

The New West

Chapter 19

(1865-1914)

(American Nation Textbook pages 542-571)



**What
was the
gold
rush?**

A California Gold Mine in 1849.

Section 1: Indian Peoples of the Great Plain

The Plains Indians

Many Native Americans lived on the Great Plains for hundreds of years. A number of them, such as the Sioux and Cheyenne, had lived on the Plains for hundreds of years.



Many different Native American nations lived on the Great Plains. Plains Indians had rich and varied cultures. They had well organized religions, made fine and crafts, and created much poetry. The Plains Indians lived in villages.





Agriculture was their main source of food. The Indians captured and tamed wild **horses**. By the 1700's, hunting replaced farming as the basis of life for many plains people. Horses changed the Indians' way of life. The Spanish brought horses in the late 1400's. At first Indians could not own horses.

After the **Pueblo Indians** revolted against the Spaniards in 1680, they were left with thousands of horses. They traded the horses with neighboring tribes and learned to ride them

The Indians moved very often, following the Buffalo that roamed the plains. The buffalo served as a living grocery store for the Plains Indians.

After acquiring horses, they followed huge herds of buffalo and hunted them by driving them into large corrals, or enclosures. They sent out hunting parties that pursued Buffalo and other animals.



What do we mean when we say the buffalo was a living grocery store for the Native Americans?



The Indians lived in tepees made from wooden sticks and Buffalo skins. The Plains Indians were dependent on the Buffalo for food, clothing, and shelter. Buffalo meat, rich in protein was the main item in the Indians diet. They usually dried the meat on racks. They dried meat called jerky.



Many Americans eat beef jerky today.

THORS
INDIAN SUNDANCE

Wonderful
Nativ Indian
Music



In the summer many groups played together, hunted together and staged horse and foot races.

The most important event for the Plains Indians was a religious ceremony known as the Sundance. In the Sundance, dancers circled around a tree and asked the Great Spirit to give them good fortune during the coming year.

The Roles of Women and Men



Plains Indian women tanned Buffalo hides to make leather. Women were skilled in many crafts. They made baskets and blankets. They made clothing, tepees and tools. They made everything but weapons.

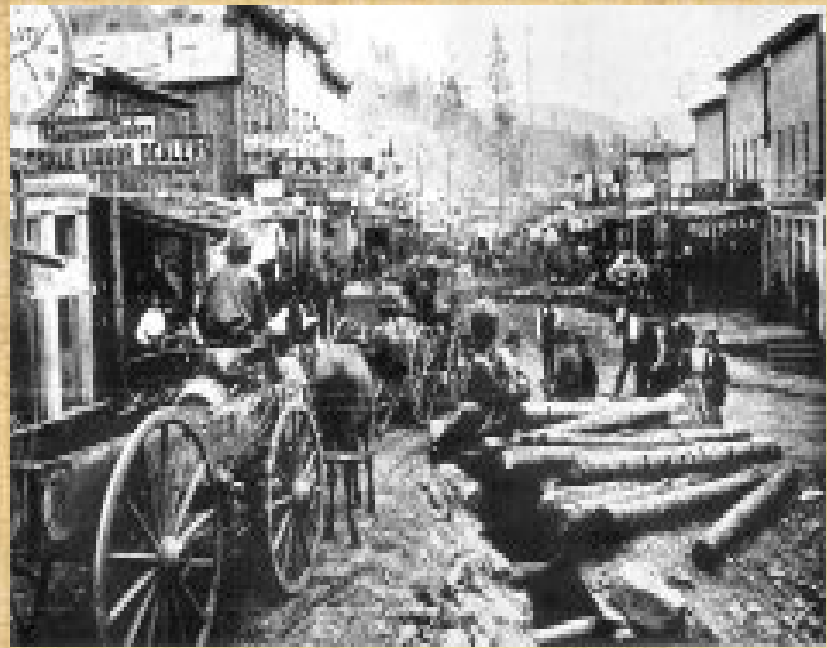
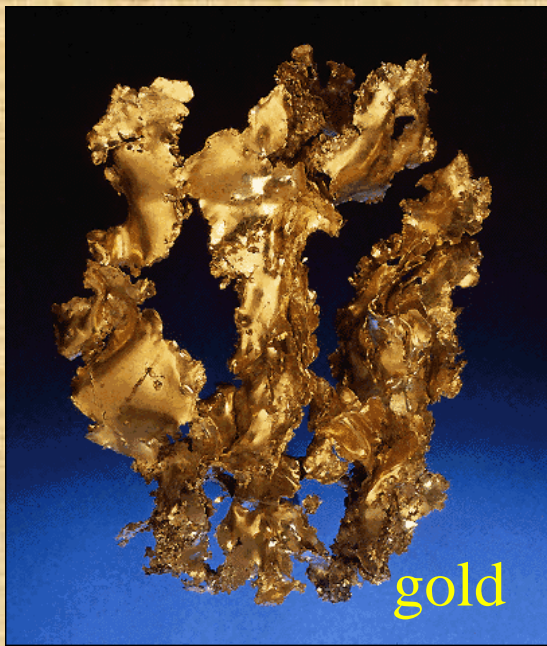
The woman's artistic ability established their rank in society. They took care of the children. Women tanned Buffalo hides to make leather. Women were skilled in many crafts.





Plains Indian men protected the women, children and elders. They passed their valuable skills to the boys. They supervised the spiritual life of the community by leading religious ceremonies.

They provided military leadership and waged war to fight or extend a territory. The most successful warriors gained great respect from the members of their nation.



2: Mining and Railroading

Boom Towns

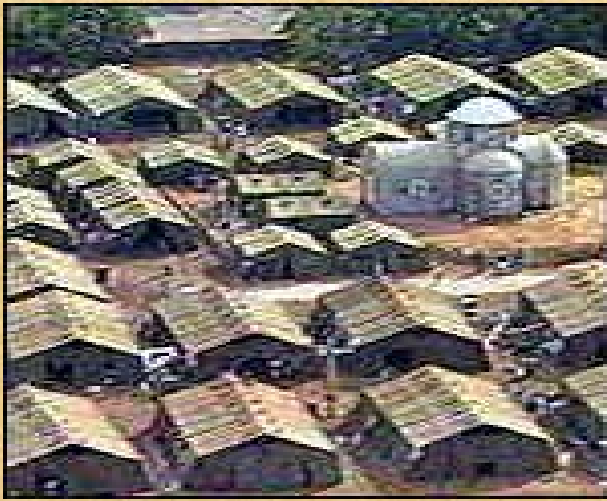
Many Americans were lured to the West by the chance to strike it rich by mining gold and silver. The Western Mining boom had begun with the California Gold Rush of 1849. From California, miners searched for new strikes of gold and silver.

What was a strike of gold?

In 1859, two young prospectors struck gold in the Sierra Nevada lands. Henry Comstock discovered a vein of gold called a lode.

The Comstock Lode attracted thousands of prospectors. Miners came across the United States, as well as from France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, and China. One of every three miners was Chinese.

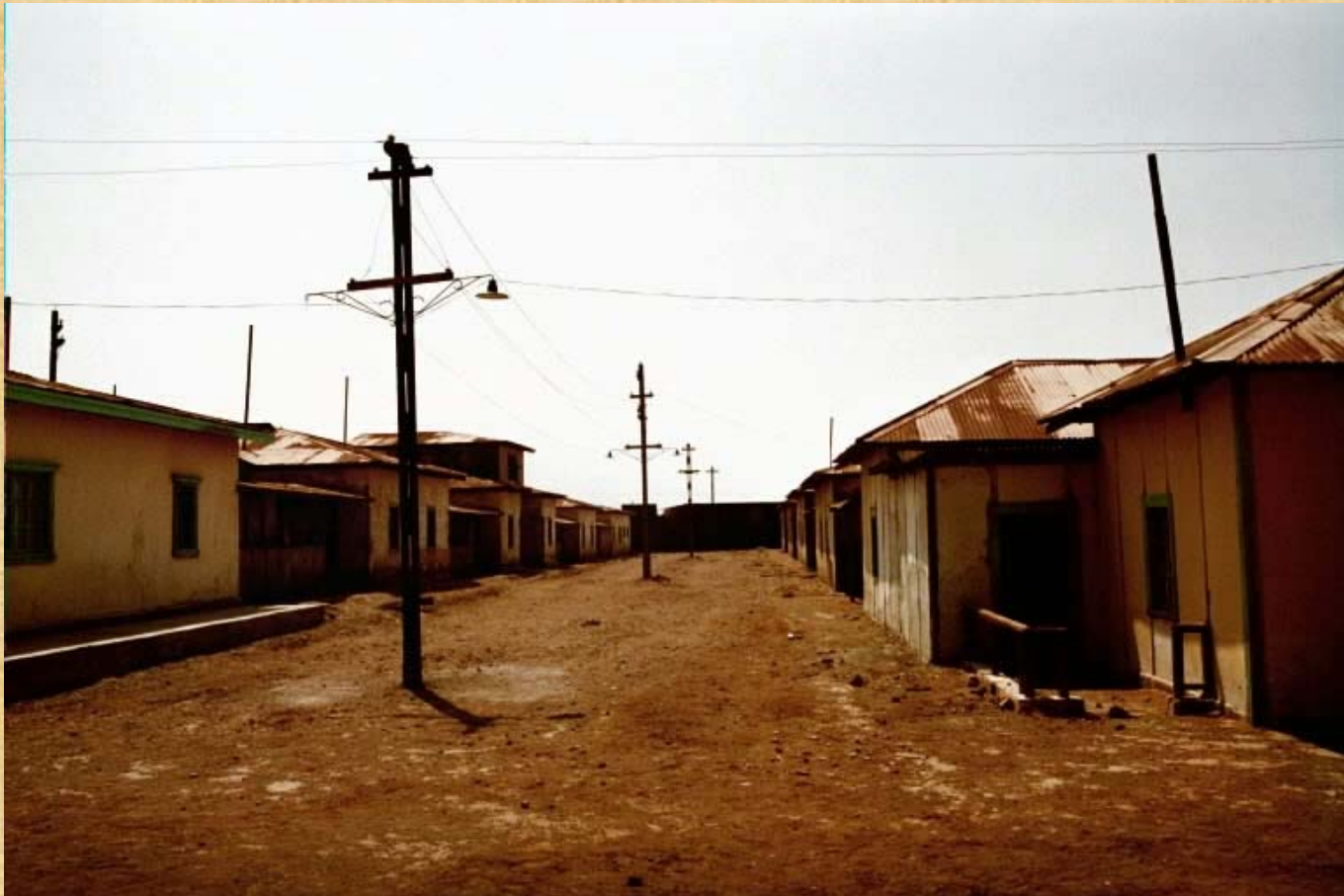




With the boom in mining tent cities formed, but they later became towns and cities. The cities of Denver and Colorado Springs grew very quickly as a result other miner's discovery of gold.

Thousands of people came West to supply the minors with materials such as tools, food, and clothing. People opened restaurants, boarding houses, laundries, etc.

When the gold was gone the city's turned into ghost towns. A ghost town was an abandoned town.



GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Skills

A gold or silver strike often led to the building of a boomtown. However, many boomtowns quickly became ghost towns.

1. **Comprehension** (a) Why did merchants often follow miners? (b) What caused large numbers of miners to suddenly leave a boomtown?

2. **Critical Thinking**
Analyzing Information
Based on this chart and on the map on page 548, why do you think there are more ghost towns today in Idaho than there are in Texas?

Economics



Boom and Bust

Gold or Silver Strike

Miners arrive and build a tent city

Merchants arrive to supply miners

Wood-frame structures replace tents

Boomtown

Gold or silver production falls

Miners move on

Stores close and merchants leave

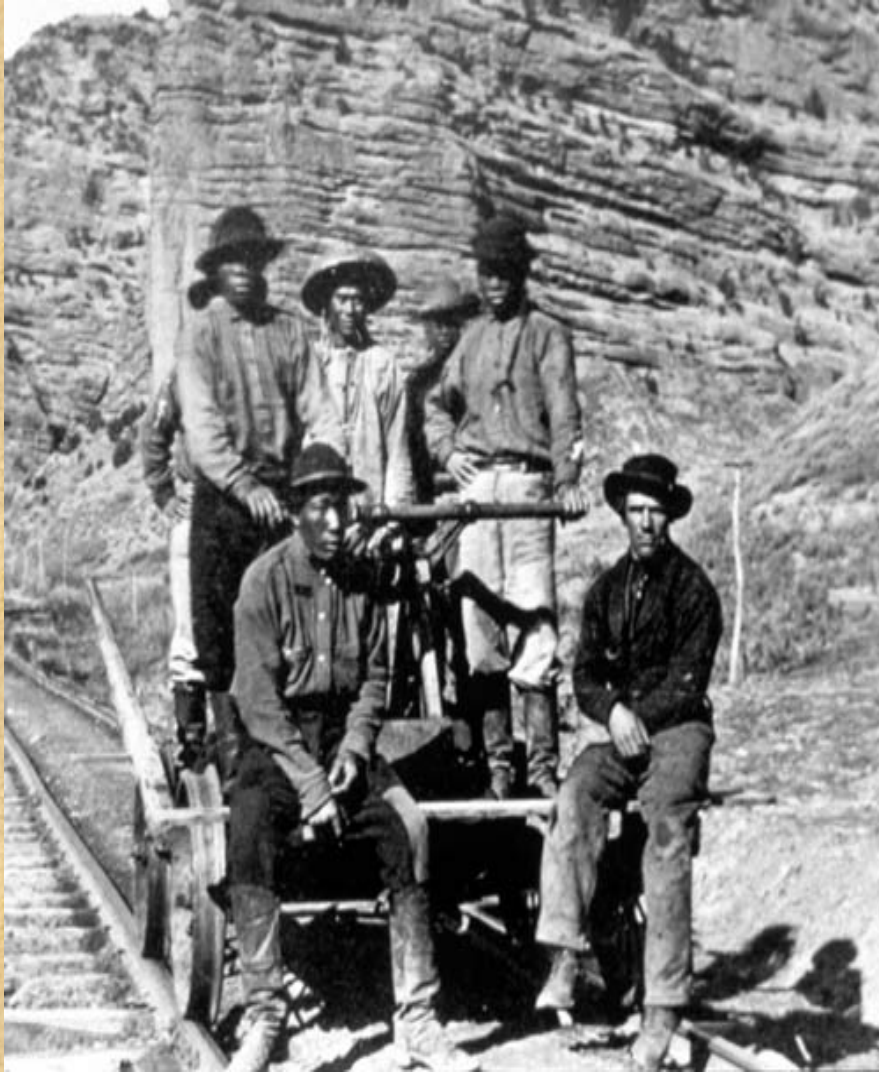
Town is abandoned

Ghost Town

The Railroads

To the Indians, the railroad was a terrifying monster, an “iron horse” letting out black smoke and moving at stunning speeds.





As cities grew the Federal Government encouraged railroad building in the West. During the [Civil War](#), Congress loaned money to the railroad companies. The railroad companies built railroads to connect the East and the West.



In 1863, two companies began the race to build the first transcontinental railroad. They were called the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad. The Transcontinental Railroad was a railroad that stretched across the from the east coast to west coast.

Both companies building the railroad had trouble getting workers. Labor was scarce, backbreaking, and dangerous. The pay was also very low. Many of the railroad companies used immigrant workers to build the railroad. The railroad used thousands of workers from China, Ireland, Mexico, and Africa. Many workers were killed by snow storms and avalanches.



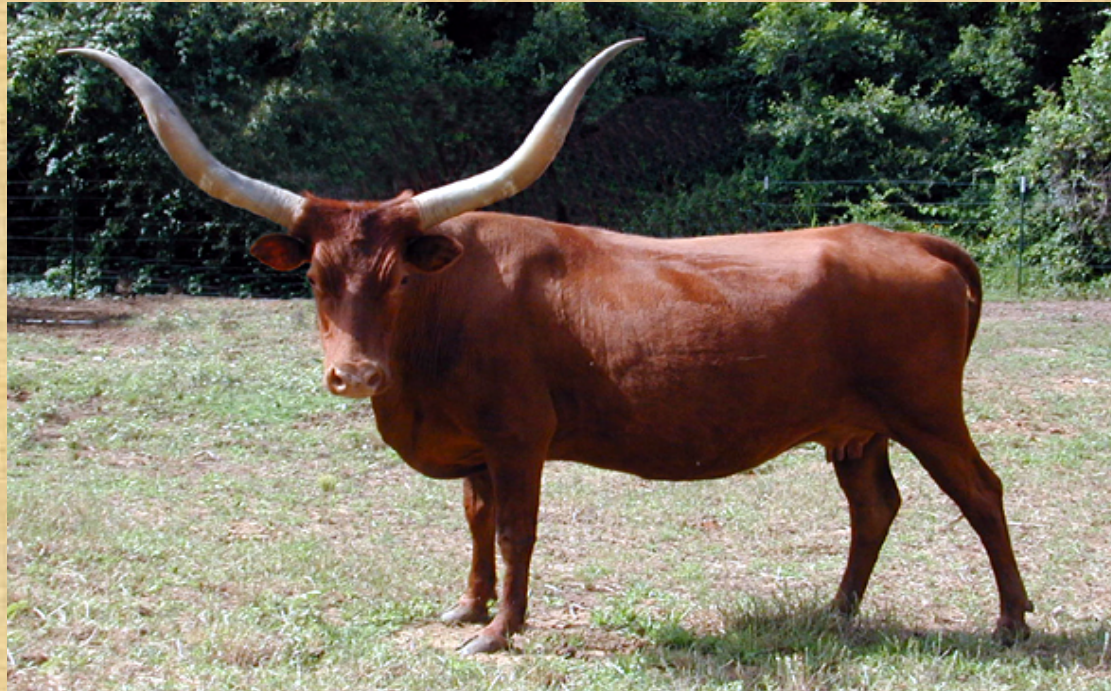
The Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad met at Promontory Point on May 10, 1869. They hammered a golden spike into the rail that joined the 2 tracks. People in the country celebrated the goals achieved by the two railroads. Before long other major railroad lines will link to the West and East. Soon wherever rail lines went, towns and cities spring up all along the tracks.



The Transcontinental Railroad. The golden spike

Section 3: The Cattle Kingdom

Before the arrival of the settlers the Spanish and Mexicans set up cattle ranches in the Southwest. Over the years the strays from these ranches grew into large herds of wild cattle. These cattle were known as longhorns. They roamed across the grassy plains of Texas. As the demand for beef increased the growing cities needed meat. The Texas longhorns were perfect for the market.



In response to the need for meat, ranchers began rounding up the herds of longhorns. They drove the herds hundreds of miles called cattle drives. The Chisholm Trail became the most famous cattle trail. Ranchers employed cowhands to tend the cattle and drive the herds to the market. Their job was to keep the cattle moving and round of strays. **Vaqueros** were skilled riders who herded cattle on ranches in Mexico.





The cattle kingdom group up in the West during the 1870's. Ranching spread north from Texas across the plains. Soon cattle grazed on the grassy plains from Kansas to the present day Montana. In the 1870's, farmers began moving on to the range.



By 1900, half a million farmers had arrived. They put up fences in their fields with barbed wire. As more farmers strung barbed wire, the open range began to disappear. Bad weather ended the cattle kingdom herds. The winter of 1885 was terrible and that summer was hot and dry. The bitter cold of the next winter killed millions of cattle. By the spring of 1887, nine out of ten cattle have frozen to death.

Cattle drives ended in **cow towns**. In cow towns the cows were held in large pens until they could be loaded on large trains and shipped to markets in the East. Towns such as Abilene, Kansas and Dodge City sprang up. Cow towns attracted settlers that wanted to build stable communities where families could thrive. Each town had a main street where people conducted business. Every town had a general store that sold tools groceries and clothing.





The church in society played an important role in cow towns. As towns grew in size the church and worship played an important role by providing spiritual leadership.

By the 1870's the cattle boom ended. One reason for this was there was not enough grass for the cattle to feed on. Many conflicts developed between the sheep herders and the cattle herders that ended in destroying many cattle and sheep. The bitter winter of 1886-1887 killed entire herds of cattle. In the summer, severe heat and drought dried up the water holes. Cattle ranchers began buying land, fencing it in and setting up ranches. The days of the cattle kingdom were over.

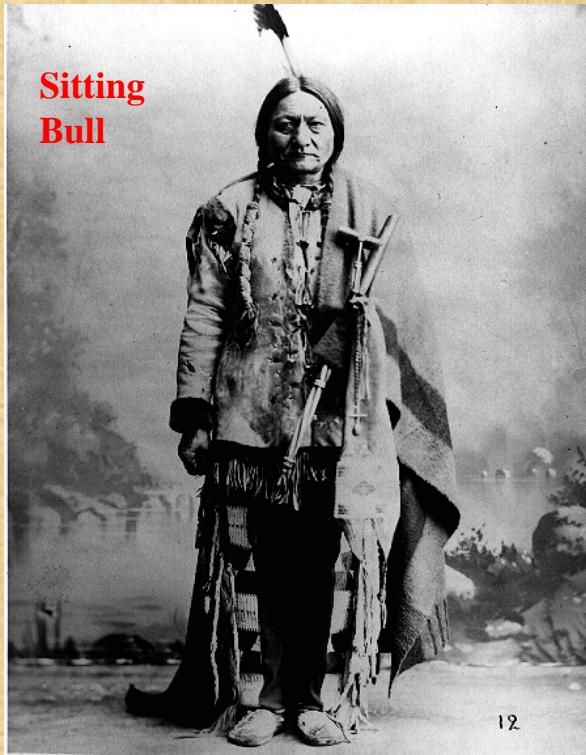
Section 4: Indian People in Retreat



Many Americans forced the Indians off their lands by force.

In 1876, Sitting Bull, an Indian chief wrote the to the United States Army troops when they drove him off his land.

“ I want to know what you are doing to the land. You scare the Buffalo way. I want to hunt in this place. I want you to return back from of this place. If you don't, I will fight you!”



What did Sitting Bull mean in this statement?



As the settlers moved for the West the United States promised to protect the Indians hunting grounds. The United States Government broke promise after promise. This made the Indians very angry. Indian wars spread across the Great Plains for this reason.

In 1851, the Federal Government met with the Indian nations near [Fort Laramie](#) in Wyoming. The Government asked the Indians to stay in a limited area. In return, they promised money, domestic animals, agricultural tools, and other goods. The Native American leaders agreed to the government's terms in the [Fort Laramie Treaty](#). Yet settlers continued to trespass on Indian lands and break the agreement.

Sioux:

Mah-toe-wha-you-whey, his x mark.
 Mah-kah-toe-zah-zah, his x mark.
 Bel-o-ton-kah-tan-ga, his x mark.
 Nah-ka-pah-gi-gi, his x mark.
 Mak-toe-sah-bi-chis, his x mark.
 Meh-wha-tah-ni-hans-kah, his x mark.
 Cheyennes:
 Wah-ha-nis-satta, his x mark.
 Voist-ti-toe-vetz, his x mark.
 Nahk-ko-me-ien, his x mark.
 Kob-kah-y-wh-cum-est, his x mark.

Arrapahoos:

Be-sh-té-s-qui-sah, his x mark.
 Neb-ni-bah-seh-ti, his x mark.
 Beh-kah-jay-beth-sah-es, his x mark.

In the presence of—

A. B. Chambers, secretary.
 S. Cooper, colonel, U. S. Army.
 R. H. Chilton, captain, First Drags.
 Thomas Duncan, captain, Mounted Rifle-men.
 Thos. G. Rhett, brevet captain R. M. R.
 W. L. Elliott, first lieutenant R. M. R.
 C. Campbell, interpreter for Sioux.
 John S. Smith, interpreter for Cheyennes.
 Robert Meldrum, interpreter for the Crows.

Crows:

Arra-tú-ri-sash, his x mark.
 Doh-che-pit-seh-chi-es, his x mark.
 Assinaboines:
 Mah-toe-wit-ko, his x mark.
 Toe-tah-ki-eh-nan, his x mark.
 Mandans and Gros Ventres:
 Nochk-pit-shi-toe-pish, his x mark.
 She-oh-mant-ho, his x mark.
 Arickarees:
 Koun-hei-ti-shan, his x mark.
 Bi-at-ah-tah-wetch, his x mark.

H. Culbertson, interpreter for Assinaboines and Gros Ventres.
 François L'Etalie, interpreter for Arickarees.
 John Pizelle, interpreter for the Arrapahoos.
 B. Gratz Brown.
 Robert Campbell.
 Edmond F. Chouteau.

TREATY WITH THE CHICKASAW, 1852.

June 22, 1852.
 10 Stat., 974.
 Ratified Aug. 13,
 1852.
 Proclaimed, Feb. 24,
 1853.

Articles of a treaty concluded at Washington, on the 22nd day of June, 1852, between Kenton Harper, commissioner on the part of the United States, and Colonel Edmund Pickens, Benjamin S. Love, and Sampson Folsom, commissioners duly appointed for that purpose, by the Chickasaw tribe of Indians.

Agent to reside among the Chickasaws.

ARTICLE 1. The Chickasaw tribe of Indians acknowledge themselves to be under the guardianship of the United States, and as a means of securing the protection guaranteed to them by former treaties, it is agreed that an Agent of the United States shall continue to reside among them.

Sale of Chickasaw lands.

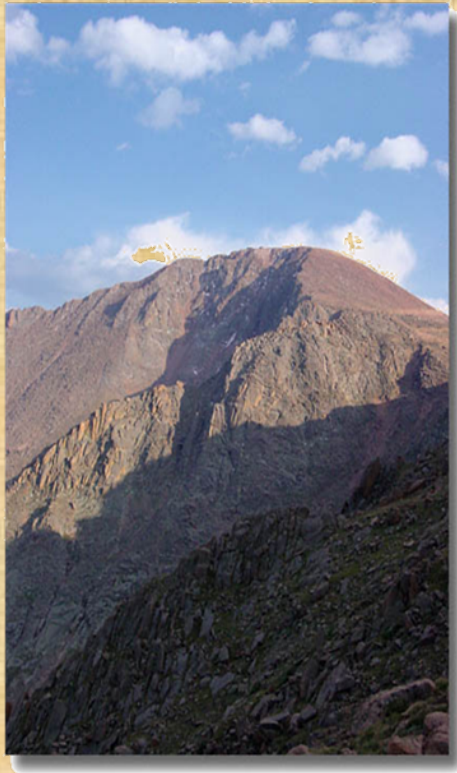
ARTICLE 2. That the expenses attending the sale of the land ceded by the Chickasaws to the United States, under the treaty of 1832, having, for some time past, exceeded the receipts, it is agreed that the remnant of the lands so ceded and yet unsold, shall be disposed of as soon as practicable, under the direction of the President of the United States in such manner and in such quantities, as, in his judgment, shall be least expensive to the Chickasaws, and most conducive to their benefit: Provided, That a tract of land, including the grave-yard near the town of Pontotoc, where many of the Chickasaws and their white friends are buried, and not exceeding four acres in quantity, shall be, and is hereby set apart and conveyed to the said town of Pontotoc to be held sacred for the purposes of a public burial-ground forever.

Burial ground in Pontotoc.

Settlement of title of Chickasaws to a tract in Tennessee.

ARTICLE 3. It is hereby agreed that the question of the right of the Chickasaws, so long contended for by them, to a reservation of four miles square on the River Sandy, in the State of Tennessee, and particularly described in the 4th article of the treaty concluded at Old-town, on the 19th day of October, 1818, shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior who shall decide, what amount, if any thing, shall be paid to the Chickasaws for said reservation: Provided, however, That the amount so to be paid shall not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre.

Proviso.



In 1858, gold was struck at Pikes Peak in Colorado. The gold strike brought miners onto the land the government promised to the Indians. In 1860, the Indians were forced to give up the land around Pikes Peak.

Native Americans refused to give up their land. They attacked trains, burned, and killed many soldiers and common people. Colonel John Chivington, of the United States Army, attacked the Indians. When the Indians surrendered he ordered his men to destroy the village and take no prisoners. He slaughtered about 150 Indian men, women, and children. This was called the Chivington Massacre.



In 1867, the Southern Plains Indians signed a new agreement with the United States Government. The Indians were promised the land in the territory called present-day Oklahoma. The Indians were unhappy with the new treaty. They had no choice but to move.



The Indians in the Northern Plains also signed a treaty. They agreed to live on reservations that included all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River. A reservation is a limited area that has set-aside for Native Americans.



End of the Buffalo

The Plains Indians suffered from for lost battles and broken treaties. The Buffalo were being destroyed. The two reasons Buffalo were being destroyed were:



1. **Hired Hunters killed thousands of buffalo to provide food for the railroad crews laying tracks across the prairie.**
2. **Buffalo hunting became a fashionable sport and commercial hunters shot Buffalo to make hide blankets.**

With 2 to 3 million Buffalo hides its being taken every year, the number of Buffalo on the plain dropped from 13 million in 1862 to a few hundred the in 1900's.



Please do
not hunt
me!



The War for the West

Even on reservations, the Indians were not left in peace. In 1874 gold was found on a plains Indian Reservation in the Black Hills region.

Chief Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse fought back against the Americans invading their lands in 1876. This war between the settlers and Indians was called the Sioux War. Colonel George Custer led his soldiers against the Indians. George Custer attacked the Indians with only 225 men. He lost the battle. This battle was called the Battle of Little Bighorn.



Chief Sitting Bull and
George Custer

An American Profile



Geronimo (1829–1909)

Geronimo was an Apache warrior, revered for his wisdom. He was also one of the fiercest and most courageous warriors the United States army ever pursued. When his family was killed by whites, Geronimo vowed vengeance and led his band of warriors in fierce raids against whites. More than once, he was captured, only to escape. In the last campaign, his small, ragged band was pursued by over 5,000 United States troops. Finally, in 1886, Geronimo was forced to surrender.

Why was Geronimo willing to fight against such great odds to remain free?

Apache Indians fiercely resisted the loss of their lands by the settlers setting up ranches. One leader **Geronimo** continued to fight the longest.

Indians were being forced to live on **reservations** set up by the United States government. The traditional Indian way of life has ended for the Native American Indians.



Connecting to Today

Housing on Indian Reservations

Since the late 1800s, many Native Americans in the West have lived a dreary existence on reservations. Today, one of the biggest problems on the reservations is housing. Homes are crowded and often lack adequate plumbing. Older people, especially, have been known to freeze to death in the cold, drafty shacks. The government is trying to help by offering home mortgage loans. Other help comes from the Red Feather Development Group, which teaches the straw-bale construction technique. This is an efficient and economical method of building. The first home, built on the Crow Reservation, is now a model for buildings being constructed by Native Americans on other reservations in the West.

How can the new building technique help the housing problem?

Section 5: Farming

Homestead Act



In 1862, Congress passed the **Homestead Act**. Under the act, the government gave 160 acres of land to anyone who farmed for 5 years. The government wanted to encourage farmers to settle in the West. They also wanted to give poor people in the East a chance to own their own farm.

Many Easterners rushed to accept this offer for free land. These people who accepted the offer of land were called **homesteaders**. By 1900, half a million farmers have settled on the Great Plains under the Homestead Act.



The Homestead Act had its problems. Only about 20% of the homestead land originally went to small farmers. Big land owning companies took large areas of land illegally. They divided the land and then resold it to farmer's high price.

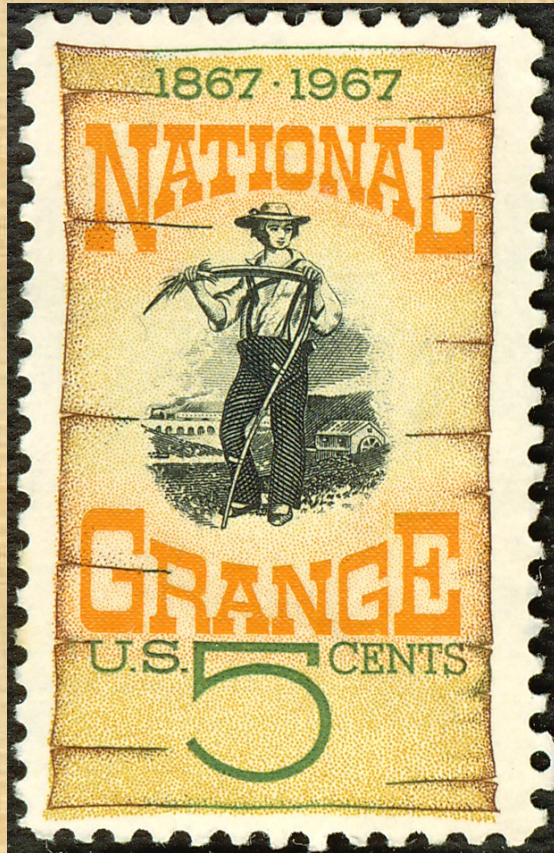
African Americans joined in the rush for land. In 1879, a group of African Americans decided to move to Kansas. They called themselves the **Exodusters. They took their name from the Bible. White Southerners did not want to lose a cheaper labor supplied by the African Americans. To prevent the African Americans from leaving, whites stopped the boats carrying the African Americans up the Mississippi. Despite the danger, between 40,000 and 70,000 African Americans moved to Kansas in 1881.**



Many farmers made their homes from soil because wood was rarely found on the plains. They called these homes **sod homes**.

Plows made of steel enabled farmers to break up the ground for planting. It enabled **sodbusters**, or the plains farmers, to cut through the sod and reach the soil below.





In the 1860's farmers began to work together. They believed if they worked together they could improve their farming conditions through economic cooperation and political action. They formed an organization called the National Grange. Grangers helped farmers set up cooperatives. In a cooperative, farmers pooled their money together to buy seed and other tools wholesale. Wholesale means buying or selling things in large quantities at lower prices.

An American Profile



Mary Elizabeth Lease
(1853–1933)

Mary Elizabeth Lease's father and two brothers died in the Civil War. Since she held the Democratic party responsible for the war, she opposed the Democrats throughout her political career. Lease joined the Farmers' Alliance of the Populist Party. She quickly became its most influential speaker, making over 160 speeches for the 1890 campaign. One newspaper alleged that she told farmers in Kansas to "raise less corn and more hell." Lease also helped to defeat the Kansas senator, Democrat John Ingalls, a big victory for the Farmers' Alliance.

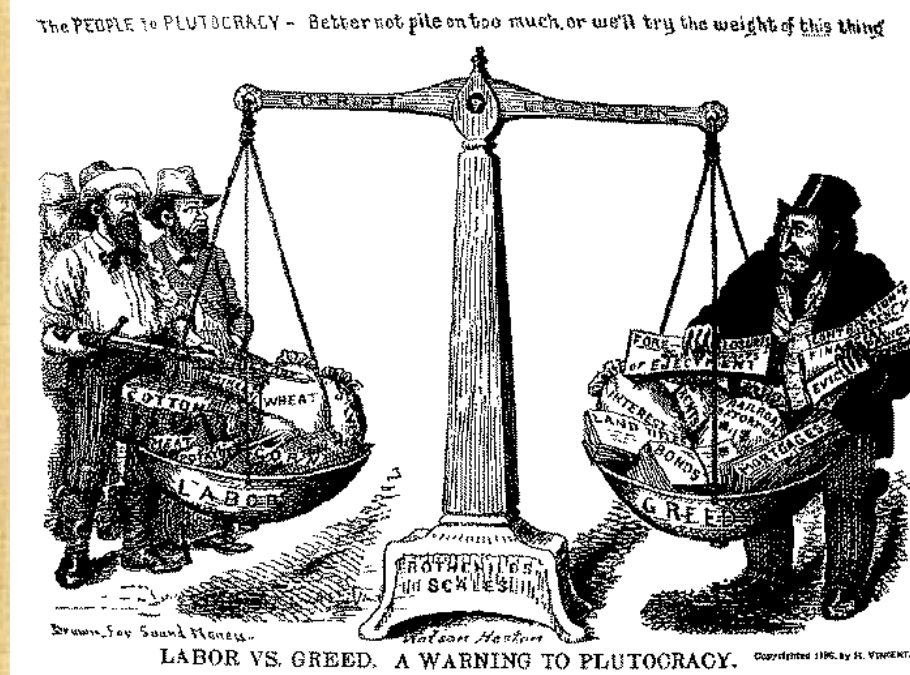
What did Mary Lease mean when she told the farmers to "raise less corn and more hell"?

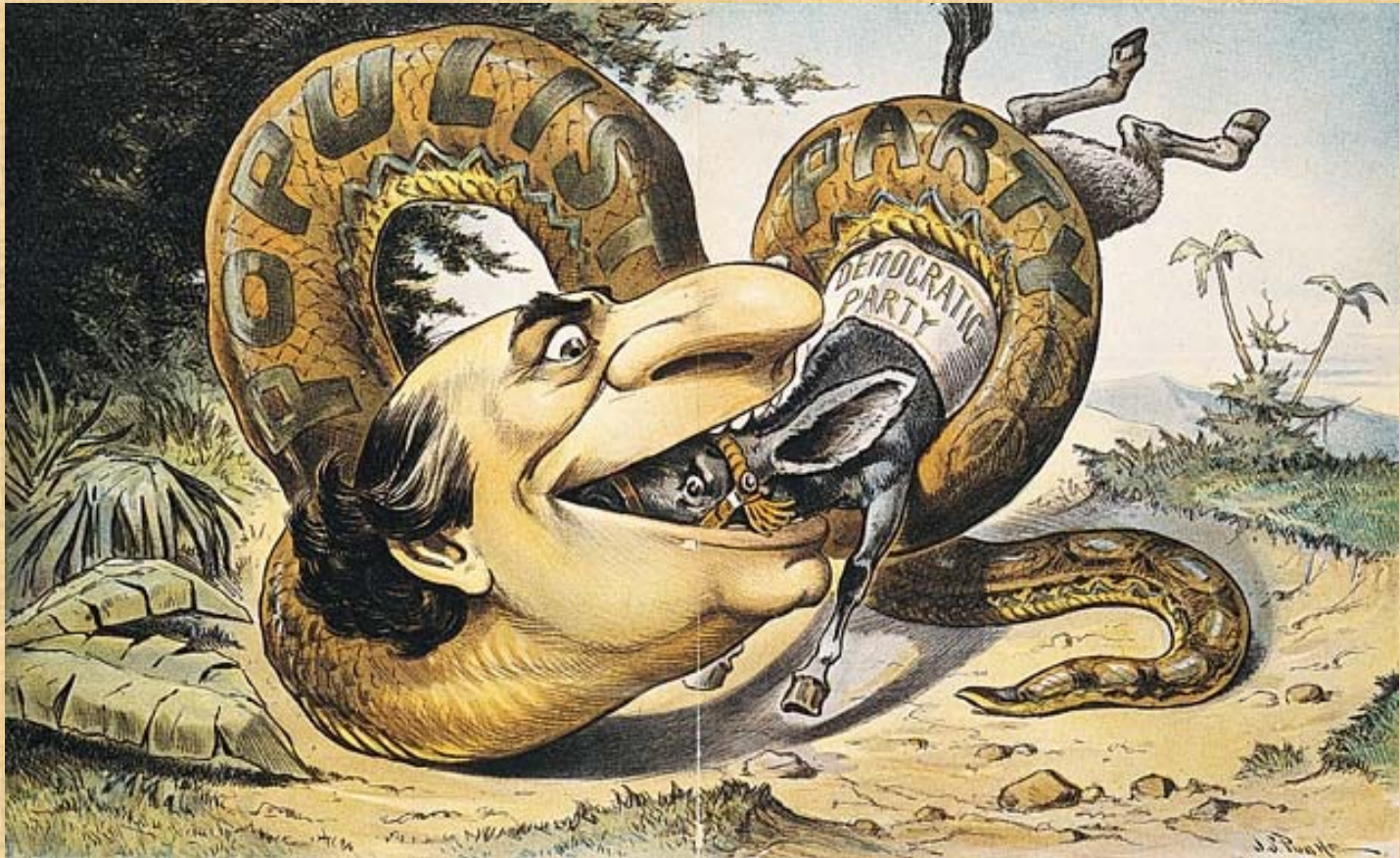
Women and the Plains

People to be strong to survive the hardships of life on the Great Plains. Women made clothing, quilts, soap, candles, and other goods by hand. They also have to cook and preserve all food needed through the long winter. They had to educate the children. They also treated the sick and injured because there were no doctor's nearby. People lived miles apart so they enjoyed the chance to get together with other families. Picnics, dances, and weddings were special events.



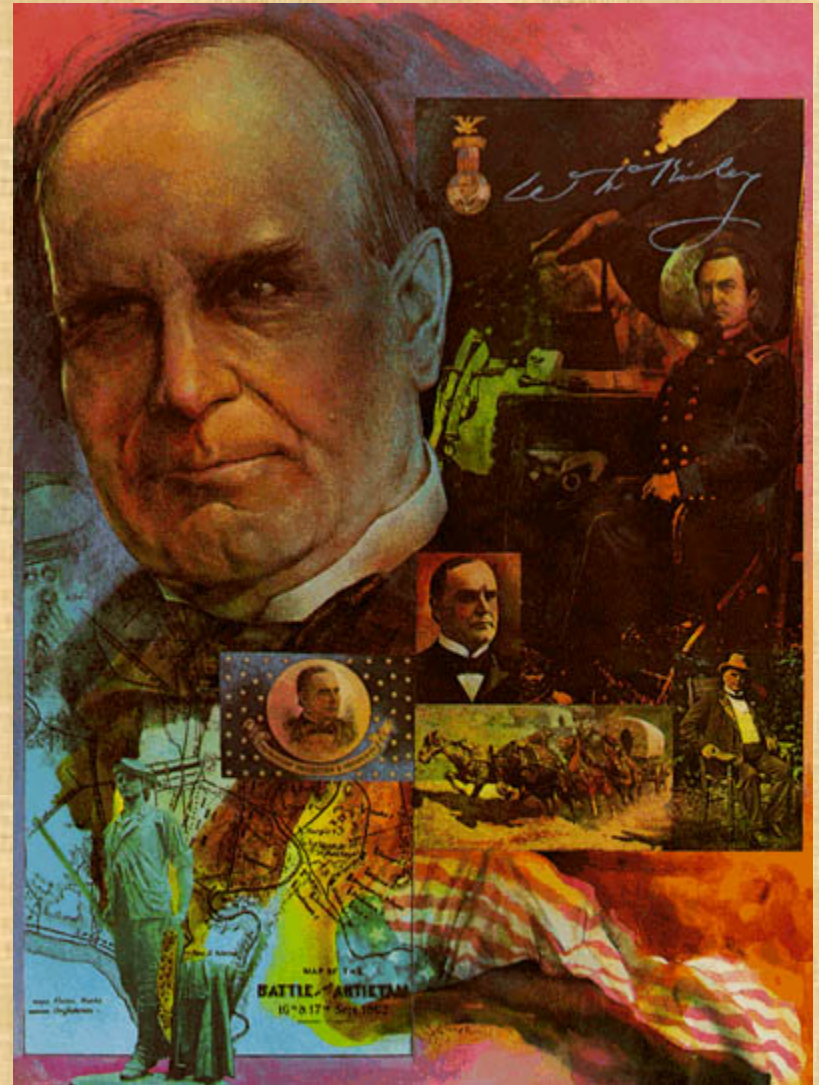
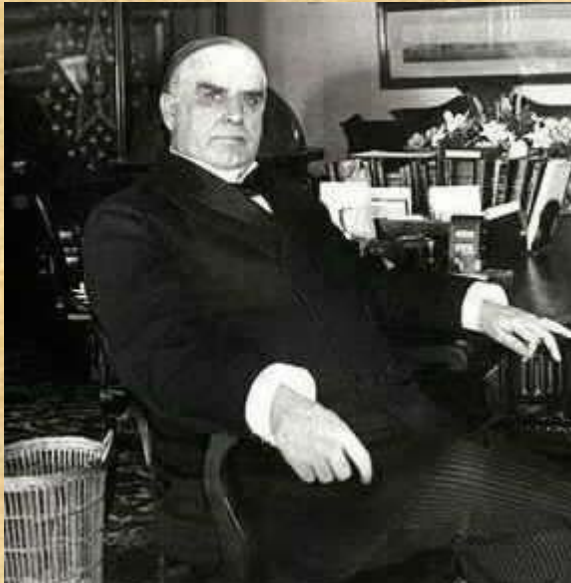
In 1896 farmers and labor unions joined together to form the Populist Party. The Populist Party demanded government to help with the falling farm prices and the regulation of railroad rates. They also called for an income tax, an 8-hour workday, and limits on immigration. They argued that an increasing money supply would cause inflation, or increased prices.





What does this political cartoon tell you about the Populist Party?

**At the end of 1896,
the Populist Party
broke up and
William McKinley
became the new
President.**



President William McKinley 43



The Democratic Party took up a number of the populist demands. Even though the Populist Party died, many any ideas lived on. In the years ahead, the 8-hour workday became standard for American workers. In 1913, the states ratified an amendment authorizing an [income tax](#).



Did you know that the movie, The Wizard of Oz was based on Populist beliefs and theories? Click on the picture to learn more.

THE
END

MADE BY
TRANSPORTATION

