

# The West Transformed

Mr. Zindman's Class

Please study your class notes and slides!

## 📖 Mining

- A mining boom led to the **gold rush** in the West
- **Prospectors** mined the gold
- **The Comstock Lode** was discovered in 1859, by **Henry Comstock**, a **lode** is a rich vein of gold or silver
- Miners set up **tent cities** which led to the growth of cities
- When the gold and silver ran out people moved out of the towns, the towns became **ghost towns**



## 📖 Railroading

- A railroad train was called an “**iron horse**”
- The **Transcontinental Railroad** was built, it connected the United States from coast to coast
- Railroads hired immigrant workers to build the railroads- Chinese, Africans, and Irish
- The East and West railroads met at **Promontory, Utah 1869**
- A **golden spike** was hammered into the ground when the trains met

## 📖 Indian Peoples of the Great Plains

- Many Native Americans lived on the **Great Plains** when the railroads were being built
- Native Americans had had a well-organized society and religion
- Plains Indians hunted the **buffalo** to provide for all their needs
- Plains Indians make homes called **tepees** and ate **meat jerky**

- Plains Indian women oversaw the home, they cooked took care of the children, made the baskets and blankets
- Plains Indian men hunted and protected the women, children and elders as warriors
- Plains Indian women tanned buffalo hides, made baskets, took care of the children, and made blankets
- *The American government broke their promise to protect the hunting grounds for the Plains Indians*

### 📖 Indian Peoples Revolt and Retreat

- Conflicts between Indians began as settlers and miners cross Indian hunting grounds in the 1840's
- The ***Fort Laramie Treaty*** provided land untouched by the American government for the Native Americans
- When Gold was struck in ***Pikes Peak*** in 1858, the government broke the Fort Laramie Treaty and forced the Native Americans to leave the land that they were promised
- The Native Americans refused to give up their lands and fought the American soldiers to stay
- In the ***Chivington Massacre***, settlers led a militia against Native Americans killing 200 men, women and children, even though the Native Americans surrendered to the army
- Native Americans were forced to live on ***reservations***
- With the decline in the numbers of ***buffalo*** the way of life for the Native Americans disappeared
- ***General George Custer*** and 200 men died at the ***Battle of Little Bighorn***
- ***Geromimo, Sitting Bull*** and ***Crazy Horse*** led Indian revolts against the settlers
- ***Chief Joseph*** was a Nez Perce chief who, faced with settlement by whites of tribal lands in Oregon, led his followers in a dramatic effort to escape to Canada.
- The ***Dawes Act of 1887*** authorized the President of the United States to survey American Indian tribal land and divide it into allotments for individual Indians.
- The major goal of the ***Indian Reorganization Act*** was to reverse the traditional goal of assimilation of Indians into American society and to strengthen, encourage and perpetuate the tribes and their historic traditions and culture.

## 📖 **The Cattle Kingdom**

- With the growing need to eat beef, cattle drives, of *longhorns*, brought cattle across the countryside to markets
- *Cattle drives* ended in *cow towns* that sprung up along the railroad lines, cow towns became the cattle kingdom-*Abilene, Dodge City, and Kansas*
- The most famous cattle trail was the *Chisholm Trail*
- In 1885-1887, many cattle perished due to lack of food (grass) and cold winters
- Ranchers fenced in their land and the cattle kingdom ended

## 📖 **Homesteading**

- Farmers moved west for free land under the *Homestead Act*
- People that accepted free land were called *homesteaders*
- African Americans joined the rush for land under the Homestead Act, the largest group of settlers was called the *Exodusters*-Africans moved to Kansas
- Many farmers made homes out of dirt called *sod homes* - These farmers were called *sodbusters*
- Some people, or *sooners*, became squatters and sneaked on the land and claimed the land as their own
- Farmers gathered together in cooperatives to improve conditions for farmers -*The National Grange* was organized
- The Grange enabled farmers to buy supplies , *wholesale*, or buying large quantities of supplies for a lower price
- Farmers and labor unions joined together to make the Populist Party
- The Populist Party, was established – They were concerned with rising prices, or *inflation*
- The Populist Party called for an *income tax*, or a government tax on a worker's salary
- *William McKinley* became the president and was assassinated in 1901
- The movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, was modeled after Populist beliefs