

Unit 2

The Birth of Modern America

1865–1901

CHAPTER 4

Settling the West
1865–1890

CHAPTER 5

Industrialization
1865–1901

CHAPTER 6

Urban America
1865–1896

Why It Matters

Following the turmoil of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the United States began its transformation from a rural nation to an industrial, urban nation linked together by railroads. New inventions and scientific discoveries fundamentally altered how Americans lived and worked. New factories employed thousands of workers; cities grew dramatically in size, and tens of millions of new immigrants flooded into the country.



Wabash Avenue and the elevated railroad in downtown Chicago, 1900.

Settling the West

1865–1890

SECTION 1 Miners and Ranchers

SECTION 2 Farming the Plains

SECTION 3 Native Americans

Cattle ranching in the American West has changed little in 140 years. Here an Apache cowboy herds cattle into a corral during spring roundup on an Arizona ranch.

1862

- Homestead Act makes cheap land available to settlers

1864

- Sand Creek Massacre takes place

Johnson
1865–1869



1867

- Chisholm Trail cattle drive begins

Grant
1869–1877



1876

- Battle of the Little Bighorn



Hayes
1877–1881



Garfield
1881



U.S. PRESIDENTS

U.S. EVENTS

WORLD EVENTS

1860

1870

1880

1867

- British colonies unite to form Canada

1871

- Prussia unites German states to create Germany

1876

- Porfirio Diaz becomes dictator of Mexico

1879

- Zulu launch war against British settlers

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Why Did Settlers Move West?

After the Civil War, many American settlers continued migrating to the western frontier. The lives of western miners, farmers, and ranchers were filled with hardships.

- *Why do you think settlers continued migrating west when life on the Great Plains was so difficult?*
- *When the frontier closed, what effect do you think this had on American society?*

1887

- Dawes Act eliminates communal ownership of Native American reservations

Arthur
1881–1885Cleveland
1885–1889Harrison
1889–1893Cleveland
1893–1897McKinley
1897–1901

1890

1900

1886

- Gold is discovered in South Africa

1891

- Russia begins Trans-Siberian railway and many settlers head east to Siberia

FOLDABLES™

Summarizing Displacement Make a Sentence Strips Foldable to represent how the arrival of settlers changed the American West. Choose an event and create a flip book. On the front of each strip write the event and its location. Write a brief explanation of how the event changed the West.



History ONLINE Visit glencoe.com and enter **QuickPass™** code TAVMT5147c4 for Chapter 4 resources.



Miners and Ranchers

Guide to Reading

Big Ideas

Geography and History Miners and ranchers settled large areas of the West.

Content Vocabulary

- vigilance committee (p. 159)
- hydraulic mining (p. 161)
- open range (p. 162)
- long drive (p. 163)
- hacienda (p. 164)
- barrios (p. 165)

Academic Vocabulary

- extract (p. 160)
- adapt (p. 162)
- prior (p. 162)

People and Events to Identify

- Henry Comstock (p. 158)
- boomtown (p. 158)

Reading Strategy

Organizing As you read about the development of the mining industry, complete a graphic organizer listing the locations of mining booms and the discoveries made there.



Mining and ranching attracted settlers to western territories that soon had populations large enough to qualify for statehood. People mined for gold, silver, and lead, or shipped longhorn cattle to the East.

Growth of the Mining Industry

MAIN Idea The discovery of gold, silver, and other minerals attracted thousands of settlers who established new states on the frontier.

HISTORY AND YOU Do you remember reading about the 1849 California gold rush? Read on to learn how mineral discoveries shaped the settlement of the West.

Mining played an important role in the settling of the American West. Beginning with the California gold rush, and continuing throughout the late 1800s, wave after wave of prospectors came to the region hoping to strike it rich mining gold, silver, and other minerals. Demand for minerals rose dramatically after the Civil War as the United States changed from a farming nation to an industrial nation. Mining in the West also encouraged the building of railroads to connect the mines to factories back east.

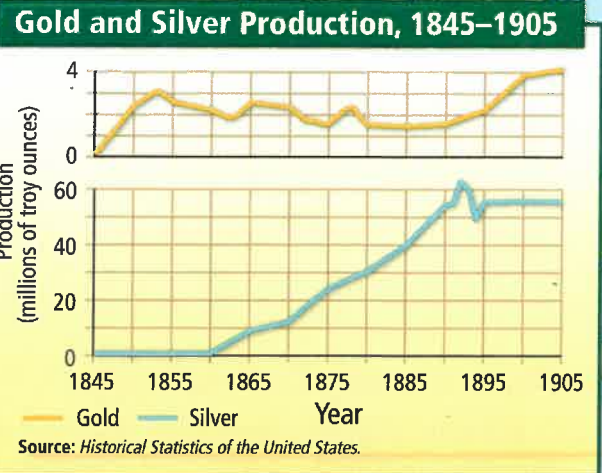
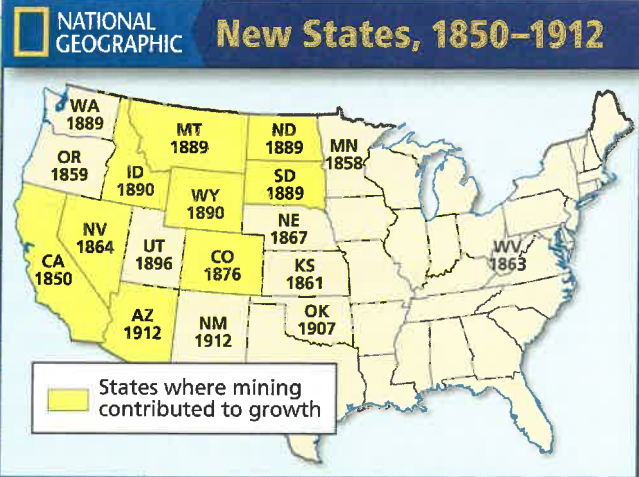
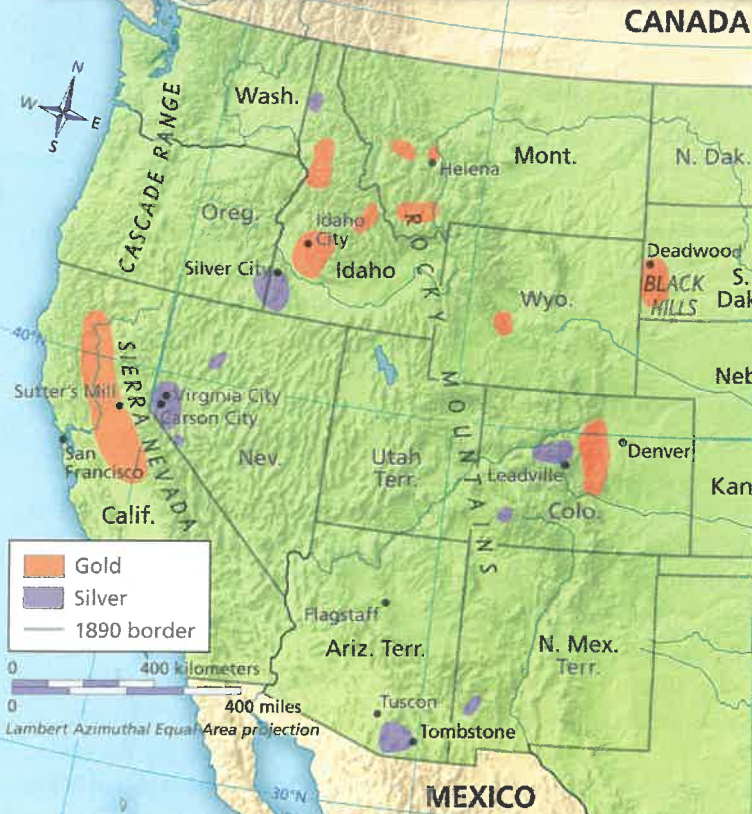
Boomtowns

In 1859 a prospector named **Henry Comstock** staked a claim in Six-Mile Canyon, near Virginia City, Nevada. Frustrated by his failure to find any gold, Comstock sold his claim a few months later. He had not realized that the sticky, blue-gray clay that made mining in the area difficult was in fact nearly pure silver ore.

News of the Comstock Lode, as the strike came to be called, brought a flood of eager prospectors to Virginia City. So many people arrived that, in 1864, Nevada was admitted as the 36th state. The Comstock Lode generated more than \$230 million and helped the Union finance the Civil War.

The story of the Comstock Lode was replayed many times in the American West. News of a mineral strike would start a stampede of prospectors. Almost overnight, tiny frontier towns were transformed into small cities. Virginia City, for example, grew from a town of a few hundred people to nearly 30,000 in just a few months. It had an opera house, shops with furniture and fashions from Europe, several newspapers, and a six-story hotel.

These quickly growing towns were called **boomtowns**. Using the word “boom” this way began in the late 1800s. It refers to a time of rapid economic growth.



Analyzing GEOGRAPHY

- Location** In which states or territories were the four largest silver deposits located?
- Region** Which territories were the last to enter as states? Why might this have been so?
- Human-Environment Interaction** What happened to gold production after 1895?

Maps in Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

Boomtowns were rowdy places. Prospectors fought over claims, and thieves haunted the streets and trails. Often, “law and order” was enforced by **vigilance committees**—self-appointed volunteers who would track down and punish wrongdoers. In some cases, they punished the innocent or let the guilty go free, but most people respected the law and tried to deal firmly but fairly with the accused.

Men were usually first to arrive at a mining site, but women soon followed. Many found work in laundries or as cooks. Others worked at “hurdy-gurdy” houses (named after the mechanical violin), where they waited on tables and danced with men for the price of a

drink. Some women became property owners and community leaders.

Boomtowns could not last forever because, eventually, the mines that supported the economy would be used up. A few boomtowns were able to survive when the mines closed, but many did not. Instead, they went “bust”—a term borrowed from card games that refers to players losing all of their money. In Virginia City, for example, the mines were exhausted by the late 1870s, and the economy collapsed. Most residents moved on; by 1930, Virginia City had only 500 residents. Other towns were completely abandoned, becoming “ghost-towns.”

Mining Leads to Statehood

Mining also spurred the development of Colorado, Arizona, the Dakotas, and Montana. After gold was discovered in 1858 in Colorado near Pikes Peak, miners rushed to the area, declaring “Pikes Peak or Bust.” Many panned for gold without success and headed home, complaining of a “Pikes Peak hoax.”

In truth, the Colorado mountains contained plenty of gold and silver, although much of it was hidden beneath the surface and hard to **extract**. Deep deposits of lead mixed with silver were found at Leadville in the 1870s. News of the strike attracted as many as 1,000 newcomers a week, making Leadville one of the West’s most famous boomtowns.

Operations at Leadville and other mining towns in Colorado yielded more than \$1 billion worth of silver and gold (many billions in today’s money). This bonanza spurred the building of railroads through the Rocky Mountains and transformed Denver, the supply point for the mining areas, into the second largest city in the West, after San Francisco.

Three railroads, the Denver and Rio Grande Western, the South Park and Pacific, and the

Colorado Midland all made stops at towns in the mining region.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory and copper in Montana drew miners to the region in the 1870s. When the railroads were completed, many farmers and ranchers settled the area. In 1889 Congress admitted three new states: North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

In the Southwest, the Arizona Territory followed a similar pattern. Miners had already begun moving to Arizona in the 1860s and 1870s to work one of the nation’s largest copper deposits. When silver was found at the town of Tombstone in 1877, however, it set off a boom that attracted a huge wave of prospectors to the territory.

The boom lasted less than 10 years, but in that time, Tombstone became famous for its lawlessness. Marshall Wyatt Earp and his brothers gained their reputations during the famous gunfight at the O. K. Corral there in 1881. Although Arizona did not grow as quickly as Colorado, Nevada, or Montana, by 1912 it had enough people to apply for statehood, as did the neighboring territory of New Mexico.

PAST & PRESENT

New Mining Technology

In the late 1800s, mining companies developed a new technology—hydraulic mining—to remove large quantities of earth and process it for minerals. Miners generated a high-pressure spray by directing water from nearby rivers into narrower and narrower channels, through a large canvas hose and out a giant iron nozzle called a monitor. Using a powerful high-pressure blast of water, “a handful of men,” as one journalist wrote, “took out the very heart of a mountain.”

Although hydraulic mining is no longer used in the United States, the invention of earth-moving machines such as bulldozers and excavators has made it possible to continue to dig for minerals by removing large quantities of earth. This kind of mining is called open-pit mining or strip mining. It has many of the same problems faced by hydraulic miners. Specifically, something has to be done with the leftovers. The processed ore is usually pumped to a pond, where the water evaporates. These ponds can often be toxic because of the chemicals and minerals that are left after the ore is removed.

1866



▲ The high-pressure water washed the loose earth into large sluices, or ditches that carried the water and earth into riffle boxes. The boxes agitated the water, causing the silver or gold to settle out. The leftover debris, called tailings or “slickens,” was then washed into a nearby stream.

Mining Technology

Extracting minerals from the rugged mountains of the American West required ingenuity and patience. Early prospectors extracted shallow deposits of ore in a process called placer mining, using simple tools like picks, shovels, and pans.

Other prospectors used sluice mining. Sluices were used to search riverbeds more quickly than the panning method. A sluice diverted the current of a river into trenches. The water was directed to a box with metal “riffle” bars that caused heavier minerals to settle to the bottom of the box. A screen at the end of the box prevented the minerals from escaping with the water and sediment.


When deposits near the surface ran out, miners began **hydraulic mining** to remove large quantities of earth and process it for minerals. Miners sprayed water at very high pressure against the hill or mountain they were mining. The water pressure washed away the dirt, gravel, and rock, and exposed the minerals beneath the surface.

Hydraulic mining began in California, near Nevada City. It effectively removed large quantities

of minerals and generated a lot of tax money for local and state governments. Unfortunately, it also had a devastating effect on the local environment. Millions of tons of silt, sand, and gravel were washed into local rivers. The sediment raised the riverbed, and the rivers began overflowing their banks, causing major floods that wrecked fences, destroyed orchards, and deposited rocks and gravel on what had been good farm soil.

In the 1880s farmers fought back by suing the mining companies. In 1884 federal judge Lorenzo Sawyer ruled in favor of the farmers. He declared hydraulic mining a “public and private nuisance” and issued an injunction stopping the practice.

Congress eventually passed a law in 1893 allowing hydraulic mining if the mining company created a place to store the sediment. By then most mining companies had moved to quartz mining—the kind of mining familiar to people today—in which deep mine shafts are dug, and miners go underground to extract the minerals.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** What role did mining play in the development of the American West?

August 1995

▼ Mining is still very important to the western economy. The Kennecott Copper Mine in Bingham Canyon, Utah, is the largest human-made excavation in the world. The mine is 2½ miles wide and ¾ mile deep. It supplies approximately 15% of all copper used in the United States.



▲ An example of the problems of open-pit mining can be seen at the Berkeley Pit copper mine in Montana (above). When the mine closed, groundwater flooded the pit. The water passed through mineral deposits and became very acidic and contaminated with chemicals. Cleanup is scheduled for 2018 once a treatment plant has been built.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- 1. Comparing** How was mining in the 1880s similar to mining today?
- 2. Problem-Solving** How might mining companies avoid damaging the environment and still extract the minerals they need?

Ranching and Cattle Drives

MAIN Idea Ranchers built vast cattle ranches on the Great Plains and shipped their cattle on railroads to eastern markets.

HISTORY AND YOU What images come to mind when you think of cowboys? Read on to learn about the realities of life as a cowboy in the West.

While many Americans headed to the Rocky Mountains to mine gold and silver, others began herding cattle on the Great Plains. Americans had long believed it was impossible to raise cattle in the region. Water was scarce, and cattle from the East could not survive on the tough prairie grasses. In Texas, however, lived a breed of cattle that had **adapted** to the Great Plains—the Texas longhorn.

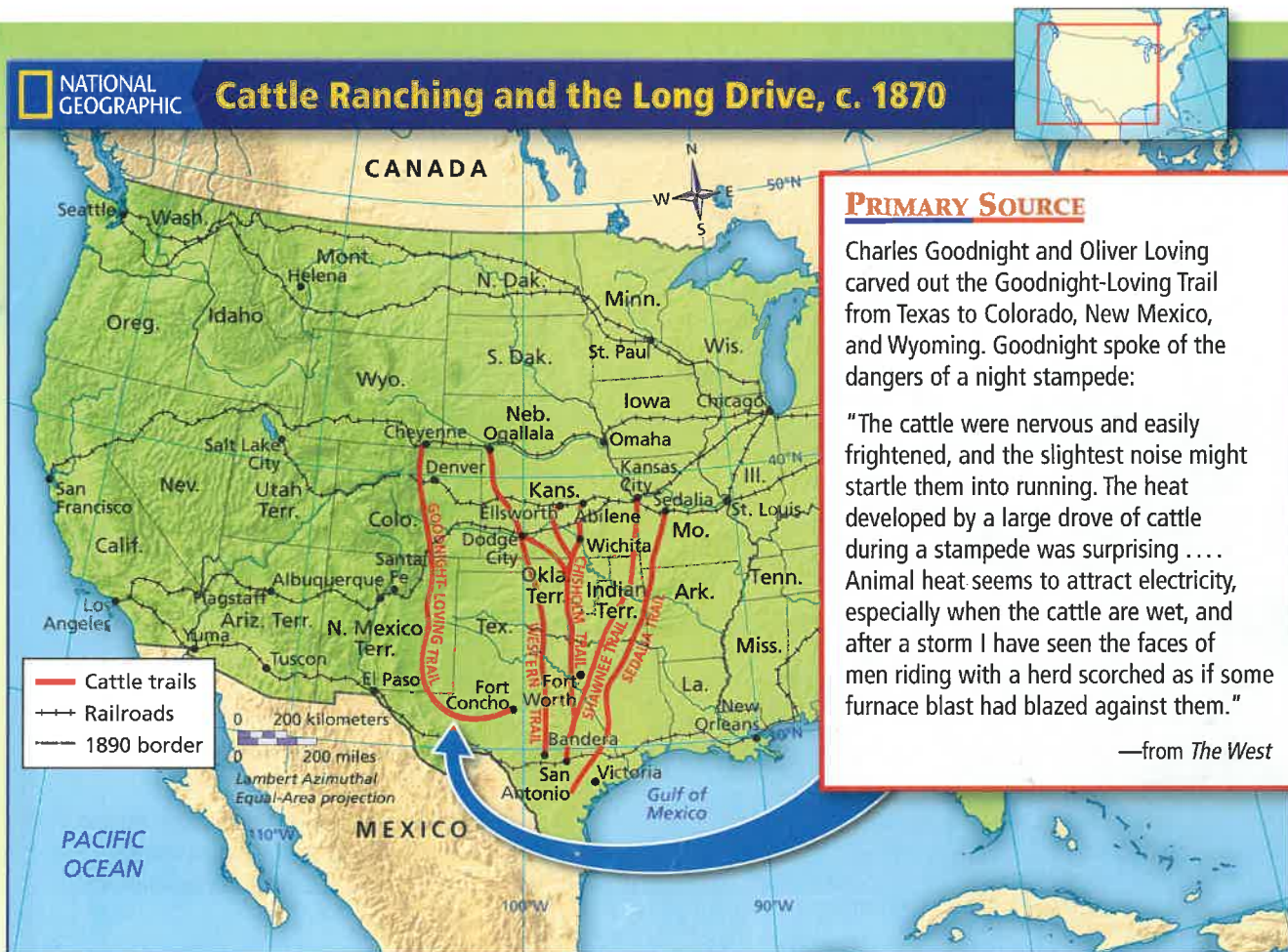
The longhorn was descended from Spanish cattle introduced two centuries earlier. These cattle had been allowed to run wild and, slowly, a new breed—the longhorn—had emerged.

Lean and rangy, the longhorn could easily survive the harsh climate of the Plains. By 1865, some 5 million roamed the Texas grasslands.

Cattle ranching also prospered on the Plains because of the **open range**, a vast area of grassland that the federal government owned. The open range covered much of the Great Plains and provided land where ranchers could graze their herds free of charge and unrestricted by private property.

The Long Drive Begins

Prior to the Civil War, ranchers had little incentive to round up the longhorns. Beef prices were low, and moving cattle to eastern markets was not practical. The Civil War and the coming of the railroads changed this situation. During the Civil War, eastern cattle were slaughtered in huge numbers to feed the armies of the Union and the Confederacy. After the war, beef prices soared and ranchers looked for a way to round up the longhorns and sell them to eastern businesses.



By the 1860s, railroads had reached the Great Plains. Lines ended at Abilene and Dodge City in Kansas and at Sedalia in Missouri. Ranchers and livestock dealers realized that if they could move the cattle as far as the railroad, the longhorns could be sold for a huge profit and shipped east to market.

In 1866 ranchers began rounding up the longhorns and drove about 260,000 of them to Sedalia, Missouri. Most of the cattle did not survive this first **long drive**, but those that survived sold for 10 times the price they would have brought in Texas. Other trails soon opened. The route to Abilene, Kansas, became the major route north. Between 1867 and 1871, cowboys drove nearly 1.5 million head of cattle up the Chisholm Trail from southern Texas to Abilene. As the railroads expanded in the West, other trails reached from Texas to more towns in Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming.

A long drive was a spectacular sight. In the spring, ranchers met with their cowboys to round up cattle from the open range. Stock from many different owners made up these

herds. Cowboys from major ranches went north with the herds. The only way to tell them apart was by the brands burned onto their hides by branding irons. Stray calves without brands were called mavericks. These were divided and branded. The herds could number anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000 cattle.

Ranching Becomes Big Business

Cowboys drove millions of cattle north from Texas to Kansas and points beyond. Some of the longhorns went straight to slaughterhouses, but others were sold to ranchers who were building up herds in Wyoming, Montana, and other territories. Sheep herders moved their flocks onto the range and farmers settled there, blocking the trails. "Range wars" broke out among groups competing for land. Eventually, after much loss of life, hundreds of square miles were fenced cheaply and easily with a new invention—barbed wire.

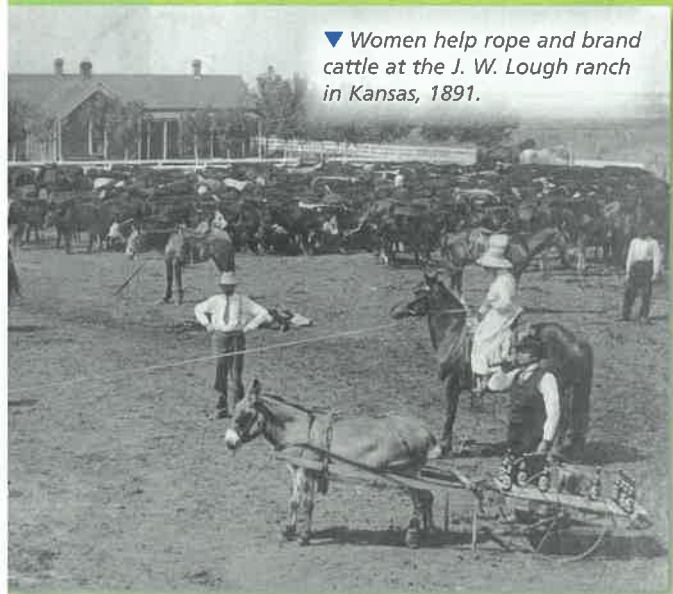
At first, ranchers did not want to abandon open grazing and complained when farmers put up barriers that prevented the ranchers' livestock from roaming. Soon, however, ranchers used barbed wire to shut out those competing with them for land and to keep their animals closer to sources of food and water. For cowboys, however, barbed wire ended the adventure of the long cattle drive.

The fencing of the range was not the only reason the long drives ended. Investors from the East and from Britain had poured money into the booming cattle business, causing an oversupply of animals on the market. Prices plummeted in the mid-1880s and many ranchers went bankrupt. Then, in the winter of 1886–1887, blizzards buried the Plains in deep snow, and temperatures dropped as low as 40 degrees below zero. Massive numbers of cattle froze or starved to death.

The cattle industry survived this terrible blow, but it was changed forever. The day of the open range had ended. From that point on, herds were raised on fenced-in ranches. New European breeds replaced longhorns, and the cowboy became a ranch hand.

 **Reading Check Analyzing** How did heavy investment in the cattle industry affect the industry as a whole?

▼ Women help rope and brand cattle at the J. W. Lough ranch in Kansas, 1891.



Analyzing VISUALS

DBQ

- 1. Explaining** What were two by-products of a cattle stampede?
- 2. Analyzing** Why did the cattle trails north stop where they did?

Settling the Hispanic Southwest

MAIN Idea The arrival of new settlers changed life for Hispanics in the Southwest.

HISTORY AND YOU Do you remember reading about New Spain? Read on to learn how the Hispanic community changed when the Southwest became part of the United States.

For centuries, much of what is today the American Southwest belonged to Spain's empire. After Mexico won its independence, the region became the northern territories of the Republic of Mexico. When the United States defeated Mexico in 1848 and took control of the region, it acquired the Spanish-speaking population living there. According to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the war, the region's residents retained their property rights and became American citizens.

In California, the Spanish mission system had collapsed by the early 1800s. In its place,

a society dominated by a landholding elite had emerged. These landowners owned vast **haciendas**—huge ranches that covered thousands of acres. The heavy influx of “Forty-Niners” during the California gold rush, however, changed this society dramatically. California's population grew from 14,000 to 100,000 in two years. Suddenly, Hispanic Californians were vastly outnumbered.

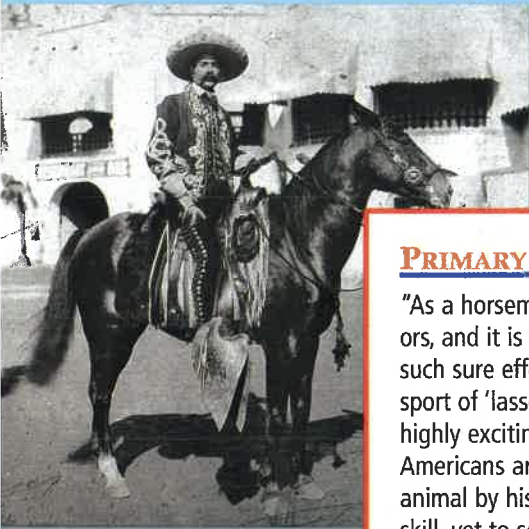
Some Hispanic Californians welcomed the newcomers and the economic growth that resulted. Others distrusted the English-speaking prospectors, who tried to exclude them from the mines. When California achieved statehood in 1850, Hispanics served in many state and local offices. Increasingly, however, the original Hispanic population found their status diminished and, frequently, they were relegated to lower-paying and less desirable jobs.

As they had done with Native Americans, settlers from the East clashed with Mexican Americans over land. Across the region, many Hispanics lost their land to the new settlers.

PRIMARY SOURCE

Hispanics in the Southwest

In the mid-19th century, most Hispanics in the Southwest lived on large haciendas where they worked in the fields harvesting crops or helped tend cattle.

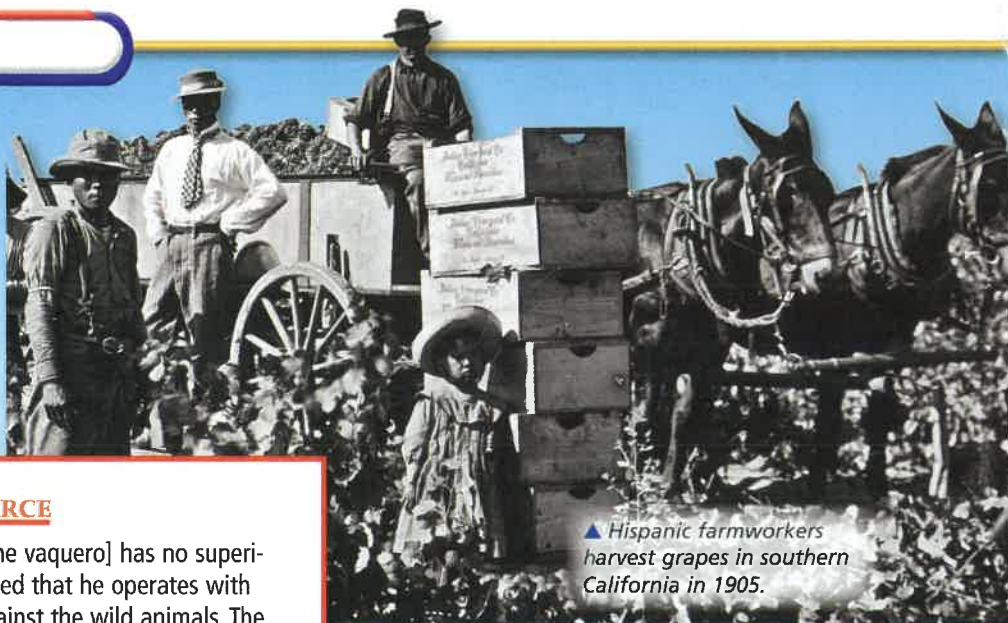


A fancily dressed vaquero, known as a charro, poses for a photo in 1890.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“As a horseman, [the vaquero] has no superiors, and it is mounted that he operates with such sure effect against the wild animals. The sport of ‘lassoing’ wild bulls and other cattle is highly exciting, and one of which all Spanish Americans are passionately fond. To catch the animal by his horns or neck requires much skill, yet to seize him with certainty by the leg, when at the top of his speed, requires greater practice and dexterity.”

—from *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion*, 1852



▲ Hispanic farmworkers harvest grapes in southern California in 1905.

Analyzing VISUALS

- 1. Making Generalizations** Based on the appearance of the vaquero in the photo at left, what generalizations can you make about the man?
- 2. Analyzing** What do you notice about the types of people who were farmworkers? Why might this be so?

Section 1 REVIEW

Mexican American claims to the land often dated back to Spanish land grants. These grants were hundreds of years old and defined the boundaries of property in vague terms. When ownership of a property was claimed by more than one person, American courts frequently held that the old land grants were insufficient proof of ownership. This allowed others to stake claim to the property. In some instances, outright fraud was used to take land illegally from Mexican Americans.

The cattle boom of the 1870s and 1880s had a tremendous impact on Hispanics in the Southwest, where many had long worked as vaqueros (the Spanish word for “cowboys”). Vaqueros developed the tools and techniques for managing cattle. They taught American cowboys their trade and enriched the English language with words of Spanish origin, including “lariat,” “lasso,” and “stampede.”

With the increasing demand for beef in the eastern United States, English-speaking ranchers wanted to expand their herds and claimed large tracts of land of Mexican origin. In some cases, the Hispanic population fought back. In New Mexico, residents of the town of Las Vegas were outraged when English-speaking ranchers tried to fence in land that had long been used by the community to graze livestock. In 1889 a group of Hispanic New Mexicans calling themselves *Las Gorras Blancas* (white caps) raided ranches owned by English-speakers, tore down their fences, and burned their barns and houses. The raids finally ended in 1890 when the governor threatened to call in federal troops.

Despite the influx of English-speaking settlers, Hispanics in New Mexico remained more influential in public affairs than did their counterparts in California and Texas. Hispanics remained the majority, both in population and in the territorial legislature. In addition, a Hispanic frequently served as New Mexico’s territorial delegate to Congress.

As more railroads were built in the 1880s and 1890s, the population of the Southwest continued to swell. The region not only attracted Americans and European immigrants, but also immigrants from Mexico. Mexican immigrants worked mainly in agriculture and on the railroads. In the growing cities of the Southwest—such as El Paso, Albuquerque, and Los Angeles—Hispanics settled in neighborhoods called **barrios**. Barrios had Spanish-speaking businesses and Spanish-language newspapers and they helped keep Hispanic cultural and religious traditions alive. As native Californian Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo explained in 1890:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“No class of American citizens is more loyal than the Spanish Californians, but we shall always be especially proud . . . to honor the founders of our ancient families, and the saints and heroes of our history since the days when Father Junipero planted the cross at Monterey.”

—quoted in *Foreigners in Their Native Land*

Reading Check **Describing** How did vaqueros contribute to the cattle industry in the West?

Vocabulary

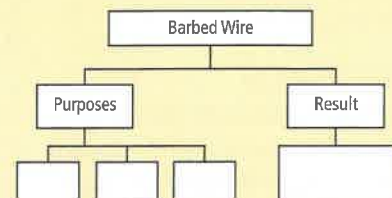
- 1. Explain** the significance of: Henry Comstock, boomtown, vigilance committee, hydraulic mining, open range, long drive, hacienda, barrios.

Main Ideas

- 2. Explaining** How did hydraulic mining affect the environment?
- 3. Stating** What caused the decline of the cattle business in the late 1800s?
- 4. Describing** How did the gold rush change society in California?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Big Ideas** How did mining contribute to the development of the West?
- 6. Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the ways barbed wire was used and the result of using barbed wire on the Great Plains.



- 7. Analyzing Visuals** Sketch a map of the western cattle trails. Then compare your map to the one on page 162, and list the differences between the two maps.

Writing About History

- 8. Descriptive Writing** Write a summary for a story line for a Hollywood movie. Your script should realistically portray the life of either a miner or rancher in the West in the mid- to late 1800s.

History ONLINE

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Farming the Plains

Guide to Reading

Big Ideas

Group Action After 1865 settlers staked out homesteads and began farming the Great Plains.

Content Vocabulary

- homestead (p. 167)
- dry farming (p. 168)
- sodbuster (p. 168)
- bonanza farm (p. 169)

Academic Vocabulary

- prospective (p. 166)
- innovation (p. 168)

People and Events to Identify

- Great Plains (p. 166)
- Stephen Long (p. 166)
- Homestead Act (p. 167)
- Wheat Belt (p. 169)

Reading Strategy

Organizing As you read about the settlement of the Great Plains, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below by listing the ways the government encouraged settlement.



The Homestead Act encouraged settlers to move to the Great Plains. Although life was difficult, settlers discovered that wheat could be grown on the Great Plains using new technologies. By 1890 there was no longer a true frontier in the United States.

The Beginnings of Settlement

MAIN Idea Settlers staked out homesteads and began farming the region.

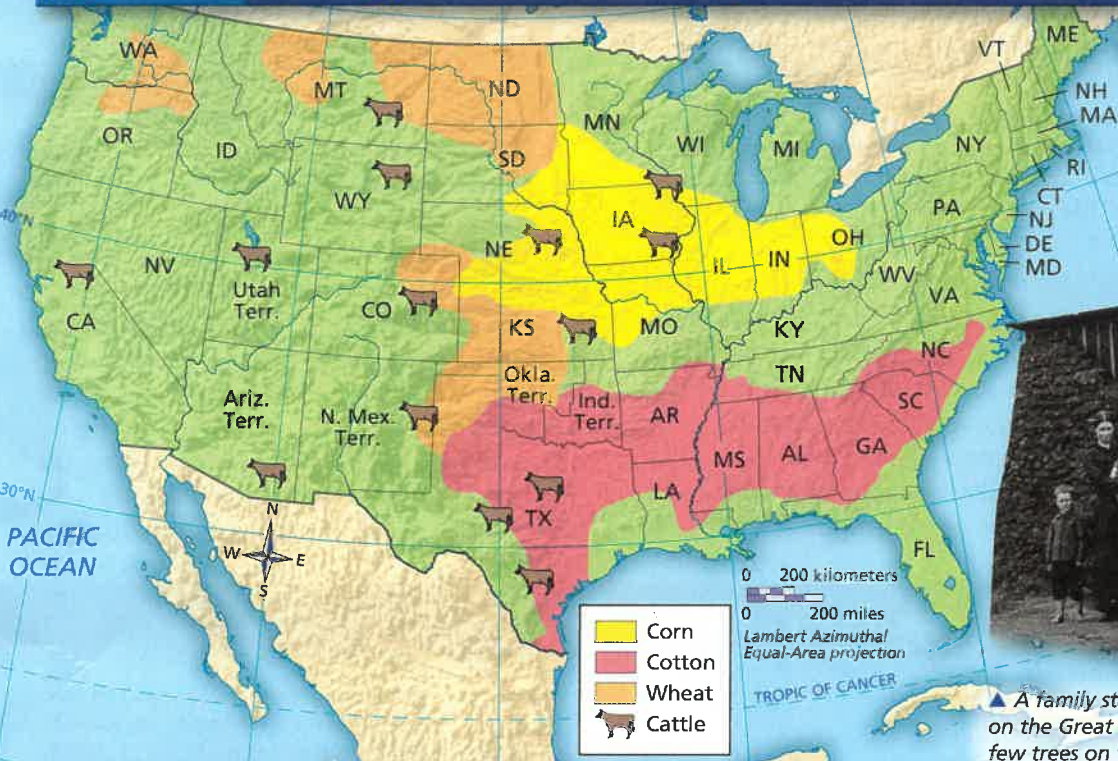
HISTORY AND YOU Would you move to a region with extreme weather such as drought and blizzards? Read on to learn how settlers coped with the harsh environment of the Great Plains.

The population of the **Great Plains** grew steadily in the decades after the Civil War. Land once thought to be worthless for farming was transformed into America's wheat belt. Homesteaders faced many challenges. Without trees to use as timber, many early settlers built their homes from chunks of sod, densely packed soil held together by grass roots. To obtain water, they had to drill wells more than 100 feet deep and operate the pump by hand. Nothing was wasted. Homesteader Charley O'Kieffe recalled eating weeds from the garden, as well as the vegetables, joking that he was obeying the rule, "If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em."

O'Kieffe and his neighbors were early settlers on the Great Plains. This region extends westward to the Rocky Mountains from around the 100th meridian—a line of longitude running north and south from the central Dakotas through western Texas. It is dry grassland where trees grow naturally only along rivers and streams. For centuries this open country had been home to vast herds of buffalo that grazed on the prairie grasses. Nomadic Native American groups had hunted the buffalo for food and used buffalo hides for clothing and shelter.

Major **Stephen Long**, who explored the region with an army expedition in 1819, called it the "Great American Desert" and concluded that it was "almost wholly unfit for cultivation." He predicted that the scarcity of wood and water would prove to be "an insuperable obstacle in . . . settling the country."

During the late 1800s, several developments undermined the assumption that the region was uninhabitable. One important factor was the construction of the railroads. Railroad companies sold land along the rail lines at low prices and provided credit to **prospective** settlers. Pamphlets and posters spread the news to city dwellers across Europe and America that cheap farm land was theirs to claim if they were willing to move.



▲ A family stands outside their sod house on the Great Plains in 1880. There were very few trees on the Great Plains, and wood was expensive because it had to be shipped to the region. So settlers cut chunks of earth from the ground to build their homes.

What Was the Homestead Act?

The Homestead Act of 1862 created a procedure for people who wanted to settle on federal land in the West.

Requirements of the Act

- Settlers had to be 21 years of age.
- Settlers had to be head of a household.
- Settlers had to pay a \$10 filing fee and \$2 commission to the land agent to be given 160 acres of land.
- To gain title to the land, settlers had to live on it for five years, and make improvements such as building a house and clearing land for farming.
- Alternatively, settlers could buy the land for \$1.25 per acre after six months.

Analyzing GEOGRAPHY

- 1. Human-Environment Interaction** What were the similarities and differences in land use between Iowa and California?
- 2. Region** In what region of the country were both cattle raised and cotton grown?

A Nebraskan coined the slogan “Rain follows the plow” to sell the idea that cultivating the Plains would increase rainfall. The weather seemed to cooperate. For more than a decade beginning in the 1870s, rainfall on the Plains was well above average. The lush green of the plains contradicted assertions that the region was a desert.

In 1862 the government encouraged settlement on the Great Plains by passing the **Homestead Act**. For a \$10 registration fee, an individual could file for a **homestead**—a tract of public land available for settlement. A homesteader could claim up to 160 acres of land and could receive title to that land after living there for five years. Later government legislation increased the size of the tracts available. With

their property rights assured, more settlers moved to the Plains.

Settlers often found life very difficult on the Plains. In addition to building sod houses and drilling deep wells for water, they faced summer temperatures greater than 100°F. Prairie fires were a frequent danger. Sometimes swarms of grasshoppers swept over farms and destroyed the crops. In winter there were terrible blizzards and extreme cold. Despite these challenges and hardships, most homesteaders persisted and gradually learned how to live in the difficult environment.

✓ Reading Check Analyzing What is the relationship between private property rights and the settlement of the Great Plains?

The Wheat Belt

MAIN Idea As a result of new farming methods and machinery, settlers on the Great Plains were able to produce large amounts of wheat.

HISTORY AND YOU Do you remember learning about the way the cotton gin changed Southern life? Read on to learn how agricultural practices changed life on the Plains.

Many new farming methods and inventions in the nineteenth century revolutionized agriculture. One approach, called **dry farming**, was to plant seeds deep in the ground, where there was enough moisture for them to grow. By the 1860s farmers on the Plains were using plows, seed drills, reapers, and threshing machines. These new steel machines made dry

farming possible. Unfortunately, soil on the plains could blow away during a dry season. Many **sodbusters**, as those who plowed the Plains were called, eventually lost their homesteads through the combined effects of drought, wind erosion, and overuse of the land.

Large landholders could invest in mechanical reapers and steam tractors that made it easier to harvest a large crop. Threshing machines knocked kernels loose from the stalks. Mechanical binders tied the stalks into bundles for collection. These **innovations** were well suited for harvesting wheat, a crop that could endure the dry conditions of the Great Plains.

During the 1880s many farmers from the Midwest moved to the Great Plains to take advantage of the inexpensive land and the new

History ONLINE
Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the activity on settling the West.

TECHNOLOGY & HISTORY

Farm Machinery Farmers are indebted to the inventions of John Deere and Cyrus McCormick. Deere's steel plow broke through the hard ground. McCormick's mechanical reaper did the work of five men. Later inventions included a mechanical harrow to help prepare the ground for seeds and a grain drill to plant seeds.

▼ *Technology made farming the vast open plains of America feasible. Here, horse-drawn binders are being used to gather hay in the late 1800s.*



The tail keeps the rotor oriented into the wind.



▼ *Windmills were vital to settling the Great Plains where farmers faced one major problem: a lack of water. There were few rivers, and it rarely rained. To get water, settlers drilled deep wells and used windmills to pump the water to the surface. The strong winds on the flat, treeless plains were an ideal power source.*

In the 1870s, the rotor was made of wooden blades. In high winds, the sections could tilt open to let wind through and protect the rotor from damage.

The pump is run by a crank in the gear box that is connected to a shaft in the tower.



Analyzing VISUALS

1. **Identifying** What was used to power the windmill?
2. **Analyzing Visuals** In addition to field hands, what else did farmers using mechanical harvesting machines need?

Section 2 REVIEW

farming technology. The **Wheat Belt** began at the eastern edge of the Great Plains and encompassed much of the Dakotas and parts of Nebraska and Kansas. The new machines allowed a single family to bring in a substantial harvest on a wheat farm covering several hundred acres. Some wheat farms covered up to 50,000 acres. These were called **bonanza farms** because they yielded big profits. Like mine owners, bonanza farmers formed companies, invested in property and equipment, and hired laborers as needed.

Farmers Fall on Hard Times

The bountiful harvests in the Wheat Belt helped the United States become the world's leading exporter of wheat by the 1880s. Then things began to go wrong. A severe drought struck the Plains in the late 1880s, destroying crops and turning the soil to dust. In addition, competition from farmers in other countries began to increase. By the 1890s a glut of wheat on the world market caused prices to drop. Some farmers tried to make it through these difficult times by mortgaging their land—that is, they borrowed money based on the value of their land. If they failed to meet their mortgage payments, they forfeited the land to the bank. Some who lost their land continued to work it as tenant farmers, renting the land from its new owners. By 1900 tenants cultivated about one-third of the farms on the Plains.

Closing the Frontier

On April 22, 1889, the government opened one of the last large territories for settlement. Within hours, more than 10,000 people raced to stake claims in an event known as the Oklahoma Land Rush. The next year, the Census Bureau reported that there was no longer a true frontier left in America. In reality, there was still a lot of unoccupied land, and new settlement continued into the 1900s, but the “closing of the frontier” marked the end of an era. It worried many people, including historian Frederick Jackson Turner. Turner believed that the frontier had provided a “safety-valve of social discontent.” It was a place where Americans could always make a fresh start.

Most settlers did indeed make a fresh start, adapting to the difficult environment of the Plains. Water from their deep wells enabled them to plant trees and gardens. Railroads brought lumber and brick to replace sod as a building material, as well as coal for fuel. They also brought manufactured goods from the East, such as clothes and household goods. Small-scale farmers rarely became wealthy, but they could be self-sufficient. Typical homesteaders raised cattle, chickens, and a few crops. The real story of the West was not one of limitless opportunity, nor one in which heroes rode off into the sunset. It was about ordinary people who settled down and built homes and communities through great effort.

 **Reading Check** **Identifying** What technological innovations helped farmers cultivate the Plains?

Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of: Great Plains, Stephen Long, Homestead Act, homestead, dry farming, sodbuster, Wheat Belt, bonanza farm.

Main Ideas

- 2. Identifying** How did the Homestead Act encourage settlement of the Plains?
- 3. Explaining** What factors contributed to the making of the Wheat Belt in the Great Plains and then to troubled times for wheat farmers in the 1890s?

Critical Thinking

- 4. Big Ideas** What challenges did Plains farmers face?
- 5. Organizing** Make a graphic organizer similar to the one below that lists the effects of technology on farming in the Great Plains.

Invention	Advantage for Farmers

6. Analyzing Visuals Examine the photograph on page 168 of farmers using machinery. Based on the terrain and the type of work they needed to do, what other types of technology would have helped farmers on the Plains?

Writing About History

7. Persuasive Writing Write an advertisement to persuade people from the East and Europe to establish homesteads on the Great Plains.

History  **ONLINE**

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.



Native Americans

Guide to Reading

Big Ideas

Culture and Beliefs Settling the West dramatically changed the way of life of the Plains Indians.

Content Vocabulary

- nomad (p. 170)
- annuity (p. 170)
- assimilate (p. 175)
- allotment (p. 175)

Academic Vocabulary

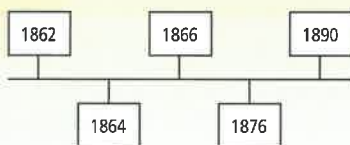
- relocate (p. 170)
- ensure (p. 172)
- approximately (p. 175)

People and Events to Identify

- Sand Creek Massacre (p. 172)
- Indian Peace Commission (p. 172)
- George A. Custer (p. 173)
- Chief Joseph (p. 174)
- Dawes Act (p. 175)

Reading Strategy

Sequencing As you read about the crises facing Native Americans during the late 1800s, complete a time line to record the battles between Native Americans and the United States government and the results of each.



As settlers entered Native American lands on the Great Plains, clashes grew more common. Conflicts continued as the government tried to force Native Americans onto reservations and encouraged them to assimilate into the culture of the United States.

Struggles of the Plains Indians

MAIN Idea The settlement of the West dramatically altered the way of life of the Plains Indians.

HISTORY AND YOU Can you recall a situation in which someone broke a promise to you? Do you remember your reaction? Read on to learn how Native Americans responded when the federal government broke treaties.

For centuries the Great Plains were home to many groups of Native Americans. Some lived in communities as farmers and hunters, but many were **nomads** who roamed vast distances, following their main source of food—the buffalo.

The groups of Plains Indians were similar in many ways. Plains Indian nations were divided into bands consisting of up to 500 people. A governing council headed each band, but most members participated in making decisions. Most lived in extended family groups and believed in the spiritual power of the natural world.

The ranchers, miners, and farmers who moved onto the Plains deprived Native Americans of their hunting grounds, broke treaties guaranteeing certain lands to the Plains Indians, and often forced them to **relocate** to new territory. Native Americans resisted by attacking wagon trains, stagecoaches, and ranches. Occasionally, an entire group would go to war against nearby settlers and troops.

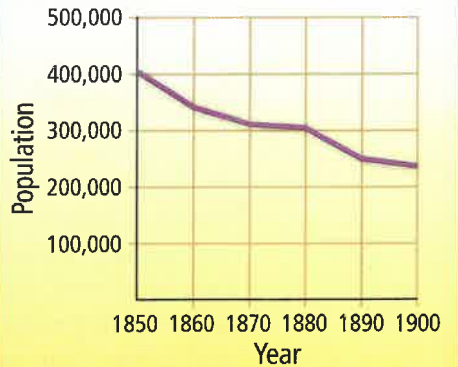
The Dakota Sioux Uprising

The first major clash began in 1862, when the Dakota people (also known as the Sioux) launched a major uprising in Minnesota. The Sioux had agreed to live on a reservation in exchange for **annuities**, or annual payments from the government. The annuities, however, frequently got caught up in bureaucracy and corruption and never reached them. By 1862 many lived in desperate poverty and faced possible starvation. When Chief Little Crow asked local traders to provide food on credit, one replied, “If they are hungry, let them eat grass or their own dung.” Two weeks later, when the Dakota took up arms, that trader was found dead with his mouth stuffed with grass.

Little Crow reluctantly agreed to lead this uprising. He wanted to wage war against soldiers, not civilians, but he was unable to keep



Native American Population



Sources: *Nations Within a Nation*; U.S. Census Bureau.

Fort Laramie Treaties:
 1851: Native Americans agree to the construction of roads and forts on their lands
 1868: The Sioux agree to move to a reservation in the Black Hills

Treaty of Medicine Lodge, 1867:
 Southern Plains Indians agree to move to Indian Territory

Skeleton Canyon, 1886:
 Apache leader Geronimo surrenders

Reservation in 1890
 Fort

Route of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce, 1877
 Treaty Site

Battle
 1890 border

Analyzing VISUALS

- Analyzing** What happened to the Native American population between 1850 and 1900?
- Locating** From what state to what state did the Nez Perce travel in 1877? Through what other states did they pass?

Maps In Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

angry Dakota from slaughtering hundreds of settlers in the area.

After the rebellion was suppressed, a military tribunal sentenced 307 Dakota to death. After reviewing the evidence, President Lincoln reduced the number to 38. Others fled the reservation when federal troops arrived and became exiles in a region that bore their name—the Dakota Territory.

Red Cloud's War

The Dakota Territory was home to another Sioux tribe, the Lakota. The Lakota were a nomadic tribe who fought hard to keep control

of their hunting grounds, which extended from the Black Hills westward to the Bighorn Mountains. They had battled rival groups for this country and did not intend to let settlers have it. Leading them were chiefs Red Cloud, Crazy Horse, and Sitting Bull.

The army suffered a major defeat during “Red Cloud’s War” of 1866–1868. The army was constructing forts along the Bozeman Trail, the path used to reach the Montana gold mines. In December 1866, Crazy Horse, a religious leader and war chief, tricked the fort’s commander into sending Captain William Fetterman and about 80 soldiers out to pursue what they thought was a small raiding party.

Hundreds of warriors were waiting in ambush and wiped out the entire unit (an event that became known as Fetterman's Massacre). The Sioux continued to resist any military presence in the region, and in 1868 the army abandoned its posts along the trail.

Sand Creek

In the 1860s tensions began to rise between the miners coming into Colorado in search of silver and gold and the Cheyenne and Arapaho who already lived there. As the number of settlers increased, bands of Native Americans began raiding wagon trains and stealing cattle and horses from ranches. By the summer of 1864, trade had come to a standstill, dozens of homes had been burned, and an estimated 200 settlers had been killed. The territorial governor, John Evans, ordered the Native Americans to surrender at Fort Lyon, where he said they would be given food and protection. Those who failed to report would be subject to attack.

Although several hundred Native Americans surrendered at the fort, many others did not. In November 1864, Chief Black Kettle brought several hundred Cheyenne to the fort, not to surrender but to negotiate a peace deal. The fort's commander did not have the authority to negotiate, and he told Black Kettle to make camp at Sand Creek while he waited for orders. Shortly afterward, Colonel John Chivington of the Colorado Volunteers was ordered to attack the Cheyenne at Sand Creek.

When Chivington stopped at Fort Lyon, he was told that the Native Americans at Sand Creek were waiting to negotiate. Chivington replied that, since the Cheyenne had been attacking settlers, including women and children, there could be no peace. The events that followed became known as the **Sand Creek Massacre**.

What actually happened at Sand Creek is unclear. Some witnesses stated afterward that Black Kettle had been flying both an American flag and a white flag of truce, which Chivington ignored. Others reported that the American troops fired on the unsuspecting Native Americans and then brutally murdered hundreds of women and children. Still others described a savage battle in which both sides fought ferociously for two days. Fourteen sol-

diers died, but the number of Native Americans reported killed varied from 69 to 600. One general later called Chivington's attack "the foulest and most unjustifiable crime in the annals of America." The truth of what really happened is still debated.

A Doomed Plan for Peace

In light of escalating conflict with Native Americans on the Great Plains, Congress took action. In 1867 Congress formed an **Indian Peace Commission**, which proposed creating two large reservations on the Plains, one for the Sioux and another for Native Americans of the southern Plains. Agents from the federal government's Bureau of Indian Affairs would run the reservations. The army would deal with any groups that refused to report or remain there.

Reservations were not a new idea. Both Puritan and Jesuit missionaries had used them in colonial days to separate Native American nations from one another. The reservations were also intended to encourage Native Americans to adopt white culture. After the American Revolution, the Iroquois (who called themselves the Haudenosaunee) were placed on reservations in western New York. These reservations, however, existed to separate Native Americans and citizens of the United States. Nearly a century later, reservations were based exclusively on keeping the Native Americans separate from American citizens.

The reservation system was again tested after the California gold rush. California, Oregon, and Washington all tried reservations as a way to minimize conflicts between Native Americans and settlers.

The Indian Peace Commission's plan was doomed to failure. Pressuring Native American leaders into signing treaties, as negotiators did at Medicine Lodge Creek in 1867, did not **ensure** that chiefs or their followers would abide by them, nor could they prevent settlers from violating their terms. Those who did move to reservations faced much the same conditions that drove the Dakota Sioux to violence—poverty, despair, and the corrupt practices of American traders.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** What proposal did the Indian Peace Commission present to the Plains Indians?

The Last Native American Wars

MAIN Idea Settlers and Native Americans fought for land and cultural traditions.

HISTORY AND YOU Can you identify parts of the world where development is destroying local cultures? Read how the destruction of the buffalo changed some Native American cultures.

By the 1870s many Native Americans on the southern Plains had left the reservations in disgust. They preferred hunting buffalo on the open plains, so they joined others who had also shunned the reservations. Buffalo, however, were rapidly disappearing as settlers killed off thousands of the animals.

Following the Civil War, professional buffalo hunters invaded the area, seeking buffalo hides for markets in the East. Other hunters killed merely for sport, leaving carcasses to rot. Then railroad companies hired sharpshooters to kill large numbers of buffalo that were obstructing rail traffic and used them to feed the workers.

The army, determined to force Native Americans onto reservations, encouraged buffalo killing. By 1889 very few of the animals remained.

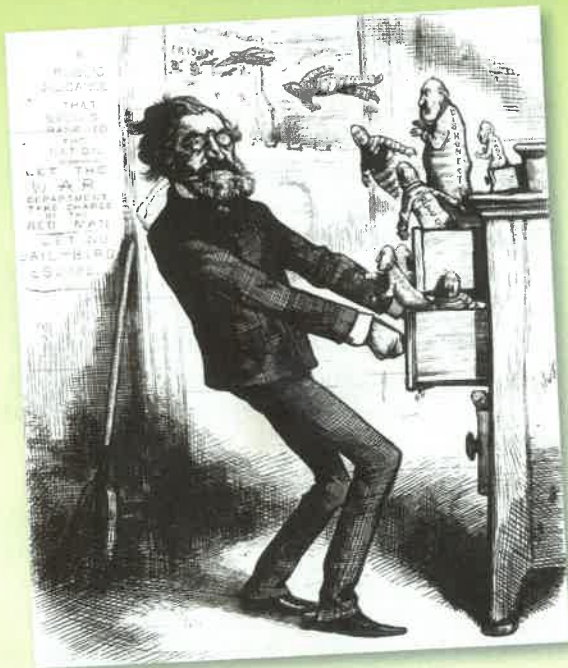
Battle of the Little Bighorn

In 1876 prospectors overran the Lakota Sioux reservation in the Dakota Territory to mine gold in the Black Hills. The Lakota saw no reason they should abide by a treaty that American settlers were violating, so many left the reservation that spring to hunt near the Bighorn Mountains in southeastern Montana.

The government responded by sending an expedition commanded by General Alfred H. Terry. Lieutenant Colonel **George A. Custer** and the Seventh Cavalry were with the expedition. Custer underestimated the fighting capabilities of the Lakota and Cheyenne. On June 25, 1876, ignoring orders, and acting on his own initiative, he launched a three-pronged attack in broad daylight on one of the largest groups of Native American warriors ever assembled on the Great Plains.

POLITICAL CARTOONS PRIMARY SOURCE

Government Native American Policies



▲ This cartoon from 1878 shows Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz investigating the Indian "bureau."



▲ This cartoon is labeled "The Reason of the Indian Outbreak" and quotes General Miles who said the "Indians are starved into rebellion."

Analyzing VISUALS

DBQ

1. **Examining** Who does the cartoon on the right blame for the problems of Native Americans?
2. **Analyzing** According to the cartoon on the left, why was the Indian Bureau unable to help Native Americans?

People IN HISTORY

George Custer 1839–1876

George Custer, who graduated at the bottom of his West Point class, became an unlikely hero during the Civil War. During the many cavalry charges he led, 11 horses were shot out from under him. At the age of 23, he became the youngest Union Army general. When Custer later commanded the Seventh Cavalry in the West, the Cheyenne called him "Yellow Hair," because he wore his curly blond hair to his shoulders. Custer wore buckskins for battle, though he wore velveteen uniforms in the camp. He spent many hours studying military tactics and reading military history. He risked his own career to testify against the corruption of the Indian Bureau. In anger at his testimony, President Grant removed him from command. However, the public outcry in favor of Custer led to his return to command, a decision that cost the lives of Custer and all his troops.

How did Custer's actions in the Civil War indicate what he might do in other combat situations?



Sitting Bull c. 1831–1890

The great Lakota chief Sitting Bull faced his first battle at age 14, in a raid against the Crow tribe. As a young man he joined two groups, a warrior society known as Strong Heart and a group that worked for tribal welfare, Silent Eaters. Sitting Bull became chief when he was 37 years old. A holy man as well as a warrior, Sitting Bull led Native Americans in sun dances and prayers to the Great Spirit. After his victory at the Little Bighorn, Sitting Bull led his people to Canada to avoid the reservation system. In 1881, with his people facing starvation, Sitting Bull led them to Montana. He asked his son to hand the commanding officer of Fort Buford his rifle, hoping to show that "he has become a friend of the Americans." Sitting Bull also asked it to be remembered that "I was the last man of my tribe to surrender my rifle." Four years later, he briefly joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. He was killed by a Lakota, as he had seen in a vision five years before: A Lakota policeman shot him in a scuffle trying to keep the great chief from joining a Ghost Dance, which had been outlawed.

How did Sitting Bull wish to be remembered?



The Native American forces first repulsed a cavalry charge from the south. Then they turned on Custer and his 210 soldiers and killed all but one of them. One Lakota warrior recalled the scene afterward: "The soldiers were piled one on top of another, dead, with here and there, an Indian among the soldiers. Horses lay on top of men, and men on top of horses."

Newspaper accounts portraying Custer as a victim of a massacre produced a public outcry in the East, and the army stepped up its campaign against Native Americans on the Plains. Sitting Bull fled with his followers to Canada, but the other Lakota were forced to return to the reservation and give up the Black Hills.

Flight of the Nez Perce

Farther west, the Nez Perce people, led by **Chief Joseph**, refused to be moved to a smaller reservation in Idaho in 1877. When the army came to relocate them, they fled their homes and embarked on a journey of more than 1,300 miles. Finally, in October 1877, Chief Joseph surrendered, and he and his followers were exiled to Oklahoma. His speech summarized the hopelessness of their cause:

PRIMARY SOURCE

"Our chiefs are killed. . . . The little children are freezing to death. My people . . . have no blankets, no food. . . . Hear me, my chiefs; I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever."

—quoted in *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*

Tragedy at Wounded Knee

Native American resistance came to a final and tragic end on the Lakota Sioux reservation in 1890. Defying the orders of the government, the Lakota continued to perform the Ghost Dance, a ritual that celebrated a hoped-for day of reckoning when settlers would disappear, the buffalo would return, and Native Americans would reunite with their dead ancestors.

Federal authorities had banned the ceremony fearing it would lead to violence. They blamed the latest defiance on Chief Sitting Bull, who had returned from Canada, and sent police to arrest the chief. Sitting Bull's supporters tried to stop the arrest. In the exchange of gunfire that followed, the chief himself was killed.

Section 3 REVIEW

A group of Ghost Dancers then fled the reservation, and the army went after them. On December 29, 1890, as troops tried to disarm them at Wounded Knee Creek, gunfire broke out. A deadly battle ensued, taking the lives of 25 U.S. soldiers and approximately 200 Lakota men, women, and children.

The Dawes Act

Some Americans had long opposed the treatment of Native Americans. In her 1881 book *A Century of Dishonor*, Helen Hunt Jackson detailed the years of broken promises and injustices. Her descriptions of events such as the massacre at Sand Creek sparked new debate on the issue. Some Americans believed the solution was to encourage Native Americans to **assimilate**, or be absorbed, into American society as landowners and citizens. This meant dividing reservations into individual **allotments**, where families could become self-supporting.

This policy became law in 1887 when Congress passed the **Dawes Act**. This act allotted to each head of household 160 acres of reservation land for farming; single adults received 80 acres, and 40 acres were allotted for children. The land that remained after all members had received allotments would be sold to American settlers, with the proceeds going into a trust for Native Americans.

This plan failed to achieve its goals. Some Native Americans succeeded as farmers or ranchers, but many had little training or enthusiasm for either pursuit. Like homesteaders, they often found their allotments too small to be profitable, so they sold them. Some Native American groups had grown attached to their reservations and hated to see them transformed into homesteads for settlers as well as Native Americans.

In the end, the assimilation policy proved a dismal failure. No legislation could provide a satisfactory solution to the Native American issue, because there was no entirely satisfactory solution to be had. The Native Americans were doomed because they were dependent on buffalo for food, clothing, fuel, and shelter. When the herds were wiped out, Native Americans on the Plains had no way to sustain their way of life, and few adopted American settlers' lifestyles in place of their traditional cultures.

The Dawes Act granted citizenship to Native Americans who stayed on their allotments for 25 years. Few qualified, and it was not until 1924 that Congress passed the Citizenship Act, granting all Native Americans citizenship. Some states—Arizona, Maine, and New Mexico—did not grant Native Americans the right to vote until after World War II.

Under Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, the policies of assimilation and allotments finally ended in 1934. The Indian Reorganization Act reversed the Dawes Act's policy of assimilation. It restored some reservation lands, gave Native American tribes control over those lands, and permitted them to elect tribal governments.

Reading Check **Cause and Effect** What effect did Helen Hunt Jackson's book *A Century of Dishonor* have?

Vocabulary

1. **Explain** the significance of: nomad, annuity, Sand Creek Massacre, Indian Peace Commission, George A. Custer, Chief Joseph, assimilate, allotment, Dawes Act.

Main Ideas

2. **Comparing** In what ways were the different groups of the Plains Indians similar?
3. **Discussing** Why do you think the government's policy of assimilation of Native Americans was a failure?

Critical Thinking

4. **Big Ideas** How did Native Americans respond to the loss of land from white settlement of the Great Plains?
5. **Organizing** Use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the reasons the government's plans to move the Plains Indians onto reservations failed.



6. **Analyzing Visuals** Examine the map of battle sites and reservations on page 171. Then, from the point of view of a historian, explain the actions taken against Native Americans within the historical context of the time.

Writing About History

7. **Descriptive Writing** Assume the role of a Plains Indian. Write a journal entry describing how you feel about the Dawes Act and how it has affected your life.

History ONLINE

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Chapter 4 VISUAL SUMMARY



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Causes of Settlers Moving West to the Great Plains

Mining

- Deposits of gold, silver, and copper are discovered.
- New technologies, such as hydraulic mining, make it possible to remove vast quantities of ore.

Ranching

- Wild longhorn cattle, found to survive well on the Plains, are available in large numbers to be rounded up.
- Railroads provide an easy way to ship cattle to eastern markets.

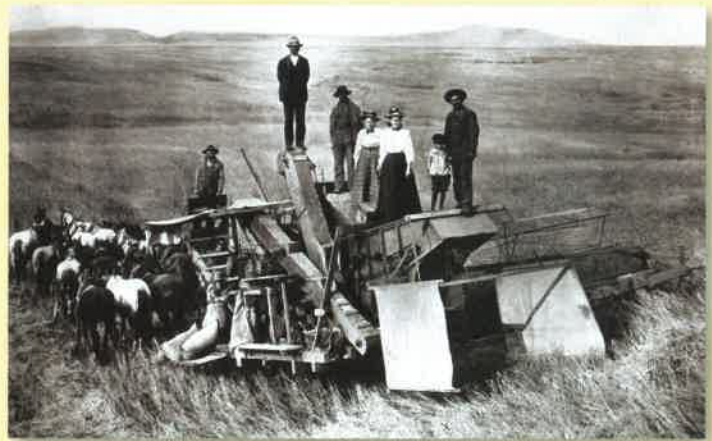
Farming

- Congress passes the Homestead Act in 1862.
- New farming technologies, including new plows, reapers, and drills, make it possible to farm on the Plains.
- Railroads advertise for settlers and bring necessities such as lumber and coal to the Plains.

► Tens of thousands of settlers headed west, lured by the possibility of striking it rich mining gold or silver. This photo shows miners standing beside a stack of silver ingots in Leadville, Colorado, c. 1880.



► A Plains family stands atop their reaper on their Nebraska farm in the 1890s. Technology such as the reaper made farming the Great Plains practical.



Effects of Settling the Great Plains

- Miners arrive in such large numbers that Colorado, the Dakotas, Nevada, and Montana are able to become states.
- Hydraulic mining damages the environment in some areas and interferes with farming.
- The Great Plains becomes the nation's Wheat Belt, growing tens of thousands of acres of wheat.
- The arrival of miners, ranchers, and farmers leads to conflict with Native Americans.
- The federal government fights several wars with the Native Americans, establishes reservations, and passes the Dawes Act to assimilate Native Americans.



▲ Although the Dawes Act was intended to assimilate Native Americans, traditional ways of life persisted. Above, a Cheyenne woman uses a stone mortar and pestle to grind wild cherries outside her home in the 1890s.

Reviewing Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word or words that best completes the sentence.

- Cattle ranching developed on the Great Plains as a result of the _____, which was a vast area of grassland owned by the government.
 - open range
 - long drive
 - barbed wire
 - Chisholm Trail
- The government promoted settlement in the Great Plains by allowing individuals to file for a _____, which let people claim public land as their own.
 - bonanza farm
 - mine permit
 - homestead
 - reservation
- The challenges of farming on the Great Plains led to new agricultural techniques and technologies. _____ required the invention of seed drills to place crop seeds deep in the ground where moisture was more plentiful.
 - Sodbusting
 - Bonanza farming
 - Reservations
 - Dry farming
- _____ were yearly payments made by the United States government to Native Americans on reservations.
 - Nomads
 - Allotments
 - Sodbusters
 - Annuities
- In the early 1800s, society in California was dominated by landowners who lived on large
 - barrios.
 - haciendas.
 - bonanza farms.
 - homesteads.

Need Extra Help?

If You Missed Questions ...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Go to Page ...	162–163	166–167	168	170	164	160	162–163	164–165

Reviewing Main Ideas

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

Section 1 (pp. 158–165)

- In 1889 the discovery of gold and copper led to the rapid development of the northern Great Plains with the following states being formed:
 - Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota.
 - Montana, Wyoming, Idaho.
 - North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa.
 - North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska.
- The open range was closed to grazing with the use of
 - the long drive.
 - barbed wire.
 - hydraulic mining.
 - placer mining.
- Why did *Las Gorras Blancas* carry out night raids in New Mexico?
 - The English-speaking ranchers claimed land used by the community to graze livestock.
 - Vaqueros were outlawed by the English-speaking ranchers.
 - The English-speaking majority in the legislature closed the barrios.
 - The Hispanic minority did not want New Mexico to join the United States.

TEST-TAKING TIP

Look at each question to find clues to support your answer. Try not to get confused by the wording of the question. Then look for an answer that best fits the question.

GO ON 

Chapter 4 ASSESSMENT

Section 2 (pp. 166–169)

9. Which of the following factors provided an incentive for people to farm the Great Plains?
- A long cattle drives
 - B large amounts of rainfall
 - C the Homestead Act
 - D dry, windy weather
10. Why was wheat a suitable crop to grow on the Great Plains?
- A The environment was windy.
 - B Wheat needs more water than corn.
 - C Wheat requires large amounts of rainfall.
 - D New innovations were suited for harvesting wheat.
11. Why were some Americans concerned about the closing of the frontier?
- A People were worried that Native Americans might revolt.
 - B People were worried that the idea of Americans traveling west to make a new start had come to an end.
 - C Some farmers wanted more land to increase their political power with the federal government.
 - D Settlers worried about the cost of supplies with the increased number of homesteaders.

Section 3 (pp. 170–175)

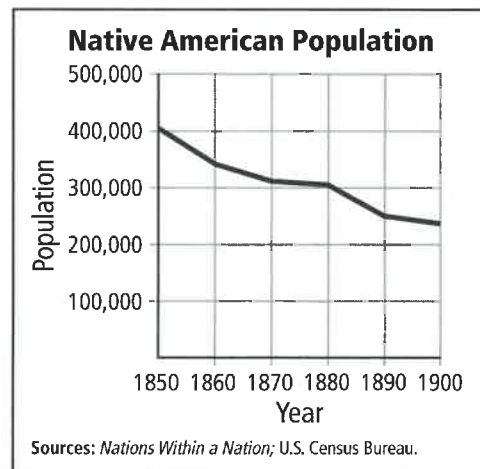
12. The Indian Peace Commission was formed to end the conflict with Native Americans on the Great Plains. They proposed
- A a treaty to end the Battle of the Little Bighorn.
 - B federal regulations for hunting buffalo.
 - C creating two large reservations for the Plains Indians.
 - D removing Sitting Bull from power.
13. The aim of the Dawes Act of 1887 was to
- A restore previously taken land to Native American tribes.
 - B maintain traditional Native American cultures.
 - C end all governmental contact with Native Americans.
 - D assimilate Native Americans into American culture.

Critical Thinking

Directions: Choose the best answers to the following questions.

14. The Native American wars that occurred between 1860 and 1890 were mainly the result of
- A disputes over the spread of slavery.
 - B conflict with Mexico over Texas and California.
 - C the search for gold in California.
 - D the movement of settlers onto the Great Plains.

Base your answers to questions 15 and 16 on the chart below and your knowledge of Chapter 4.



15. What does the graph indicate about the Native American population between 1850 and 1900?
- A The Native American population was over 400,000 in 1860.
 - B The Native American population increased over 50 years.
 - C The Native American population declined between 1840 and 1850.
 - D The Native American population was less than 300,000 in 1890.
16. What factor caused the Native American population to decline sharply between 1880 and 1890?
- A increase in reservation land
 - B conflict with American settlers from the East
 - C increase in the number of wild buffalo
 - D conflict with Hispanic settlers

Need Extra Help?

If You Missed Questions . . .	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Go to Page . . .	166–167	168–169	169	172	174–175	173–175	170–175	173–175



17. Placer mining is a process by which
- A deep mine shafts are dug and miners go underground to extract the minerals.
 - B miners use simple tools like picks, shovels, and pans to extract shallow deposits of minerals.
 - C a number of men use a high-pressure blast of water to loosen large quantities of earth and remove the minerals.
 - D earth-moving machines remove large quantities of earth to remove the minerals.
18. Vigilance committees performed what function?
- A found new lodes
 - B ensured that mining companies did not harm the environment
 - C supervised the building of western railroads
 - D enforced law and order in boomtowns
19. What type of mining allowed sediment into the local rivers, causing them to overflow and flood the area?
- A placer mining
 - B quartz mining
 - C hydraulic mining
 - D panning mining
20. Why did the Dakota Sioux clash with local traders and settlers in 1862?
- A Annuity payments never reached them, resulting in poverty.
 - B Other Native American tribes claimed the area as their own.
 - C Settlers began to increase in the area, disregarding the local treaties.
 - D Buffalo hunters invaded the area and killed the remaining buffalo.

Document-Based Questions

Directions: Analyze the document and answer the short-answer questions that follow the document.

In the late 1860s, the U.S. government adopted a policy of forcing Native Americans onto small reservations. Many Native Americans refused to move and fought to maintain their traditional way of life. In the excerpt that follows, Satanta, a chief of the Kiowa, responds to the government's policy:

"I have heard that you intend to settle us on a reservation near the mountains. I don't want to settle. I love to roam over the prairies. There I feel free and happy, but when we settle down we grow pale and die. I have laid aside my lance, bow, and shield, and yet I feel safe in your presence. I have told you the truth. I have no little lies hid about me, but I don't know how it is with the commissioners. Are they as clear as I am? A long time ago this land belonged to our fathers; but when I go up to the river I see camps of soldiers on its banks. These soldiers cut down my timber; they kill my buffalo; and when I see that, my heart feels like bursting; I feel sorry . . . Has the white man become a child that he should recklessly kill and not eat? When the red men slay game, they do so that they may live and not starve."

—quoted in *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*

21. What reasons does Satanta give for not wanting to settle on a reservation?
22. How does Satanta view the white settlers' approach to the land and the resources on it?

Extended Response

23. Write an essay comparing two different perspectives of the settlement of the West. Analyze how the views of Native Americans and white settlers differed on settling the Great Plains. How did each group view the government's involvement and the environment? The essay should include an introduction, at least three paragraphs, and a conclusion that supports your position.

STOP

History ONLINE

For additional test practice, use Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 4 at glencoe.com.

Need Extra Help?

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