

Indians roam freely on the Plains

Limited violence between settlers & Indians

1810

1820

1824 Bureau of Indian Affairs

1830

1840

1850

1860

Indian hunting grounds

1830 Indian Removal Act

1851 Indian Appropriations Act

### The Plains



The Plains were desert-land – a mix of grass and flowing rivers with the **Black Hills**, heavily wooded, in the North. Closer to the **Rocky Mountains** grass was shorter, but in the East it grew tall. The more southerly you moved, the drier the land became. The Plains sees extremes of temperature – from **-40 degrees to +40 degrees**, with strong winds. This made it difficult to live on. Common wildlife was antelope, coyote, deer, rabbits, buffalo, plus eagles and hawks.

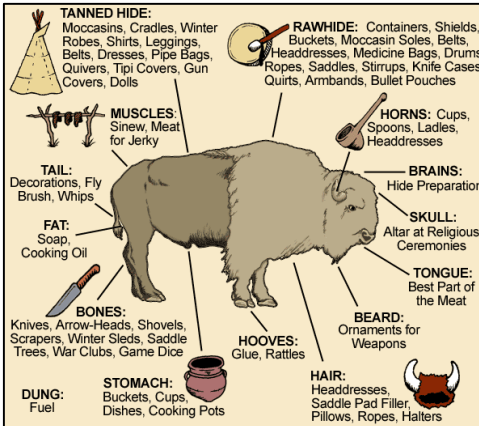
### The Horse

Horses did not originally exist in America. The Spanish brought them in the 1500s. Pueblo Indians stole them from the Spanish and they came to be traded amongst **Indian nations** by the late 1600s. Horses allowed Indians to move to the Plains and to **hunt buffalo** more easily. They gave up farming and became **nomadic**. As the horses needed grass, they couldn't live in big groups, so they lived in **small bands**. It also encouraged warfare between nations.



### The Buffalo

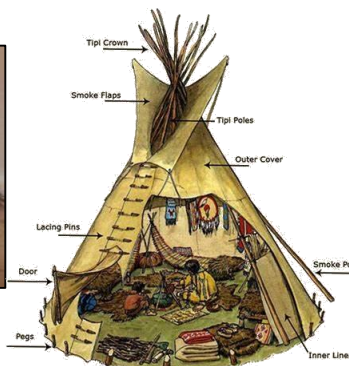
Before a hunt, the Sioux would stage a **Buffalo Dance**. Here, they would communicate with **Wakan Tanka** to ask for a good hunt. **Warrior Societies** would plan the hunts so as not to scare the buffalo. Two or three hunts a year were enough to feed the band. The Indians generally did not waste the buffalo and used as much of it as possible; only killing what they needed.



The women and children would then butcher the buffalo and use as much of its' body as possible, so as not to waste it.

### The Tipi

The **Tipi** (or **tepee/lodge**) was made from buffalo skin, held together with wooden pegs. It used very little timber, as there was not much on the Plains. It was the responsibility of the women. It could be **struck** (taken down) in around ten minutes, which made it ideal for their nomadic nature. It could then be turned into a **travois** and would hold all the goods within it. It was decorated according to how brave the warrior was.



### Society

Women were highly valued as they created the future of the band. Children didn't go to school but learned skills from extended family. The survival of the band was more important than any individual. Most **marriages** took place for love. Men went to live with his wife's family. Rich men were allowed to have more than one wife. This was because there were usually more women than men, and **polygamy** ensured the future of the band. At least once a year, all bands would meet as a **nation**. **Chiefs** achieved their power through prestige and bravery. If decisions were to be made then **councils** would meet. Advice from the **elders** would be heard. They would keep talking until they reached an agreement.

### Beliefs



The Sioux believed that everything had a **spirit**. They would contact their spirit world through visions. They could also carry out ceremonies and dances to talk to Wakan Tanka.

The **Sun Dance** was how a warrior would prove his bravery. He was suspended by his nipples from sun rise to sun set, whilst cutting pieces of his flesh in sacrifice. The Sioux believed that because everything had a spirit, land could not be owned or farmed. They saw it as **Mother Earth** and felt that they were born from it and would return to it. Some land, like the **Black Hills** was sacred.

### Warfare

Indian warriors carried out raids to seek revenge, or steal horses. It usually only happened in summer. **Scalping** was a common practice. Warriors believed that without your whole body, you couldn't go to the **Happy Hunting Ground** so scalping became a trophy so your enemy wouldn't meet you there. They also practiced **counting coup**; believing that it was much braver to be closer to your enemy and touch him, rather than shooting him from afar.

### Laws

The Indians began to prevent white settlers from expanding so laws were introduced. The 1830 **Indian Removal Act** created a **Permanent Indian Frontier** and moved Indians off of lands settlers wanted, into 'Indian Territory'. The **Indian Appropriations Act (1851)** attempted to 'civilise' Indians, as settlers moved further West, by putting them onto reservations and setting up schools.

Trappers, Traders, Mountain Men & settlers crossing the Plains to Oregon and California

1830

1836 Oregon Trail opens

1840

1845 – Manifest Destiny

1850

1859 Colorado Gold Rush  
1860

Plains Indians roam freely  
1837 Banks collapse.  
Mormons leave Kirtland

1838 Mormons leave Missouri

1846 Mormons begin to travel to Salt Lake

1849 California Gold Rush

1857-58 Mormon War

**Manifest Destiny**



Journalist John L Sullivan coined the phrase '**Manifest Destiny**' which meant that settlers believed that it was their God-given right to go West and expand the land that God had given to them. America continued to expand when the US **annexed** Texas & admitted it as the 28<sup>th</sup> state, after a Treaty was signed.

There was competition for land between British Canada and Mexico. Mexicans were driven out of Texas, & the US eventually won the battle of Buena Vista. This gave the US Texas, California & another huge area of land around it.

**Early Pioneers**

**Mountain Men** were the earliest pioneers. They lived in the Rocky Mountains trapping beavers to take their fur and sell at a **rendezvous** at Fort Laramie. They found routes through the Rocky Mountains and told travellers of the lush farmlands to the West. Mountain Men went on to act as guides for early pioneers travelling to Oregon and California.



**Origins of Mormonism**



**Joseph Smith** was visited in 1820 by the **Angel Moroni** who told him to start the Mormon religion. Joseph Smith dug up some gold plates in the hillside and translated them into the **Book of Mormon**. People began joining his religion and a community developed in Kirtland. They were anti-slave and pro-Indian.

**Mormon Pull Factors**

The Mormons chose **Salt Lake City** because:

- It was **virgin** land, where no one had been.
- It was **Mexican-owned**, meaning they weren't under control of the American government.
  - It had a **fresh water source**.
- It allowed them to follow **Manifest Destiny**.

**Mormons: Salt Lake City**

S	Spanish bricks
C	Church = central
I	Irrigation – water
L	Law – Danites
L	Land – divided fairly

S	Self-Sufficient
W	Wealth – Mormon bank
E	Emigration Fund
B	Brigham Young

Salt Lake was very successful but it wasn't perfect. Education was poor, the textiles industry didn't work and an attempt at iron-making also failed, costing them a lot of money.

**Mormon War**

One of the conditions of Salt Lake City becoming **the state of Utah** was that it had to have a **non-Mormon governor**. The Mormons tried to antagonise the US Army to prevent this from happening. When a wagon train of gentiles was camped in nearby Mountain, relations between Mormons & gentiles were still hostile. Events next are unclear but most of the gentiles (c.150) were killed, with several children being adopted into Mormon families. In 1858, the Mormons were pardoned but had to accept a non-Mormon governor and allow the US Army to enter Utah.

**Mormon Journey**

When the Mormons travelled to Salt Lake City, they did so successfully: their journey was LACED with success –  
**L** – Leader – Brigham Young was organised and hard-working  
**A** – Advance Parties – went ahead of the group to clear the way  
**C** – Checkpoints were set up like the Winter Quarters so they didn't travel the Rocky Mountains in winter  
**E** – Equipment – they made sure they were prepared for all situations  
**D** – Donner Party – learned from the Donner's mistakes & didn't repeat them. BUT they faced problems with Indian attacks and cholera.

**The Journey West**

The journey West would take pioneers months and was full of dangers like disease, animal attack, Indian attack. Different groups faced different problems: The Donner Party got trapped in the snow in the Rocky Mountain and resorted to cannibalism when they ran out of food. Only 46 of the original 87 survived.



Pioneers took wagons called **prairie schooners** covered in cloth, pulled by six oxen. The journey was 3000km and would last about 6 months.

**Push Factors (KMI) - Mormonism**

<b>Kirtland</b>	Mormons were traditionally bankers. When banks collapsed in 1837, Mormons were blamed and chased out.
<b>Missouri</b>	The Mormon religion grew and <b>gentiles</b> became frightened of the <b>Danite Army</b> . They were chased out in 1838.
<b>Illinois</b>	The Mormons set up <b>Nauvoo</b> but introduced <b>polygamy</b> . When Smith ran for president he was arrested and shot. They left in 1846.

**1849 Gold Rush**

In 1848 gold was discovered in California. Suddenly there was a huge rush of people trying to cross the Plains and make their fortunes. Some sailed but others followed the **California Trail**. By 1852, the population of California had gone from 15,000 to 250,000.  
**Chinese miners** were brought in to work in mines. Their travel had been paid, in exchange for their labour. This caused hostility with other miners.  
**Claim Jumping** was also a problem as law & order was poor in mining towns. This often resulted in gun fights & death.

1861 – outbreak of American Civil War	1863 – Emancipation Proclamation	1865 – End of American Civil War	1867 – Cattle drives begin	1870	1873 – Timber Culture Act	1875	1877 – Desert Land Act	1880s – Decline of cattle industry
1860		1865						1880

1862 – Homestead Act  
1862 – Pacific Railroad Act

1866 – Goodnight-Loving Trail opened

1867 – Abilene is established

1869 – Transcontinental Railroad complete

1874 – Barbed wire invented

1879 – Exoduster Movement

### The American Civil War



The Civil War began in 1861 over the debate over slavery. The North (Union) wanted to stop it and the South (Confederacy) wanted to continue it. Abraham Lincoln led the North and Jefferson Davis led the South. Whilst it was happening, the development of the Plains slowed down as government efforts were focused elsewhere. It eventually ended on 9th April 1865 when the Confederacy surrendered. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves with the **Emancipation Proclamation**.

### The Homestead Act - 1862

Many **demobilised** soldiers & ex-slaves had returned from Civil War with no home and the government wanted to encourage the spread of settlers onto the Plains. The Homestead Act offered **160 acres** for free, to farmers who would build a house and live on the homestead for 5 years.



### The Timber Culture Act - 1873

This provided a further 160 acres, as long as settlers planted 40 acres of trees to help the future development of the Plains by producing resources.

### The Desert Land Act - 1877

This Act gave settlers the opportunity to purchase 640 acres of land for very little money, where rainfall was a problem.

### The Exodusters - 1879

Many freed African Americans fled to Kansas on the promise of free land and hope for a better future, but it was not all it was made out to be.

### The Transcontinental Railroad



In 1862, the Pacific Railroad Act is passed which planned to create a railway track from East to West. The Central Pacific Railroad Company would start building in the West and the Union Pacific Railroad would start in the East (Nebraska). Both would build towards the middle. The companies were paid per mile of track they built and were paid a premium for track built through difficult terrain. It was completed in 1869 where both companies meeting at Promontory Point in Utah. The railroad allowed people to travel quickly to the West, encouraged the growth of cattle ranching and also had a negative impact on the survival of the Indians.

### Homesteader Problems & Solutions

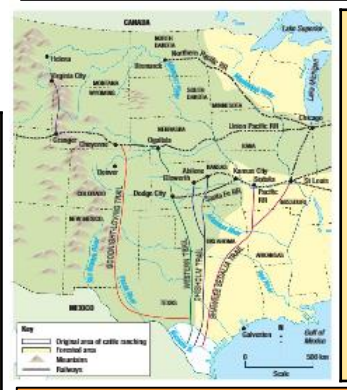
**PROBLEMS:**  
There was a **lack of water** on the Plains.  
There was a **lack of building materials** on the Plains.  
The **extreme temperatures** made it difficult to farm & live.  
**Hygiene** was problematic. They were very **remote**.

**SOLUTIONS:**  
The **Wind Pump** could use extreme weather to get water.  
**Dry farming** trapped moisture on the crops to help grow.  
**Steel-tipped ploughs** could break the hard land.  
The **Turkey Red Wheat** could withstand extreme conditions.

### Women

Women's lives were fairly tedious. They were responsible for cleaning and cooking and also helping with the farming. They often talk about how repetitive their lives were. If they had children, they had to be back working the following day, as everyone had to muck in.

### Growth of the Cattle Industry



**Texas Longhorns** were left on cattle ranches during the Civil War. When ranchers returned home, the population had exploded and there were 5 million cattle in Texas. A cow that was worth \$5 in Texas was worth \$50 in the East so they had to find a way of getting them to where demand was.

### Cattle Drives

Cowboys had to find routes to take their cattle to the railroad but they had to avoid homesteaders in case they spread **Texas Fever** to their livestock. Charles **Goodnight** pioneered a new trail (the **Goodnight-Loving Trail**) which avoided the homesteaders and provided the American Army with beef to feed the Indian reservations.

### Cow Towns

Joseph McCoy set up the first **cow town**, **Abilene** in 1867, where ranchers could rest where the drive met the railroad

### The Open Range

Initially, ranchers did not fence in their cattle. They claimed land on the Plains and **branded** their cattle, to stop **rustlers** from stealing them. Cowboys lived and work on the range.

### Cowboys

The cowboy's life was tough and poorly paid. Many were African Americans, or Mexicans & others were from Southern states, looking for work. They would ride alongside the cattle, ('**line riding**') to keep them together. They would also round up cattle with the lariats and ensuring they didn't stray whilst on the drive.

### End of the Open Range

After the 1880s, the cattle ranching began to decline. The grass had been overgrazed and cattle began to decline in quality. The demand for beef in the East also declined and an extremely cold winter of 1887 killed off 15% of cattle. Once barbed wire was invented, ranches began to be closed in.

1865

1870

1875

1878 – Lincoln County War

1880

1885

1890

1860 – Aurora established

1881 – Gunfight at OK Corral

1892 – Johnson County War

### Types of Crime



**Highway Robbery** – stage coaches or freight wagons could be held up by armed robbers. The coaches later employed guards to ride shotgun to prevent this.

**Bank Robbery** – Notoriously the James-Younger gang who carried out a string of robberies in the 60s & 70s.

**Train Robbery** – similar to highway robbery, they targeted the wealthy. Train companies reinforced the doors of carriages.

**Shootings** – Historians estimate that in the later 40 years of the 1800s over 20000 people died of ‘lead poisoning’ (shooting).

### Gold Mining

After gold was discovered in California, mining towns sprung up very quickly with very little infrastructure, meaning law enforcement was difficult.

**Racial tensions** between the Chinese and other miners were high – the Chinese lived in big camps to try to keep themselves safer, together.

**Claim Jumping** was also common – a miner jumping on another miner’s patch could easily lead to gun fights

### Law Enforcers

**US Marshals** – Were appointed by the president to oversee a territory.

**County Sheriff** – Elected for law enforcement across a county and tax collection. Appointed his own deputies.

**City Marshal** – Elected to a particular town. Ran the city jail.

**Vigilantes** – took the law into their own hands until they thought that justice had been served.

**The Pinkerton Detective Agency** – Private company set up in 1850 hired by banks and stage coaches to provide protection.



### Lincoln County War - 1878



**CAUSE:** The House was a store run by Murphy in Lincoln County and his ‘gang’ dominated all aspects of the town, including rustling cattle. In 1876, Tunstall arrives from England and sets up a rival business, with the support of smaller ranchers and farmers.

**EVENT:** Tunstall employed some tough cowboys to run his ranch, including **Billy the Kid**. House gunmen killed Tunstall in 1878. Tunstall’s gunmen called themselves **The Regulators** and began carrying out tit-for-tat killings, but ultimately House gunmen won.

**CONSEQUENCE:** More than 30 were killed and The House continued to dominate. Billy the Kid was on the run & famous.

### Gunfight at OK Corral - 1881

**CAUSE:** Silver was discovered in Arizona in 1877 & Tombstone was created from it. Rivalries grew between mining companies and small ranchers and ‘cowboys’.

**EVENT:** Virgil Earp was made Town Marshal of Tombstone, his brothers served as deputies. They had not always been law-abiding. A rivalry developed between the Earps and the ‘cowboys’, who had threatened to kill the Earps. Eventually, a stand-off took place where 3 ‘cowboys’ died and two Earps were wounded.

**CONSEQUENCES:** The Earps were accused of murder but not convicted. Tit-for-tat killings continued. The Earps left town but the control of the ‘cowboys’ had finally been broken and the town was back under miner control.

### Homesteaders / Ranchers

There was much rivalry between the two groups, for water supply, damage to crops, infections of cattle etc.

Throughout the late 1870s, ranchers continually tried to drive homesteaders out but with little success.

Sheep farming became more common but caused competition for grazing.

Once barbed wire was introduced, a fence cutting war broke out, as ranchers and homesteaders tried to ensure access to water.

### Johnson County War - 1892

**CAUSES:** Johnson County was becoming run by **cattle barons** who created the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. They felt threatened by **rustling** and blamed the homesteaders. They hired a hit squad to target over 70 homesteaders accused of rustling.

**EVENT:** Jim Averill and Ella Watson were first to be murdered, with some more attempts following. The barons planned to invade Johnson County but were held up by small-rancher Nate Champion. Alarm was raised and the US Cavalry arrived.

**CONSEQUENCES:** The hit squad were brought to trial but never charged but people did condemn the barons and their power dropped. There were several vigilante killings following this.

### Causes of Lawlessness

It was common for people to be armed so this escalated things. Money was often a motivator as jealousy between parties developed.

Because the Plains were so vast, it was very difficult for law enforcement to be effective. Once the Civil War ended there were lots of cultural differences between people on the Plains which caused racial tensions. Law enforcers had often been on the wrong side of the law!

1860	1864 – Sand Creek Massacre	1865	1866-68 – Red Cloud’s War	1870	1871 – Indian Appropriations Act	1875	1876 – Battle of Little Bighorn	1880	1883 – Destruction of Northern buffalo herd complete.	1885	1887 – Dawes Act	1890
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1862 – Little Crow’s War	1864-67 – Cheyenne Wars	1868 – Fort Laramie Treaty (II)	1875 – Destruction of Southern buffalo herd complete.	1876-77 Great Sioux War	1885 – All Native Americans on reservations	1890 – Wounded Knee Massacre
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**Conflict in Beliefs**



There were many differences in beliefs between the Sioux and settlers but most importantly over **land**. The Sioux believed land could not be owned, whereas the settlers wanted it to be bought and sold. They also had very different beliefs about warfare which caused many clashes.

**Laws**



**The Indian Appropriations Act – 1851** legally recognised reservations as a method for protecting Indians from westward expansion.

**The Fort Laramie Treaty – 1851** had many Indian nations agree that they wouldn’t attack travellers. In return, they were promised protected hunting ground and an annual subsidy.

**Negotiators** tried to work for a peaceful co-existence between Indians and settlers, whereas **exterminators** tried to work towards a kind of genocide. Their aim was to remove the Indians from the Plains altogether.

**President Grant’s Peace Policy – 1868** – announced that extermination wars were unacceptable. He suggested that reservations were the best option, and should be run by Christian clergymen. Officers would be posted to protect the reservations.

**The Indian Appropriations Act – 1871** said that Native Americans would be treated as wards of America and would be looked after as such.

**Little Crow’s War - 1862**



**CAUSES:** 12,000 members of the Santee Sioux lived on a reservation in Minnesota. The reservation’s crops failed and the annual government payment didn’t arrive. The Sioux were starving.

**EVENTS:** Little Crow couldn’t restrain his angry people, who killed 5 people. Later that day, he led an attack on the Indian Agency, killing and capturing 30 people. This continued for another month. In total, over 700 settlers were killed, army reinforcements were withdrawn from the Civil War and many Sioux surrendered.

**CONSEQUENCE:** By November, over 2000 had surrendered, 303 warriors had been sentenced to death (although only 38 were carried out). The remaining Sioux were transferred to Crow Creek reservation, where the situation was even worse and over 400 died in their first winter.

**Cheyenne Wars – 1864-67**



**CAUSE:** Gold was discovered in Pike’s Peak in 1859. Miners wanted the government to remove Indians who attacked travellers, but the land had been protected under the Fort Laramie Treaty.

**EVENT:** The government negotiated and spoke to chiefs from the Arapaho, Cheyenne and Kiowa. Chief **Black Kettle** signed it but explained that he did not speak on behalf of all Cheyenne. Many Indians realised they had been cheated. In 1864, Colonel **Chivington** went in to a Cheyenne village where Black Kettle was flying a white flag. Over 150 members of the Cheyenne were killed & mutilated, in an unprovoked attack.

**CONSEQUENCE:** All around, the Arapaho, Cheyenne and Kiowa retaliated. Western Kansas was under control of the Indians. The government got the Arapaho and the Cheyenne to sign the **Medicine Lodge Treaty** in 1867, to avoid being seen as hostile. The army searched for Indian bands who had not moved to reservations and eventually killed Black Kettle and his men. Some Indians went north to join the Sioux.

**Red Cloud’s War – 1866-88**



**CAUSE:** Gold was discovered in the Rocky Mountains in 1862. Miners rushed along the Bozeman Trail, which broke an existing peace treaty so the Sioux began to attack.

**EVENT:** Sioux attacks continued until 1866. The government began talks with **Red Cloud**, whilst they began building forts along the Bozeman Trail. Red Cloud stopped negotiations. The Sioux began attacking any soldiers sent out for supplies. In December 1866, Captain Fetterman took 81 men to find stolen wood from the Sioux. He found he was surrounded by over 1000 Sioux warriors. They were all killed and mutilated. Soldiers and settlers were no longer safe along the Bozeman Trail.

**CONSEQUENCES:** The **1868 Fort Laramie Treaty** was introduced which saw the army withdraw from their forts and use a different route to the gold. The Sioux burned the forts to the ground but Red Cloud’s power decreased.

**The Great Sioux War 1876-77**

**CAUSES:** **Custer** led an expedition into the Black Hills which broke the Ft Laramie Treaty. He reported that they were rich with gold and miners flooded in. The government offered to buy the Black Hills, but they were sacred & the Sioux would not sell them.

**EVENT:** All Sioux were ordered to return to their reservation. When warriors under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse did not, the Army were told to treat anyone not in a reservation as hostile. This led to the **Battle of Little Bighorn (1876)** where, due to a series of mistakes by Custer and his men, the Army were spectacularly defeated. The Indians had better knowledge, rifles and superior numbers. Custer’s men were slaughtered.

**CONSEQUENCES:** New army forts were built to reinforce the government’s superiority and Indian bands were pursued into winter. Slowly, the Sioux surrendered to superior numbers.

**Later Policies**

**Reservations** aimed to restrict where Indians could go, whilst ‘civilising’ them. They also led to severe mental health problems for many Indians and suicide rates spiked.

The **Dawes Act** split final reservation lands into plots and allowed them to be sold off – this completely destroyed the power of the chiefs and tribal structures.

The government also pursued a policy of **exterminating buffalo** to force Indians onto reservations.



**Ghost Dance**

In desperation, Indians led by **Wovoka** began to believe that their ancestors were returning, to help defeat the Army. They began dancing the **Ghost Dance**. To stop this, the Seventh Cavalry were sent in & caught up with **Big Foot** and his band. Confusion led to shots being fired and 146 Indians were massacred at **Wounded Knee** in 1890, including Big Foot. This symbolised the end for the Sioux.