, isolation

4. What population did a territory need to have before it became a state?

60,000

5. Who was Denver's first millionaire?

John Iliff

6. Which town did McCoy make into the first cow town?

Abilene

7. What year was the second Fort Laramie Treaty passed?

1868

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Bozeman Trail

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Captain William Fetterman

/10

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Read through this mind map. You will be tested on the next page.

Billy the Kid
Well-known criminal known for escaping capture
In 1878 got embroiled in Lincoln Country War and vowed vengeance when his friends were killed

Wyatt Earp
Local lawman in Wichita
After feuding with the Clantons and McLaurys he and his brother massacred them at OK Corral in 1881

Johnson County War 1892
- Conflict over the ownership and use of the ranches
- Small ranches' tensions grew towards larger ranches as they had all the power
- After the winter of 1886, large ranches accused small ranches of stealing cattle
- The WSGA planned an invasion of Johnson County and hired 22 gunmen, seeking to kill 70 men
- The gunmen shot Nate Champion and locals were outraged
- The US 6th Cavalry arrived and saved them

Oklahoma Land Rush 1893
The land in the middle of the Plains was not occupied by Indians and the government opened it
Thousands of people rushed to claim land

Exoduster Movement 1879
→ Civil War led to abolition of slavery
→ Rumour spread that the federal government was giving the entire state of Kansas to ex-slaves
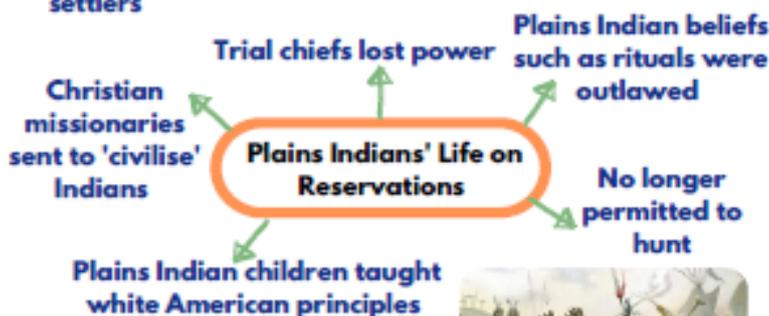→ Triggered migration of 40,000 black Americans to Kansas

Dawes Act 1887
- Plains Indian families were allotted 160 acre homestead from their reservation land
- Aimed to break up power of tribes
- Encouraged Native Americans to integrate into white society
- Would free up land for white settlers

3. CONFLICTS AND CONQUEST, c1876-c1895

Plains Indians' Life on Reservations
- Trial chiefs lost power
- Plains Indian beliefs such as rituals were outlawed
- Christian missionaries sent to 'civilise' Indians
- No longer permitted to hunt
- Plains Indian children taught white American principles

Battle of Little Big Horn 1876
- The Sioux were granted reserve in South Dakota in Second Fort Laramie Treaty, US offered to buy it but Sioux declined
- Many Sioux and Cheyenne warriors fled reservations, the gov required them to return or face death but thick snow made this impossible
- Army commander Custer and 200 soldiers led attack on the Native Americans, but they were vastly outnumbered and were killed in less than an hour

Hunting and Extermination of Buffalo
→ Killed by tourists
→ Hides used to make leather goods
→ Grassland where they fed was destroyed
→ Caught diseases spread by cattle and horses
→ Killed to feed construction workers

Wounded Knee Massacre 1890
- The US Cavalry were sent to disarm the Sioux and arrest Big Foot (their leader), someone resisted and soldiers opened fire
- Over 250 Sioux and 25 US soldiers were killed
- It was the final battle between Sioux and US Army
- Wounded Knee became a symbol of oppression

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Conflict and Conquest
Quiz Questions

Take 5 minutes to study the Cheat Sheet on this topic, then see how many questions you can get right without looking!

1. Which well-known criminal was known for escaping capture?

_____

2. Where did Wyatt Earp and his brother massacre members of the Clantons and McLaurys?

_____

3. How many gunmen did the WSGA hire during the Johnson County War?

_____

4. How many black Americans migrated to Kansas during the Exoduster Movement?

_____

5. In which battle were Custer and 200 soldiers killed in less than an hour?

_____

6. How many Sioux were killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre 1890?

_____

7. Give one way in which Plains Indians' lives changed on reservations:

_____

8. Which 1887 act encouraged Native Americans to integrate into white society?

_____

9. In what year was the Oklahoma Land Rush?

_____

10. Give one reason why buffalo populations significantly decreased:

_____

_____

/10

Conflicts and Conquest (1876-1895) - Revision Review

Based on how you did with the previous activities, RAG the sub-topics based on your confidence within conflicts and conquest Green = You understand it really well. Amber = I know a bit but could know more. Red = Not confident in my knowledge on this at all.

Sub-topic	Confidence Level
Plains Indians' life on reservations	
Conflicts with Plains Indians	
Extermination of the buffalo	
Reasons for further migration westwards	
Johnson County War of 1892	
Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid	

Conflict and Conquest Quiz Questions

Take 5 minutes to study the Cheat Sheet on this topic, then see how many questions you can get right without looking!

1. Which well-known criminal was known for escaping capture?

Billy the Kid

2. Where did Wyatt Earp and his brother massacre members of the Clantons and McLaurys?

OK Corral

3. How many gunmen did the WSGA hire during the Johnson County War?

22

4. How many black Americans migrated to Kansas during the Exoduster Movement?

40,000

5. In which battle were Custer and 200 soldiers killed in less than an hour?

Battle of Little Big Horn 1876

6. How many Sioux were killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre 1890?

Over 250

7. Give one way in which Plains Indians' lives changed on reservations:

Chiefs lost power, couldn't hunt, rituals outlawed, taught white principles, etc.

8. Which 1887 act encouraged Native Americans to integrate into white society?

Dawes Act

9. In what year was the Oklahoma Land Rush?

1893

10. Give one reason why buffalo populations significantly decreased:

Killed by tourists, hides used for leather, grassland destroyed, disease, killed to feed workers

/10

Now you have completed some general revision and have an overview of conflicts and conquest. The purpose of completing the RAG activity afterwards is you have now clear priorities of what you should revise first. The red sub-topics should be your first priority, then the amber sub-topics and finally the green. Continue on for some specific tasks on how to revise each of these.