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Printed in the USA in August 2025.

ISBN: 978-1-968294-41-0



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**Problems** 

**Lesson One:** The Last Frontier

Lesson Three: The Gilded Age

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Political Scandal, America Turns to Right, The End of the Cold War

**Lesson One:** The Last Frontier

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The Dawn of a New Century

**Lesson One:** The Last Frontier

**Lesson Two:** Urbanization

Lesson Three: The Gilded Age

Lesson Four: Early Efforts for Workers' Rights

**Lesson Five:** New Developments

# Unit One



# Change in the United States

**LESSON ONE: THE LAST FRONTIER** 

**LESSON TWO: URBANIZATION** 

**LESSON THREE:** THE GILDED AGE

**LESSON FOUR: EARLY EFFORTS FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS** 

**LESSON FIVE: NEW DEVELOPMENTS** 



# Key Events

## **CHAPTER ONE**

| 1877 | Rutherford B. Hayes Becomes President                      |
|------|--|
| 1877 | The End of Reconstruction                                  |
| 1877 | The Dawes Act  |
| 1880 | The Great Immigration Begins                               |
| 1881 | Standard Oil Trust Controls 90 Percent of the Oil Industry |
| 1881 | President James Garfield is Assassinated                   |
| 1883 | Pendleton Civil Service Act is Passed                      |
| 1886 | The Haymarket Riot   |
| 1896 | Plessy v. Ferguson is Decided in the Supreme Court         |
| 1896 | William Jennings Bryan Runs for President                  |
| 1889 | Hull House is Established                                  |

#### U.S. PRESIDENTS 1877-1898

| PRESIDENT           |   | NUMBER | YEARS                  | MAJOR EVENT  |
|---------------------|---|--------|------------------------|--|
| Rutherford B. Hayes |   | 19     | 1877-1881              | End of Reconstruction                                |
| James A. Garfield   |   | 20     | 1881                   | Assassinated in office                               |
| Chester A. Arthur   | 9 | 21     | 1881-1885              | Pendleton Civil Service Act<br>Chinese Exclusion Act |
| Grover Cleveland    |   | 22, 24 | 1885–1893<br>1893–1897 | Nationwide railroad strike                           |
| Benjamin Harrison   |   | 23     | 1889-1893              | McKinley Tariff Act                                  |

#### Teacher's Notes

# Key Events

#### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### 1877 Rutherford B. Hayes Becomes President

The presidential race of 1876 has some of the returns contested. An informal deal is made between Democrats and Republicans. Hayes becomes the president and agrees to end Reconstruction and build a transcontinental railroad in the South.

#### 1877 The End of Reconstruction

The Compromise of 1877 resolves the disputed presidential election of 1876. This agreement causes Republican Rutherford B. Hayes to become president, but only after he agrees to withdraw federal troops from the South, effectively ending Reconstruction. This withdrawal allows white Democrats to regain control of Southern states and suppress the rights of African Americans.

#### 1877 The Dawes Act

The Dawes Act is a federal law meant to create divisions among Native Americans and break up their tribal way of life in order to assimilate them into the mainstream American culture. It is done by breaking up ancestral tribal lands and giving them to individual families.

#### 1880 The Great Immigration Begins

Fueled by a combination of poverty and political and social unrest, as well as the promise of economic opportunity, masses of Europeans emigrate to the U.S.

#### 1881 Standard Oil Trust Controls 90 Percent of the Oil Industry

Standard Oil is a corporate entity that controls most of the oil refining and distribution in the United States. It is founded by John. D. Rockefeller in order to consolidate and manage his vast oil empire by creating a monopoly.

#### 1881 President James Garfield is Assassinated

Garfield is shot and severely wounded by Charles J. Guiteau because Guiteau is angry about being denied a political appointment he feels he deserves.

#### 1882 The First Chinese Exclusion Act is Passed

This act prohibits the immigration of Chinese laborers for ten years. This is the first time the U.S. government restricts immigration based on race and ethnicity. The act is a direct result of anti-immigrant sentiment and economic worries, where many attribute job losses and economic difficulties to Chinese laborers.

#### 1883 Pendleton Civil Service Act is Passed

The act is a response to public outcry over corruption and abuse within the federal government. The Pendleton Civil Service Act marks a significant shift in how federal government jobs are awarded. It institutes a merit-based system and establishes oversight.

#### 1886 The Haymarket Riot

The Haymarket Riot occurs when a labor protest rally near Chicago's Haymarket Square turns into a riot after someone throws a bomb at police. The Haymarket Riot is viewed as a setback for the organized labor movement in America because people suspect unions of supporting violence.

#### 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson is Decided in the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court rules that state laws requiring racial segregation in public facilities are constitutional as long as the facilities for each race are equal.

#### 1896 William Jennings Bryan Runs for President

Bryan is a charismatic speaker as well as a great proponent of bimetallism. He is chosen to be the Populist candidate for president as well as the Democratic Party candidate. However, William McKinley, who stands for big business, wins the election of 1896.

#### 1889 Hull House is Established

Hull House is the first settlement house in the United States. Its purpose is to help immigrants and the poor in the area by providing educational, cultural, and community services.

## Lesson One

#### THE LAST FRONTIER 1865-1900

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Describe the Western frontier before the Civil War.
- · Explain how discoveries of gold changed the face of the West.
- · Describe the cattle ranges.
- Describe how farming developed in the West.
- Discuss how westward expansion affected Native Americans.

Before the Civil War, the land west of the Mississippi was ignored, except for the Oregon Territory and places where gold was discovered. The area included the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains, and the Western Plateau. The Great Plains received very little rainfall during the hot summers and were subjected to harsh blizzards in the winter. Most of the plains were filled with herds of buffalo, which supplied Native Americans with food, clothing, shelter, and tools.

Farmers began to settle this land when Congress passed the Homestead Act in 1862. The government offered 160 acres of land to any family that would settle there for five years. About 500,000 farmers took advantage of the Homestead Act. Speculators also took advantage of the situation, often claiming the best land and forcing the poorer population to purchase the land from them.

Many people, both American-born and immigrants, traveled to the new frontier with hopes for a bright future. Among them were Exodusters, Black Americans who wished to leave the South and immigrate to Kansas.

The development of the railroad system across the country would make travel between East and West more feasible and shorten the travel time across the continent. It was also a better way to transport goods across the United States. But trains were expensive, and many people still traveled to the West the old-fashioned way, by horseback and wagon. This was a more dangerous way to travel, as the people faced wild animals and hostile Native Americans along the route.

Housing for the homesteaders was very limited. There were few trees on the Great Plains. Therefore, homesteaders took to building sod houses, using the ground that lay underneath the grass. The pioneers dug the blocks of sod and laid them one on top of the other to build the walls of the house. They then laid either wood or canvas for a roof. While the sod houses insulated the people who lived in them from the elements, extreme heat, and cold, the blocks of dirt also contained insects and rodents.

Those who attempted to farm the land found many obstacles that were difficult to overcome. The weather was harsh, as described earlier, and the settlements were separated by great distances, which caused isolation among the people. A great obstacle to successful farming was the almost yearly invasion of hordes of grasshoppers that consumed the farmers' crops.

Some innovations were created to help the settlers. Because the land had few trees, it was difficult for farmers to build fences to protect their land. Barbed wire, invented in 1874, was brought to the farmers to replace the need for wood fences. Windmills were purchased to power the machinery used to dig deep wells, which gave farmers access to underground water.

Still, it was challenging to run a self-sustaining farm. The extreme weather, the fall in crop prices, and the expense of materials led many to give up their dream of turning this land into successful farms.

Some ingenious farmers were able to hold out and turn the land into successful farms. They used methods that made water available for their crops even though it was deep underground. In addition, they planted a strong strain of wheat imported from Russia that could withstand the harsh weather. Eventually, advanced technology allowed dams to be built on rivers, which provided water to irrigate the farms.

In 1899, Oklahoma, known as the last territory, was open to white settlers. When that land was settled, the era of the frontier ended, but it would live on in American culture until modern times, though often distorted from reality.

#### Teacher's Notes

Another group of people who came west were prospectors motivated by the lure of gold. Gold had been found in California as early as 1848. There were continuous strikes of gold from that time until the late 1890s. People came to places where gold or silver were rumored to have been found, each individual hoping to make it rich.

Mining camps and frontier towns were developed along the places where people had found gold and silver. The living conditions were far from desirable. In general, the camps and towns were filthy and unruly. They were governed by vigilante justice. Vigilantes are self-appointed citizens who take the law into their own hands. When the gold or silver ran out, prospectors left, and the businesses that had opened to support them closed. These empty towns were known as ghost towns.

Not all mining camps and towns dissolved. Some grew into small cities such as Helena, Montana, and Virginia City, Nevada. Others developed over time into major cities, such as San Francisco and Sacramento in California and Denver in Colorado.

Another lucrative business began to grow from the grasslands of Texas to Canada. Frontier cattle were wild herds of cattle that roamed the grasslands. After the Civil War, the demand for beef increased, especially in the industrial north. Cattle drives were organized to bring the much-desired cows to Kansas to be shipped east, slaughtered, and sold. But there were problems. At the same time that the ranchers wanted to send the cattle east, settlements were forming across the Great Plains. Farmers built barbed-wire fences to stop cattle from trampling on their land and destroying the crops.

With the growth of the railroad industry, a solution was found by James McCoy, a cattle dealer from Springfield, Illinois. He discovered a place where the cattle drives and the railroads met, in Abilene, Kansas. Cattle pens were built in Abilene to keep the cattle until the trains arrived. A railroad called the Chisholm Trail was surveyed and built for the cattle and the cowboys bringing them there. This gave a clear path from San Antonio, Texas, through Oklahoma to Kansas. The cattle were then put on trains and taken East, where they were sold at a great profit to the ranchers. Ranchers hired more cowboys to help bring their cattle to the market, and ranching became a lucrative business. Much of the cowboys' practices were taken from Mexican vaqueros, who were early cowboys.

Native Americans suffered terribly from the growth of white settlement along the frontier. During Andrew Jackson's presidency (1829-1837), the government expelled all Native Americans from the land east of the Mississippi and declared that any land west of the Mississippi would belong to them. However, this plan did not remain in place. Land on the Great Plains during this time was rapidly being taken over by homesteaders and miners.

The Native American tribes who lived on the Great Plains were the Sioux, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Crow, and Comanche. They were hunter-gatherers, expert horseback riders who hunted buffalo, which swarmed across the plains. The Native Americans relied on the buffalo for all of their needs.

As settlers and railroads increased across the Great Plains, the government changed its policy. In order to provide more land for the white settlers, the government created new treaties that divided the land and defined the borders of the various tribes. Though some chiefs did sign the treaties with the government, the majority did not. This led to a series of Indian Wars fought in the latter half of the century. A few were won by the Native Americans, but in most wars, the Native Americans were massacred.

**The Sand Creek Massacre (1864):** Despite agreeing to sign a treaty, some Cheyenne tribes went to Sand Creek River for the winter. There, the Native Americans flew a U.S. flag and a white flag to symbolize their loyalty to the country and a desire for peace. Despite that, the U.S. troops attacked the village at night and murdered 200 men, women, and children.

**The Red River War (1874–75):** The Kiowa and Cheyenne refused to go to a reservation assigned to them. U.S. soldiers murdered all the men and took the women and children captive.

Custer's Last Stand (1876): The Sioux, Lakota, and Cheyenne tribes gathered at the banks of the Little Bighorn River in Montana. Two Lakota warriors were Chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. General Custer was sent to return the Native American warriors to the reservations. He underestimated his enemies and was highly outnumbered by the Native American warriors. Custer and his entire unit were killed in battle. The battle became known as Custer's Last Stand.

The Battle of Wounded Knee (1890): A spiritual movement began among the Native American Sioux tribe. It was symbolized by a Native American dance called the Ghost Dance. The Native Americans believed that their constant defeats and suffering were a punishment for their sins. The U.S. army wished to put down this movement. It began by trying to arrest the leader, Sitting Bull. During the attempt to capture him, Sitting Bull was killed.

#### Teacher's Notes

Then, the U.S. army told the Native Americans to surrender their weapons. A shot was fired by an unknown person, and the battle began. One hundred fifty Native Americans were murdered at a cave near Wounded Knee Creek. Most of those killed were women and children. The Battle of Wounded Knee was the last major battle of the Indian Wars.

War was not the only way that the United States interfered in the Native Americans' way of life. The most important animal for the survival of the Native Americans was the buffalo. Buffalo meat was a major food source for them. Buffalo hides were used for clothing and to construct their tents, bones were made into tools, and horns were made into bowls and spoons. No part of the beast was wasted. The Native Americans were also careful to preserve the stock of living buffalo and only killed them when they were needed for their supplies.

The companies building railroads across the Great Plains hired hunters to hunt buffalo in order to provide the workers with food. Buffalo were slaughtered indiscriminately, and most of the dead buffalo went to waste. The sport of hunting buffalo for recreation became popular, and the carcasses of the dead buffalo lay across the plains. The buffalo population had been 15,000,000 in 1800. By the year 1870, only 1,000 were left. This destroyed a source of food and valuable material for the Native Americans, who were so heavily dependent on them for their way of life.

Another way the U.S. government worked to destroy the Native Americans and their way of life was through assimilation. Children were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to boarding schools in the East. There, they were taught that the Native American culture was superstitious and primitive. The children were educated in U.S. culture and provided with skills useful in the white man's society. The children were then sent home, where their skills were useless. Robbed of their culture, the children were now alienated from their parents, but if they tried to enter the world of the white man, they were not accepted and were discriminated against.

Another plan by the government to assimilate Native Americans into white society was a new law called the Dawes Act. It was initiated by Senator Henry Dawes of Massachusetts in 1877. The rationale behind the law was to take the Native Americans away from their traditional way of life and force them to become capitalists in order to make a living.

The law gave families 160 acres of land to farm, thereby separating the Native Americans from their tribal system and instead grouping them as families. Forcing the Native Americans to live like the typical American family would mean a father figure as the head of the family, contrary to the Native American family life, where women played a significant role. The new farming family also destroyed their communal structure.

The Dawes Act allotted 90 million acres of land, but contrary to the law, much of the land was given to white settlers. Many Native Americans lost their land because they could not earn enough to offset the cost of the machinery and basic items needed to make a farm sustainable. When the debts were not paid, the government repossessed the land.

Thus, the saga of the Native Americans ended with death, poverty, and a weakened culture. Many view the treatment of the Native Americans as a dark blot in American history.

#### **TEACHER'S NOTES**

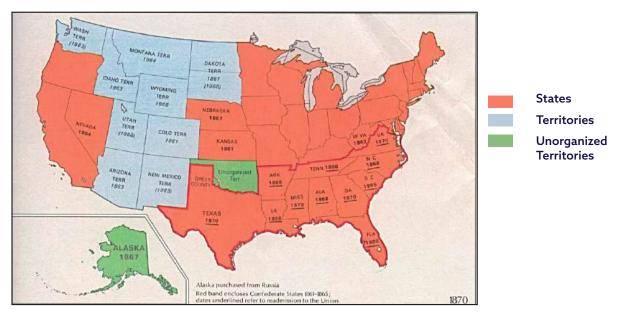
A spiritual movement began among the Sioux tribe. It was symbolized by a Native American dance called the "Ghost Dance." The movement expressed the idea that their suffering was a punishment for abandoning their traditional ways.

## Lesson One

# THE LAST FRONTIER 1865-1900

#### A. The Western Frontier

The time after the Civil War was a time of tremendous growth in the lands west of the Mississippi River. The area was known as the Great American Desert before the Civil War. Most people did not settle in this region but just traveled through to reach the gold mines of California or the farmland in Oregon Territory.



Territorial growth of the United States, 1870

The climate in the West was not easy for settlers. There was little rainfall each year and heavy blizzards in the winter. Most of the land was occupied by **Native Americans**, who had been given this land during the presidency of Andrew Jackson. The land suited their lifestyle very well. They were hunter-gatherers and excellent horsemen. The Great Plains were home to large buffalo herds, which the Native Americans hunted for food and other necessities.

#### B. The Homestead Act

In 1862, Congress passed a law to encourage settlers to move west. This law, called the **Homestead** Act, allowed Americans to receive 160 acres of land for free, provided that they stayed on the land for five years.

The law was a great opportunity for farmers and immigrants. Unfortunately, the law was not written clearly. Many **speculators**<sup>1</sup> took advantage of the law's loopholes and took land to sell to others. Only about 500,000 people received free land, and many others had to pay the speculators a price to own the land.

1 speculators: investors

After the Civil War, many former slaves took advantage of this opportunity to leave the South. These people called themselves the Exodusters and settled mainly in Kansas.

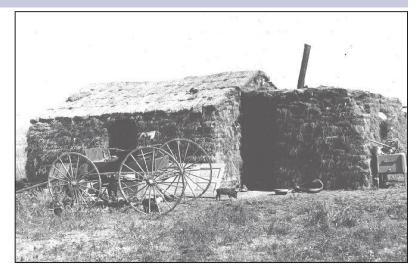
New railroad systems kept Western settlers connected to the East. The railroads could transport goods quickly.

#### C. Settling on the Plains

It was not easy for the newcomers to settle on the Great Plains. There were few trees for wood. To build homes, many settlers made large bricks out of **sod.**<sup>2</sup> The **roof** was made of wood or canvas.

The sod houses helped block out heat and cold, but the dirt had insects and rodents. The houses were not very beautiful or comfortable, but the building materials were free.

The settlers faced many challenges while building up their farms. Besides the lack of rain and heavy winter blizzards, insects such as grasshoppers would often attack their crops.



A sod house

About two-thirds of all homesteaders left their failed farms by the year 1900.

Farmers found clever ways to overcome hardships. They dug deep in the ground to find water for their crops. They imported stronger wheat from Russia that could grow in the harsh weather. Eventually, people learned how to build dams on rivers, which provided water for their farms.

The settlers had very little wood to build fences around their crops to keep out thieves and animals. In 1874, barbed wire was invented. This allowed them to build fencing and protect the land.



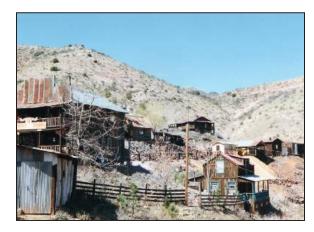
A barbed-wire fence Credit: Pschemp, Wikimedia

#### D. Mining Camps

In 1848, gold was discovered in California, and many people moved to the area. This became known as the California Gold Rush. Throughout the rest of the century, people traveled to places where others had found gold or silver in the hopes of striking it rich.

**Prospectors**<sup>3</sup> built living spaces and frontier towns. This helped the area grow. Many people moved to the future states of Colorado, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, and Arizona.

The conditions in the mining camps and frontier towns were very difficult. The towns and camps were lawless and dirty. However, some towns grew into big cities, such as Helena, Montana, and Virginia City, Nevada. Others became deserted "ghost towns" when the gold or silver ran out. The buildings remained, but no people lived there anymore.



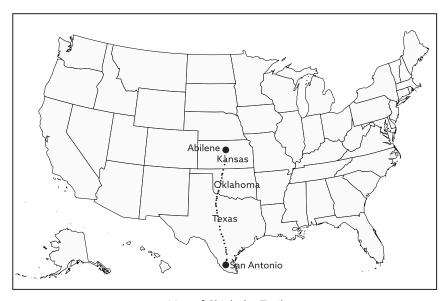
A ghost town in Arizona Credit: Andrew Dunn, Wikimedia

#### E. The Cattle Drive

Demand for meat grew in the East, creating another way to make money in the West. Wild herds of cattle roamed the plains. Cattle ranchers would hire cowboys to lead the animals to the East in what is called cattle drives. There, they were **slaughtered** and sold.

The people leading the cattle were called cowboys. They learned how to do this from Mexican cowboys, called *vaqueros*.

The cattle drives would go through fields and trample the crops, so farmers placed barbed-wire fences around their property. This created problems for the cattle ranchers. James McCoy solved the problem by building cattle pens in Abilene, Kansas. That's where the cattle drives met the Transcontinental Railroad. This kept the animals safe until the trains going east came by. He also created a path called the Chisholm Trail that went from San Antonio, Texas, through Oklahoma to Abilene. This path allowed the cattle drivers to travel to the railroad station freely.



Map of Chisholm Trail

<sup>3</sup> prospectors: people searching for natural minerals

#### F. The Native Americans

As people settled in the West, this harmed the Sioux, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Crow, and Comanche who lived on the Great Plains. Although a U.S. law granted the Native people all the land west of the Mississippi, people did not respect this rule. Many settlers, miners, railroads, and ranchers invaded their land as they moved farther and farther West.

The government kept changing the laws about Native territories as more settlers moved West. New treaties were written, taking away more and more land from the Native Americans. Some chiefs signed these treaties, but most did not, leading to the Indian Wars (1864-1890). The Native Americans won a few battles, but in most, they were killed out.

| BATTLE  | DATE      | TRIBES                         | EVENTS   |  |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Sand Creek Massacre                                     | 1864      | Cheyenne                       | The Cheyenne went to Sand Creek River for the winter. There, they flew a U.S. flag and a white flag to symbolize their desire for peace. Despite this, U.S. troops attacked the village at night and killed 200 men, women, and children.  |  |
| Red River War   | 1874-1876 | Kiowa,<br>Cheyenne             | The Kiowa and Cheyenne refused to go to<br>a reservation assigned to them. The U.S.<br>Cavalry killed the men and took the women<br>and children captive.  |  |
| "Custer's Last Stand"<br>(Battle of the Little Bighorn) | 1876      | Sioux, Lakota,<br>and Cheyenne | General George Armstrong Custer was sent to return the Sioux, Lakota, and Cheyenne to the reservations that had been designated for them. Custer was greatly outnumbered by the Native Americans. He and his whole unit were killed in the battle, which has become known as "Custer's Last Stand."  |  |
| Battle of Wounded Knee                                  | 1890      | Sioux                          | The U.S. Army wished to put down a religious movement among the Sioux. They told the Sioux to surrender their weapons. A shot was fired by an unknown person, and the battle began. Army troops killed 150 near a creek called Wounded Knee. Most of the victims were women and children. This was the last of the battles in the Indian Wars. |  |

#### G. Further Destruction of Native Life

#### "Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone."

-Colonel Richard Dodge

Besides the wars, Native Americans were harmed by the herds of **buffalo** killed by the settlers.

When railroads were built, the buffalo would block the workers. Railroad companies hired buffalo hunters to kill entire herds. Some of the meat was eaten, but most was left to rot. Some buffalo were also shot for sport. In 1800, there were 15 million buffalo in the Great Plains. By 1870, only 1,000 were left.

The U.S. government wished to make Native children more like other Americans. They would send the **Indigenous**<sup>4</sup> children to boarding schools in the East. There, they were taught that their native culture was "savage" and backward. The children's hair was cut, and they were dressed in American clothing. The children were taught **vocational**<sup>5</sup> skills to help them get jobs.

When the children returned home, they had nothing in common with their parents. Despite their **Americanization**, they continued to face discrimination from American people, and they could not get jobs.



Chief Sitting Bull, 1883

The Dawes Act of 1877 offered 160 acres of land for each Native person to farm. The purpose was to pull Native Americans away from their traditional way of life. Farming separated the Native Americans from their tribes. Indigenous farmers would live like a typical American family, with no tribal connection.

In total, 90 million acres were given to Native Americans. However, much of the land was taken by white settlers. Most Indigenous farmers did not succeed because the equipment was very expensive. When debts went unpaid, the government took back the land.

Thus, the way of life of the Native Americans ended with death, poverty, and a weakened culture. Many view the U.S. government's treatment of Native Americans as a stain on the country's history.

<sup>4</sup> Indigenous: native; present before the arrival of Europeans

<sup>5</sup> vocational: relating to a profession

# Review

# Key Terms

Define each word.

| ghost town | deserted town           |
|------------|-------------------------|
| sod        | dirt under the grass    |
| speculator | investor                |
| vocational | related to a profession |

# People of Interest

| Crazy Horse  | a great Lakota warrior   |
|--------------|--|
| James McCoy  | the person who developed the system to export cattle from the West to the East |
| Sitting Bull | great Lakota warrior who was killed in the Battle of Wounded Knee              |

# Places to Know

| Abilene, Kansas       | where pens were built to hold cattle until the trains arrived to ship them to the North and the East |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Chisholm Trail        | path for cattle to be driven from San Antonio, Texas, through Oklahoma to<br>Abilene, Kansas         |  |  |
| Great American Desert | name given to the land west of the Mississippi River before the Civil War                            |  |  |
| Great Plains          | area of flat land west of the Mississippi River that was settled during the Homestead Act            |  |  |

Answer the following questions.

| 1  | List the way | s that the Great | Plains changed at | ter Congress | nassed the Hor  | nestead Act  |
|----|--------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ι. | List the way | /S mai me Great  | riains changed a  | ter Congress | passeu tile nor | nesteau Act. |

1. The buffalo were killed almost to extinction. 2. Settlers began to occupy, build on, and farm the land that Native Americans had lived on for centuries. 3. Railroads were built. 4. Mining camps and towns were built. 5. The Great Plains became the source of many Native American battles against the U.S. army.

Bloom's Taxonomy: Analyze | Historical Thinking Skills: Change and Continuity

2. Describe the sod houses built on the Great Plains.

The houses were built with large bricks of sod, the land that lay under the grass. The roof was made of either wood or canvas. The houses protected the settlers from the elements, but the walls contained rodents and insects.

Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding | Historical Thinking Skills: Historical Context

3. What caused the growth of the cattle industry after the Civil War? What was the effect?

There was a great demand for meat in the East. The result was an increase in cattle being sent East for consumption and providing a lucrative business for cattle ranchers.

Bloom's Taxonomy: Apply | Historical Thinking Skills: Cause and Effect

4. Compare and contrast the way the Native Americans and Americans of European descent treated the buffalo.

The Native Americans treated the buffalo with respect. They only killed them when necessary and then used every part of the buffalo for their needs. The Americans of European descent hired people to shoot them in order to deprive the Native Americans of an important resource.

Bloom's Taxonomy: Apply | Historical Thinking Skills: Compare and Contrast

#### 5. Was the Dawes Act a success? Explain in detail.

The Dawes Act attempted to assimilate Indigenous people into a white way of living. The Act failed to achieve its goals. Though a large amount of land was set aside for Native Americans, white settlers wound up owning much of it. The Dawes Act destroyed the tribal system, which was the backbone of Native American life, and changed the traditional way families lived. The equipment and seed needed to create successful farms were expensive, and when Native Americans could not afford to pay back the money they borrowed, their land was confiscated.

 ${\bf Bloom's \ Taxonomy: \ Evaluating \ | \ } Historical \ Thinking \ Skills: \ Creating \ a \ Historical \ Argument$