

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.

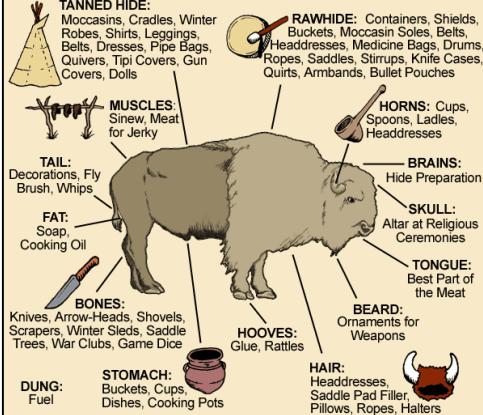
The Horse

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.



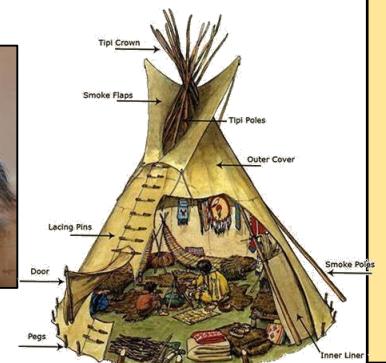
The Buffalo

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.

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



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.

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 28th state, after a Treaty was signed.

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 3000lm and would last about 6 months.

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.

Push Factors (KMI) - Mormonism

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

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.

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.

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 shot gun 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.

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 Campion. 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.

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.

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!

GCSE History Knowledge Organiser: Conflict & Destruction of the Indians

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
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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

Conflict in Beliefs

Little Crow's War - 1862

Battle of Little Bighorn

Later Laws

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Great Sioux War

Extermination & Reservations

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Ghost Dance

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