

Westward Expansion

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What was the Homestead Act

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

What was the goal of the Homestead Act

**Increase the population in
the West (get people to
move and live on the
Prairie)**

**What were some new
opportunities poor people
& women got by moving
West???**

1) opportunity to own land

**What were some new
opportunities poor people
& women got by moving
West???**

**2) fewer social class distinctions
(judged by what you do not your
family name)**

**What were some new
opportunities poor people
& women got by moving
West???**

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

**What were some new
opportunities poor people &
women got by moving
West???**

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

Why did the government want a Transcontinental Railroad??

*** to speed communication and
transportation (increase trade
and help with defense)**

What incentives did the government give to encourage building the Railroad??

- * government gave land to the railroad companies (the companies could later sell the land for large profits)**

How did the Railroads encourage settlement of the West???

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

**How did the Railroads
encourage settlement of the
West???**

**People could move West
easier and then go back
East easier to see family
members**

What is Manifest Destiny??

**Americans should control and
settle all the land from the
Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans**

How did the Railroads help fulfill Manifest Destiny??

d. Fulfilled **Manifest Destiny**

because more people moved

West and ended the “**frontier**”

(place where few people live)

What were two factors that encouraged people to move West?

People moved West for farm land and gold rushes (1849 gold rush in California)

**As white people moved West,
Native Americans were
forced to sign treaties
(agreements whites often
broke) and to move onto
reservations .**

To force the Native Americans to move onto reservations, hunters were encouraged to kill the buffalo, which was the primary source of food for the Western Plains Indians.

U.S. government tried to
“Americanize” the Indians,
that is to have them adopt the
white man’s culture
(language, religion and way of
life) . A word for this accepting
of culture is assimilate .

U.S. government tried to
“Americanize” the Indians,
through the Dawes Act . This
act tried to break down tribal
bonds and get the Indians to
assimilate (accept
American culture)

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