

Westward Expansion

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1. Homestead Act

a. Western prairie land was offered for free if farmers would move there and work it.

1. Homestead Act

b. Goal & Result: increase the population in the West (also slightly reduced labor supply in the cities)

2. People Moving

West

**(important
influences on
America)**

2. People Moving West

- a. helped establish the wild
American image (we are
Cowboys in much of the
world's eyes)**

2. People Moving

West

**b. gave poor people
opportunities**

**1) opportunity to own land
in Europe only wealthy owned
land**

2. People Moving

West

**b. gave poor people
opportunities**

2) fewer social class

**distinctions (judged by what
you do not your family name)**

2. People Moving West

b. gave poor people opportunities

3) women viewed more as equals (worked along side men - more as partners)

2. People Moving West

b. gave poor people opportunities

4) Western territories more democratic (women could vote in some territories)

3. Transcontinental Railroad

**a. government wanted a
railroad to speed
communication and**

**transportation (increase trade
and help with defense)**

3. Transcontinental Railroad

**b. government gave land to
the railroad companies as an
incentive to build (they could
later sell the land for large
profits)**

3. Transcontinental Railroad

**c. New towns sprang up
along the railroad route
(Easy for people to move there
and good for trade).**

3. Transcontinental Railroad

d. Fulfilled **Manifest Destiny**
but also brought an end to
the “**frontier.**”

4. Native Americans

a. As whites moved West (farm land and gold rushes) the Indians were forced off their land.

4. Native Americans

b. Indians were forced to sign treaties and to move onto reservations.

Political pressure from farmers, ranchers and miners to force the Indians off the land.

4. Native Americans

**c) Buffalo hunters killed
of the Western Indian's
food source.**

4. Native Americans

d. Cultural Differences:

Indians did not understand land “ownership” People & animals lived together on the land (**interrelated**).

4. Native Americans

e. U.S. government tried to “**Americanize**” the Indians. Have them adopt the white man’s language, religion and way of life.

4. Native Americans

E. (continued) Dawes Act

Idea was to give the Indians individual plots of land and make them farmers - make them more like “Americans”.

4. Native Americans

**f. Sympathy for the
Native Americans
gradually grew in the
East.**

4. Native Americans

People read romantic accounts of the Indians and felt sorry for them.

4. Native Americans

1) books such as *A Century of Dishonor* and *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* increased compassion for the Indians.

4. Native Americans

2) Wounded Knee Massacre

many Indians killed by the military which outraged many in the East.

4. Native Americans

h. Reservations today:

Technically the treaties made the reservations their own country (self rule).

4. Native Americans

1) Today reservations are part of heated debates.

Not subject to NYS sales tax or some laws.

4. Native Americans

2. Gambling allowed on some reservations in NY State.

Because they are technically their own country they can get around NY's no gambling laws.

The

End