

# **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)

**Two books that people read that  
influenced their opinions  
favorably toward Native  
Americans were....**

**Helen Hunt Jackson's...**

***A Century of Dishonor***

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee***



**Native Americans were forced to  
sign treaties  
and move to reservations.**

**Today this means the Indians  
have sovereignty or self**

**Rule on their reservations.**

**Today many in New York  
complain because the Native  
American stores do not have to  
charge New York State  
sales tax on some products  
and they are allowed to build  
casinos (not limited by New  
York's anti-gambling laws).**

**The**

**End**