Westward Expansion

- The U.S. in 1865 had no major railroads that went out west.
- Travel west was extremely long (2-3 months) and dangerous and often met by Native American resistance.
- Some factors that contributed to the settlement of the west are:
  o Manifest Destiny
  o Gold Discovered in California
  o The Homestead Act of 1862
  o The Transcontinental Railroad
  o The American Dream
Westward Expansion

- The west was viewed as the great untapped Frontier
- **Manifest Destiny** – The belief that it was America’s mission to expand from ocean to ocean, spreading democracy and freedom
- Americans believed it was their **God-given duty** to conquer the Western territories and unify the Nation
Westward Expansion

- The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 by Congress.
- It basically started the movement toward the west.
- The act let settlers claim up to 160 acres of surveyed federal lands.
- After living on and improving the land for five years, homesteaders paid a small registration fee and got the title for the land.
- African Americans leaped at this opportunity to own their own land, and many moved out West.
Westward Expansion

Effects of the Homestead Act

• **One negative effect** of this act was that as men and women traveled west, they were on **unknown land and had little to no help along the way**. A large concern of many were the **Indians** that lived out there and how they would react seeing settlers walk across their land, having been kicked out of it by the U.S. government prior to the law.

• **One positive effect** of this act was that the government had never offered such a **large amount of land and it had never been free**. Farmers were able to expand their knowledge, as well as skills, in agriculture and without that opportunity, some crops today would not exist if they had not been discovered back then.
Westward Expansion

- **The Boom:** Areas out West became inundated with people looking to get rich quick.
- This led to small mining towns being established throughout the Western United States.
- Think of those old “Wild West” movies when you think about this concept.
- Most of these towns were built quickly when gold was found or when people became enamored by the rumor of gold.
Westward Expansion

- When the bonanza was at its zenith, the town prospered. But **eventually the mines were exhausted or proved fruitless**. Slowly its inhabitants would leave, **leaving behind nothing but a ghost town.**
Westward Expansion

- Conditions in a typical mining town were shady at best.
- Typically the men outnumbered the women 9 to 1.
- The social center of these communities was the saloon.
- Gambling, drinking, and fighting were widespread, and justice was often determined by the hardest punch or the fastest draw.
- 95% of the mining population was young and male.
- The towns and the people generally tended to be filthy.
Westward Expansion

- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 halted Chinese immigration to America.
- It all got started when people of the West Coast attributed declining wages and economic troubles to the hated Chinese workers.
- Although the Chinese composed only .002 percent of the nation’s population, Congress passed the exclusion act to appease worker demands and satisfy concerns about maintaining white “racial purity.”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWIAv7yTqLE
Western Expansion

- **Exodusters** - a name given to African Americans who migrated from the South to the West. It was the first general migration of blacks following the Civil War.
- AAs wanted to escape the oppression they were subjected to in the South. The West once again served as the land of opportunity.
- [YouTube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OvYmuSLuBY)
EXIT TICKET

Which of the following would NOT be an example of a positive effect of the Homestead Act?

A. It gave settlers more of an opportunity in a new place
B. Some Natives and homesteaders actually worked together and shared their cultures
C. Native American lands were infringed upon making situations tense with the settlers
D. The United States was able to expand their territory and their claim to precious natural resources.
Westward Expansion

- **The Dawes Act of 1887** was an attempt to "Americanize" Native Americans by giving each tribe 160 acres of land.
- After 25 years, this property would become theirs (if they were good little whites) and they would become an American citizen.
- The Dawes Act authorized the President of the U.S. to **divide Native American tribal land** into allotments for individual Native Americans.
Westward Expansion

Dispersal of the Plains Indians

• Many of the Plains tribes depended on the buffalo for survival.
• Several tribes followed the buffalo migration, harvesting conservatively to fill tribal needs.
• The Indians ate buffalo meat, used its hide for clothing and shelter
Westward Expansion

TANNED HIDE:
- Moccasins, Cradles, Winter Robes, Shirts, Leggings, Belts, Dresses, Pipe Bags, Quivers, Tipi Covers, Gun Covers, Dolls

MUSCLES:
- Sinew, Meat for Jerky

TAIL:
- Decorations, Fly Brush, Whips

FAT:
- Soap, Cooking Oil

BONES:
- Knives, Arrow-Heads, Shovels, Scrapers, Winter Sleds, Saddle Trees, War Clubs, Game Dice

STOMACH:
- Buckets, Cups, Dishes, Cooking Pots

HORNS:
- Cups, Spoons, Ladles, Headdresses

HAIR:
- Headdresses, Saddle Pad Filler, Pillows, Ropes, Halter

BEARD:
- Ornaments for Weapons

SKULL:
- Altar at Religious Ceremonies

DUNG:
- Fuel

HOOVES:
- Glue, Rattles

BEARDS:
- Hide Preparation

BRAINS:
- Best Part of the Meat

/
By the 1870s, however, the buffalo population was on the decline.

Non-Indians killed the buffalo for their pelts, to feed railroad construction crews, or even just for the pure sport of it.

Army commanders who operated in the West often attempted to drive the Indians off of desired lands by killing the buffalo as a way to deprive the Indians of their way of life.
Westward Expansion

- Between 1872 and 1875, only three years, hunters killed 9 million buffalo, most often taking the skin and leaving the carcass to rot in waste.
- By the 1880s the Indian way of life was ruined and the way was cleared for American settlement of the Plains.
Westward Expansion

- After Indian resistance died out, many did try to adapt to non-Indian ways.
- Few succeeded completely, and many were emotionally devastated at being forced to abandoned age-old traditions.
- On reservations, the Plains Indians were almost totally dependent upon the federal government.
Westward Expansion

- Indian traditions, social organization, and modes of survival were broken down.
- By 1900, the Plains Indian population had fallen from almost 250,000 to only slightly more than 100,000.
Westward Expansion

Throughout 1890, the U.S. government worried about the increasing influence at Pine Ridge of the Ghost Dance.

A spiritual movement, which taught that Indians had been defeated and confined to reservations because they had angered the gods by abandoning their traditional customs.

Note: Pine Ridge was (and still is) an Indian Reservation in South Dakota.
Westward Expansion

• Many Sioux believed that if they practiced the Ghost Dance and rejected the ways of the white man, the gods would create the world anew and destroy all non-believers, including non-Indians. On December 15, 1890, reservation police tried to arrest Sitting Bull, the famous Sioux chief, who they mistakenly believed was a Ghost Dancer, and killed him in the process, increasing the tensions at Pine Ridge.
Westward Expansion

Little Big Horn

- June 25\textsuperscript{th}, 1876, Native American forces led by Chiefs Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull defeated the U.S. Army troops of Lt. Colonel George Custer in a bloody battle near southern Montana’s Little Bighorn River.
This betrayal led many Sioux and Cheyenne tribesmen to leave their reservations and join Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse in Montana. By the late spring of 1876, more than 10,000 Native Americans had gathered in a camp along the Little Bighorn River—which they called the Greasy Grass—in defiance of a U.S. War Department order to return to their reservations or risk being attacked.
Westward Expansion

- Custer and some 200 men in his battalion were attacked by as many as 3,000 Native Americans; within an hour, Custer and every last one of his soldier were dead.

- The Battle of Little Bighorn—also called Custer’s Last Stand—marked the most decisive Native American victory and the worst U.S. Army defeat in the long Plains Indian War.
Westward Expansion

- The gruesome fate of Custer and his men outraged many white Americans and confirmed their image of the Indians as wild and bloodthirsty.
- Meanwhile, the U.S. government increased its efforts to subdue the tribes.
- Within five years, almost all of the Sioux and Cheyenne would be confined to reservations.

- [Link](http://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-cultures/videos/the-last-of-the-sioux)
Westward Expansion

Sitting Bull
Westward Expansion

- On December 29, the U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry surrounded a band of Ghost Dancers under Big Foot, a Lakota Sioux chief, near **Wounded Knee** Creek and demanded they surrender their weapons. As that was happening, a fight broke out between an Indian and a U.S. soldier and a shot was fired, although it’s unclear from which side.
Westward Expansion

• A brutal massacre followed, in which it’s estimated 150 Indians were killed (some historians put this number at twice as high), nearly half of them women and children. The cavalry lost 25 men.

• The conflict at Wounded Knee was originally referred to as a battle, but in reality it was a tragic and avoidable massacre. Surrounded by heavily armed troops, it’s unlikely that Big Foot’s band would have intentionally started a fight.
Westward Expansion

• Some historians speculate that the soldiers of the 7th Cavalry were deliberately taking revenge for the regiment’s defeat at Little Bighorn in 1876.

• Whatever the motives, the massacre ended the Ghost Dance movement and was the last major confrontation in America’s deadly war against the Plains Indians.

• [http://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-cultures/videos/the-last-of-the-sioux](http://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-cultures/videos/the-last-of-the-sioux)
Westward Expansion

DON’T WRITE BUT PAY ATTENTION!!!

The below statement is very important to understand the concept of assimilation.

Very sincere individuals reasoned that if a person adopted white clothing and ways, and was responsible for his own farm, he would gradually drop his Indian-ness and be assimilated into the population.
Westward Expansion

- The land allotted to the Indians included desert or near-desert lands unsuitable for farming.
- In addition, the techniques of self-sufficient farming were much different from their tribal way of life.
- Many Indians did not want to take up agriculture, and those who did want to farm could not afford the tools, animals, seed, and other supplies necessary to get started.
Westward Expansion
Westward Expansion

- Assimilation - the act of bringing into conformity with the customs, attitudes, etc., of a group, nation, or the like; adapt or adjust
Westward Expansion

- What does the term **open-range** mean?
Westward Expansion

- The open-range is rangeland where cattle roam freely regardless of land ownership.
- Changes that led to the end of the open-range were land policies to encourage growth, land and cattle companies, range wars, railroads and mining.
- Farmers and ranchers realized that they couldn’t leave their cattle alone to graze on the range.
- They started using barbed-wire to mark their land.
- What did this accomplish? How did it effect the land and the animals? Think outside the box.
Westward Expansion
Westward Expansion

- There were some terrible droughts that did not help the ranching industry.
- At first, many ranchers had tremendous herds. You would think that is great, but......
- Think about supply and demand for a second.

- Another detriment to the open range was the fact that ranchers were over-grazing the plains.
Westward Expansion

Stop & Jot:
What was the major aspect that the transcontinental railroad affected?

Hint: Think Economic, Social or Political
Westward Expansion

- The transcontinental railroad was the first railroad to connect the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, making travel out west easier and faster.
- The railroad was built from opposite ends; Central Pacific Railroad started building in California, and Union Pacific Railroad started in Nebraska.
- The two companies connected in Promontory Point, Utah.
- [http://www.history.com/topics/inventions/transcontinental-railroad](http://www.history.com/topics/inventions/transcontinental-railroad)
Westward Expansion

- Trade was effected by the transcontinental railroad in a big way.
- Think about it.....
- Everything changed. **Goods and services were provided much more efficiently.**
- The railroad allowed life to be a little more convenient.
- Imagine how long it would take if travel or communication.
Westward Expansion

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q16OZkgSXfM
Which of the following helped lead to the settlement of the west and forced Native Americans off their land for white settlers?

A. Homestead Act
B. Chinese Exclusion Act
C. Manifest Destiny Act
D. Dawes Act
Western Expansion

- **Agrarian Movement** - the gilded age created prosperity and new lifestyles for some, but these changes also had a widespread negative impact in areas dominated by farming.
- When the **farmers** started to stand up and make their voice heard.
Western Expansion

- **Patrons of Husbandry & The Grange**
  - Organizations that helped farmers with the agrarian movement.
  - Their purpose was to support farmers financially, legally and even socially (through education).
Western Expansion

**Populism**

- Decreases in crop prices and crop failures in the 1880s bred economic discontent among farmers that led to the formation of the Populists.
- Basically, farmers felt the need to stand up to big businesses and corporations.
- Populism is **a belief in the power of regular people, and in their right to have control over their government rather than a small group of political insiders or a wealthy elite.**
- The Populist Party emerged.
Western Expansion

People’s Party/Populist Party

- Officially named the People's Party, but commonly known as the Populist Party, it was founded in 1891 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

- They called for free coinage of silver and paper money; national income tax; direct election of senators; regulation of railroads; and other government reforms to help farmers. The party was split between South and West.
Western Expansion

**Bimetallism**

- Is the use of both gold and silver as money
- Farmers (wheat and cotton) thought Bimetallism to be very beneficial to them
- Silver miners in the west approved of Bimetallism to ensure the value of silver.
- Goldbugs vs. Silverites
- So who were the proponents and opponents of this idea?
Free Silver

- After the discovery of silver, several disparate factions in American politics began to agitate for the feds to allow it to be minted freely at the rate of $1 per ounce.
- As the gold standard in effect at the time valued gold at the official price of $20 per ounce, the result of this policy would have been a considerable increase in the money supply and resultant inflation.
- Basically, people that did not have gold wanted silver to be implemented into the monetary system so they could share in the wealth.
Western Expansion

William Jennings Bryan

• Big proponent of the free silver movement and friend to the farmers.

• His enemies regarded him as an ambitious demagogue, but his supporters viewed him as a champion of liberal causes.

• Ran for president 3 times (1896, 1900, 1908).

• “The gold standard has slain tens of thousands.”
Western Expansion

“Cross of Gold Speech”

- Given by William Jennings Bryan
  - 1896 Democratic National Convention in Chicago
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeTkT5-w5RA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeTkT5-w5RA)

- An eloquent **attack on the thesis that gold was the only sound backing for currency**, 

- The speech so electrified the convention that the delegates nominated Bryan as their candidate for president, though he was only 36 years old and his experience as an officeholder was limited to two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

- In November he lost to the Republican candidate, William McKinley.
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz  
(originally published in 1900)

- Symbolizes Bimetallism
- In the original book:
  - yellow brick road: gold
  - Traveled the road with silver slippers
    - In 1939, the movie changed the silver slippers into ruby slippers.
  - Dorothy leads:
    - Scarecrow: Farmers
    - Tinman: Workers
    - Cowardly Lion: Politicians
  - Goal is to see the Wizard (President) in Oz (Oz. = Ounce)
  - Munchkins: the “little” people
  - Wicked Witch of the West: Giant Corporations (the enemy)
  - Dorothy defeats the Witch: Progressives tried to defeat the Corporations
EXIT TICKET

You guys did great this week and deserve a “No Exit Ticket Friday.”