

Chapter 13



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Quick Write

Create a list of pros and cons of moving out west.

Standard 12c



Describe the growth of the western population and its impact on Native Americans with reference to Sitting Bull and Wounded Knee.

Cultures Clash on the Prairie



Chapter 13 Section 1

The Culture of the Plains Indians

- Distinctive and highly developed Native American ways of life existed on the Great Plains, the grassland extended through the west-central portion of the United States.
- Native Americans gained horses and guns and made hunting for them more efficient
- Settlers believed that owning land, making a mining claim, or starting a business would give them a stake
- Most mining camps and tiny frontier towns had filthy, ramshackle living quarters
- Striking it rich was one powerful attraction in the West

Would you be willing to pack up and move to the frontier?

The Government restricts Native Americans and supports Assimilation

- November 29th, 1864 150 inhabitants mostly women and children were killed in Sand Creek at dawn
- Treaty of Fort Laramie- Sioux agreed to live on a Mississippi Reservation
- Sitting Bull- was the Native American chief under whom the Sioux tribes united in their struggle for survival on the Native American Great Plains
- Dawes Act- it was to “Americanize” the Native Americans
- Assimilation- was a plan under which Native Americans would give up their beliefs and way of life and become part of the white culture
- The most significant blow to the tribal life was the destruction of the buffalo

Bloody Battles continue

- Treaty of Fort Laramie provided a halt in warfare
- Red River War- General Philip Sheridan gave orders “to destroy their villages and ponies!”
- December 28th, 1890 the starving and freezing Sioux were taken to the Wounded Knee Camp shots were fired and the Seventh Cavalry ended up killing 300 unarmed Native Americans.
- Gold rush- George A. Custer reported that the Black Hills had Gold and everyone went west in order to get rich and find gold.

Settling on the Great Plains



Chapter 13 Section 2

Settlers Move Westward to Farm

- From 1856 to 1871, the federal government gave 170 million acres for railroads worth around half a billion dollars.
- In 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act, which offered 160 acres of land free to a citizen who was the head of the household. Over 600,000 families took the offer and moved west.
- To be eligible for the Homestead Act, you also had to swear that you have never and will never take up arms against the government.
- Several thousand were exodusters, African Americans who moved from post-Reconstruction South to Kansas.
- In 1872, the government created the Yellowstone National Park.

Settlers Meet the Challenges of the Plains

- Settlers started to face hardships: droughts, floods, fires, blizzards, locust plagues, and occasional raids by outlaws and natives.
- Many settlers either made dugouts or soddies. Many pioneers dug their homes into the sides of ravines or small hills. A stovepipe jutting from the ground was often the only sign of a dugout. Soddies were what settlers made who moved to broad flatland.
- Women worked alongside men on the farms. Their work included: plowing land, shearing sheep and made clothes for their families, dug wells and carried water in buckets, and made soap.
- Farming year in and year out became a difficult task so companies began to invent machines to help maintain and work on a farm. These inventions included: John Deere's Steel Plow, a reaping machine, the spring tooth harrow, the grain drill, and the corn binder.
- In 1830, it took around 183 minutes to produce a bushel of grain. By 1900, it took only 10 minutes with the use of the machines.

Questions

- If the settlers knew about some of the harsh conditions, do you think they would still take up the offer of the Homestead Act and move West?
- How did new inventions change farming in the West?

Farmers and the Populist Movement



Chapter 13 Section 3

Farmers Unite to Address Common Problems

- Farmers were trapped in a vicious economic cycle caused by falling crop prices and outrageously high prices that railroads charged to transport grain.
- Farmers were forced to mortgage their farms for credit to buy seeds and supplies which had high interest rates.
- Oliver Hudson Kelley started an organization for farmers to push for reform known as the Grange.
- The Grange gave rise to other organizations such as Farmers' Alliances which included many others who sympathized with farmers

The Rise and Fall of Populism

- Leaders of the alliance movement realized that to make far reaching changes they would need to build a base of political power
- This led to Populism--the movement of the people
- The party demanded reforms to lift debt and give the people a greater voice in the government
- The reforms made the party very attractive to farmers and laborers
- In 1893, railroads went bankrupt and the government's gold wore thin leading to panic and further economic depression. This came to be known as the Panic of 1893

The Rise and Fall of Populism (Continued)

- The central issue of the 1896 campaign was which metal would be the basis of the nation's monetary system
- Democrats nominated William Jennings Bryan who favored bimetallism--a system which used silver and gold
- Republicans nominated William McKinley who favored the gold standard--backing dollars solely with gold
- Populists endorsed Bryan by nominated Thomas Watson for Vice President
- Populism ended with the election of William McKinley

Questions

Why would people favor the use of silver and gold over the use of only gold for the monetary system?

Do we see people still trapped in harsh economic cycles today?

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