



# AMERICA'S FRONTIER WEST



1. South Dakota became a state in 1889 under President:
  - a. George Washington
  - b. Richard Nixon
  - c. Grover Cleveland
  - d. Benjamin Harrison
2. For most westerners, life was:
  - a. considerably easier than in the industrial Northeast or the rural South
  - b. centered around the mining industry
  - c. extremely violent due to gunfights and Indian raids
  - d. all about adapting and surviving
3. All of the following were renowned artists of the American West except:
  - a. George Catlin
  - b. Frederic Remington
  - c. Leland Stanford
  - d. Charles Russell
4. Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and his 7th Cavalry were defeated at the Battle of the Little Bighorn by an alliance of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Indians led by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, respectively.
  - a. Nez Percé & Cleveland; Chief Joseph & Sitting Bull
  - b. Comanche & Apache; Red Cloud & Geronimo
  - c. Sioux & Cheyenne; Crazy Horse & Two Moons
  - d. Crow & Arapaho; Bloody Knife & Spotted Tail
5. According to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, the Sioux Indians were given:
  - a. western South Dakota
  - b. the Black Hills and the Bighorn Mountains
  - c. most of the present-day state of Oklahoma
  - d. the Powder River region of Wyoming and Montana
6. The Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 was primarily concerned with:
  - a. separating and regulating western Indians according to tribes
  - b. preserving as much of the Indians' culture as possible
  - c. making each Indian family a landholding unit
  - d. protecting the rights of the Indians over lands they currently held

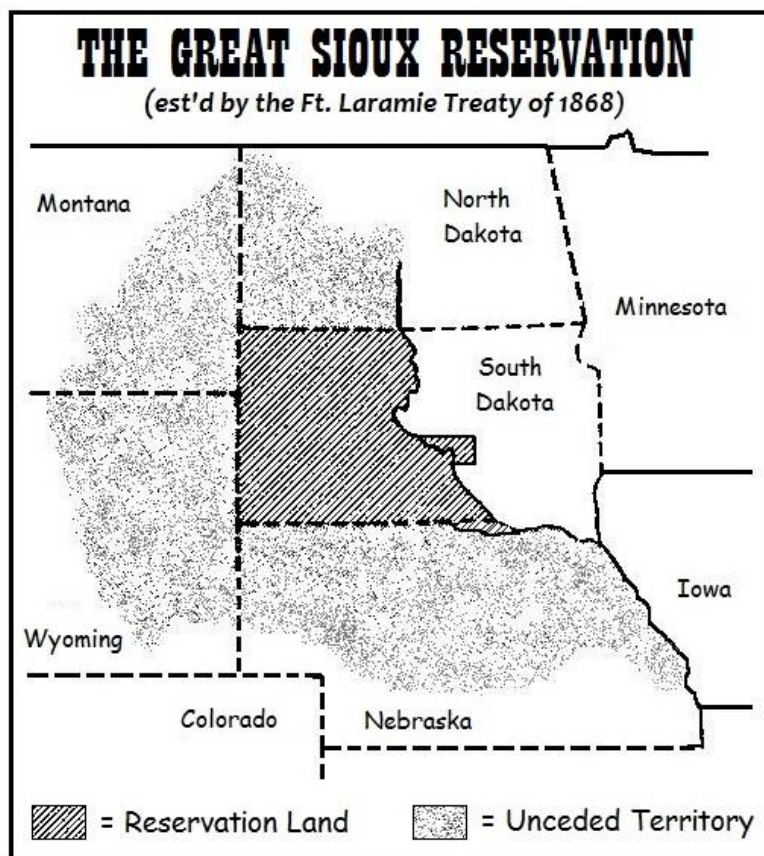
7. The most heavily-traveled route of the great cattle drives was the:
- Chisholm Trail
  - Oregon Trail
  - Goodnight-Loving Trail
  - Sedalia Trail
8. The primary reason of interest in the Black Hills was:
- railroad construction
  - discovery of gold
  - homesteading and farming
  - working the great cattle drives
9. All of the following are true about the American frontier except that it:
- separated the country's organized territory from its unsettled lands
  - formed a rough line generally running north and south
  - moved steadily westward across the United States
  - ceased to exist within a decade after the Civil War
10. Helen Hunt Jackson's book which advocated humane treatment of the Indians was:
- The Last of the Mohicans*
  - I Will Fight No More Forever*
  - Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*
  - A Century of Dishonor*
11. The federal government subsidized construction of a transcontinental railroad because:
- of the danger involved passing through Indian-occupied territory
  - it was a good way to dispose of excess western land
  - such a railway was not otherwise profitable for private companies
  - the Canadian government had successfully done so several years earlier
12. Joseph Glidden invented:
- barbed wire
  - the windmill
  - horses
  - the steel plow
13. The lives of many of the Plains Indians centered around:
- sacred totem poles
  - tepee and canoe
  - war dances and wagon train attacks
  - horse and buffalo
14. By 1900, the number of America's statehoods had grown to:
- 45
  - 46
  - 48
  - 62

15. The end of the Plains Indian Wars is marked by the:
- Fort Laramie Treaty
  - Battle at the Little Bighorn River
  - Dawes Severalty Act
  - Wounded Knee Massacre
16. The creation of time zones in the United States is associated with the:
- cattle industry
  - Pony Express
  - addition of western statehoods
  - railroads
17. All of the following helped create much of the myth surrounding the "Wild West" except:
- artists of Old West scenes
  - Hollywood movies
  - some of the legendary figures (like Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok) themselves
  - American history books
18. The nineteenth-century historian associated with the significance of the frontier experience on the development of the American nation is:
- Nelson Miles
  - Frederick Jackson Turner
  - John Garraty
  - Marcus Reno
20. "By 1880 . . . 600 miles per day." This statistic refers to:
- track laid by western railroad companies
  - distance traveled by experienced Pony Express riders
  - amount of barbed wire fence manufactured by Joseph Glidden
  - distance typically covered by cattle drives
21. All of the following colleges have team mascots which reflect American history except:
- University of Arizona
  - University of Michigan
  - University of Oklahoma
  - University of Texas
23. The statement pair which describes the same state is:
- "state of destination for most cattle drives" & "Battle of the Little Bighorn was fought here"
  - "first statehood following the Civil War" & "home state of America's first national park"
  - "state where the first transcontinental railway was completed" & "became a state in 1889"
  - "the infamous gunfight at the O.K. Corral took place here" & "state enlarged by the Gadsden Purchase"
25. Poker's so-called "dead man's hand" includes:
- black aces and eights
  - any five cards which, when face values are combined, total unlucky 13
  - king, queen, and jack of hearts
  - all four aces

**The Plains Indians.** In 1860 nearly a quarter of a million Indians were still roaming parts of the West, particularly in the High Plains. Once the horse and gun were introduced into Indian culture, buffalo herds diminished and warfare became bloodier. In 1851 Thomas Fitzpatrick, an Indian agent, called a council of tribes, persuading each tribe to limit its hunting grounds in return for gifts and annual payments. This policy of "concentration" enabled the government to divide and conquer the Indians.

**Indian Wars.** The guarantees made to the Indians were ignored in 1859 when the Cheyenne and the Arapaho were forced from their lands during the Colorado gold rush. In 1867 the government gave up its "concentration" policy in favor of forming two small reservations for the plains Indians, one in the Black Hills of Dakota, the other in Oklahoma. While the principal chiefs yielded to the government's demands, many Indians refused and the army was used to put down uprisings.

The reservations might have worked if the Indians had been given a reasonable amount of land with adequate supplies and fair administration. The Indians' plight was best demonstrated when gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1874 and the government failed to prevent encroachment by miners. Indian retaliation resulted in their victory over Custer's forces at Little Big Horn (June 1876), but within a short time the Indians were back on the reservations.



**Destruction of Tribal Life.** The single most important blow struck against Indian culture was the destruction of the buffalo. The hide was used commercially, the meat fed railroad laborers, and finally, buffalo hunting became a popular sport. In 1887 Congress passed the Dawes Severalty Act which proved to be a disastrous attempt to convert Indians into small agricultural capitalists, without regard to their heritage and culture. By 1934 the government returned to a policy of encouraging tribal ownership of Indian lands, after the most desirable lands were in the hands of the whites.

**Blacks After Reconstruction.** Following the Compromise of 1877 some southern leaders paid lip service to respect for black civil rights. But by the 1890s Negroes were effectively barred from voting in the South by poll taxes and literacy tests. At the same time the Supreme Court in the *Civil Rights Cases* (1883) allowed discrimination against Negroes in privately-owned facilities, and in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) it established the principle of "separate but equal" in public accommodations.

Booker T. Washington, the dominant black leader of the period, felt that blacks would have to accommodate themselves to white prejudice at least temporarily and concentrate on self-improvement, an idea expressed in his Atlanta Compromise speech in 1895.

**Exploiting Mineral Wealth in the West.** From the mid-1850s until the mid-1870s, Americans interested in becoming overnight millionaires rushed from one gold or silver strike to the next. After 1876 the big rushes ended, but the West continued to yield much gold and silver, with large companies controlling most mines. Certain valuable results accompanied the gold rushes: the nation's financial position improved, interest in the West increased, and political organization followed in the wake of miners.

**The Land Bonanza.** The Homestead Act (1862), intended to create 160-acre family farm units throughout the West, did not work out as planned. Few Americans had the capital to invest in equipping a farm, factory workers showed little interest in farming, and wealthy speculators abused the act by acquiring large tracts. In the same vein, the Timber and Stone Act (1878) allowed unscrupulous lumber interests to obtain huge forests from the national domain. Some corporations made profits from "bonanza" farming, but even the advantages of commercialized agriculture could not withstand the droughts of the late 1880s.

**Western Railroad Building.** The federal government contributed to further land exploitation by subsidizing western railroads through huge land grants. It was generally believed that the value of adjacent government land would increase as railroads were completed. The Pacific Railway Act of 1862 established the pattern for these grants by giving builders of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads five square miles per track laid. The system imposed no restraints on how the railroads used the funds, and corruption, as in the Cr dit Mobilier scandal, was not uncommon. Ironically, in spite of the land-grant system, all of the transcontinental railroads went bankrupt during the depression of the 1890s, with the exception of James J. Hill's Great Northern, which was privately financed.

**The Cattle Kingdom.** By the time of the Civil War, Texas longhorns existed by the millions south of the Red River. Not until the railroads began to extend into the plains did these cattle have great economic value. Beginning in 1866 cattle were driven north to Abilene, Ellsworth, and Dodge City where sizeable profits awaited the cattlemen. The technique of the long drive produced the American Cowboy of modern legend, and riotous cow towns boomed.

**Open-Range Ranching.** It soon became obvious that the longhorns could survive the winters of the northern plains, and cattlemen began to stock large herds on the open range. Cattle were free to graze on the public domain, with water being the only factor limiting their movement. Ranchers often acted in consort to obtain legal title to lands adjacent to streams. Their herds became intermixed and distinguished by individual brands. By the early 1880s, with an increasing demand for meat, large companies began to dominate the cattle business. By the mid-1880s the range became overcrowded and conflicts resulted. Major John Wesley Powell suggested that western lands be divided into three classes: irrigable lands, timber lands, and pasturage lands.

**Barbed-Wire Warfare.** Congress refused to pass any meaningful land use laws, and range conditions worsened. Many individual ranchers began to fence huge areas with barbed wire, recently invented by Joseph Glidden. In 1886 the boom times in cattle business ended as overproduction, mounting expenses, overgrazing, and a severe winter combined to destroy 80 to 90 percent of all the cattle on the range. When the industry revived, it was on a smaller, more efficient scale. Exploitation had taken its toll, and the bonanza days of the West were over.