

## Chapter 19.1 Miners Ranchers and Cowhands

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Frontier: unsettled or sparsely settled are of the country occupied by mainly Native Americans.*

*Great Plains: area from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains*

*vigilantes- people who took the law into their own hands.*

*Main Idea: Miners ranchers and cowhands settled in the West seeking economic opportunities.*

*Tales of gold, silver, fertile soil and free land offer new opportunities, adventure, hardships and danger.*

*Cattle Industry: Extension of railroad made it possible to get cattle to stockyards in Kansas. Then beef could be shipped to Chicago and the populated Northeast by railcar.*

*Few wanted to settle the empty great plains, however gold in California and Oregon led to statehood for those states. This encouraged further western settlement.*

*Gold strikes in 1859 led fortune seekers to Colorado and Nevada.*

*Pikes Peak and Comstock Lode*

*From 1859-1880 Comstock mine produced some \$300 million in silver and gold.*

*Boomtowns rose up, towns with sudden economic or population growth.*

*Gold fever attracted miners from east, west and all around the world.*

*Few prospectors struck it right. Many were left broke and disappointed.*

*Large mining companies moved into the regions. Mining was hard and dangerous.*

*Dust caused lung problems and deadly cave ins could trap miners hundreds of feet below the surface.*

*Lasting effects: Nevada, Colorado, and South Dakota gained statehood.*

*Rise of the Cattle Industry: Until the 1860s, there were few buyers for Western beef because there was no efficient way to get the beef to markets in the more heavily populated cities of the east. Ranchers mostly sold beef locally.*

*Cattle Industry: Extension of railroad made it possible to get cattle to stockyards in Kansas. Then beef could be shipped to Chicago and the populated Northeast by rail car. Cow hands drove cattle herds north from Texas to Kansas and then the beef could be shipped to Chicago and points by rail car.*

*Ranchers hired cowhands to round up cattle and drive them to Kansas. The success of Abilene Ks, led to more cow towns. The first cowhands came from Mexico with the Spaniards in the 1500s.*

*Known as vaqueros, they taught the American cowhands how to rope and ride.*

*Many cowhands during the mid-1800s were former Confederate or Union soldiers. About one in three were either Mexican or African American.*

*At first, rapidly growing towns in the West had no local governments or law officers.*

*Sometimes groups took the law into their own hands and punished suspects in crimes without trials. As towns became more settled, citizens elected local sheriffs.*

*End of the long drives*

- 1. prices of beef dropped*
- 2. farmers fenced in land with barbed wire*
- 3. harsh winters froze cattle to death*

*Summary :*

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Summary :

**Reservation:** land set aside by the U.S government for Native American Tribes

**Sand Creek Massacre: 1864** attack in which more than 150 Cheyenne men women and children were killed by the Colorado militia.

**Battle of Little Big Horn: : 1876** Battle in which the Sioux and the Cheyenne wiped out an entire force of U.S Troops

**Wounded Knee Massacre:** the massacre by U.S soldiers of 300 unarmed Natives at Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota; 1880

**Dawes Act:** Encouraged Native Americans to assimilate into White culture and become farmers.

Summary :

**Main Idea:** Native Americans of the Great plains fought to maintain their way of life as settlers poured onto their lands.

Before 1500, most Plains tribes lived in villages along rivers and streams. Central to their lives was the buffalo. They used nearly every part of it for food, clothing, or shelter. In the early 1540s, the Spanish had brought the first horses to the Great Plains. The Plains people quickly became expert riders. Many Plains tribes developed a nomadic way of life as they traveled across the Plains in search of buffalo.

Eastern Native Americans tribes had been forced to live on western reservations by the federal government. But as more settlers moved west, the government tried to buy back some of the reservation land. When the Cheyenne and Sioux refused, fighting broke out between these tribes and government forces.

In 1862, about 1,200 Colorado militia attacked a peaceful Cheyenne village. More than 150 Cheyennes were killed in what came to be known as the Sand Creek Massacre.

In the Fetterman Massacre, Sioux attacked 80 workers who had been sent by the government to build a trail across Sioux hunting grounds. All the men were killed.

The government tried to find a way to end the fighting by writing another treaty which ultimately failed.

In 1874, white prospectors rushed onto Sioux land after discovering gold there. Sioux warriors led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse hoped to drive them out. In June of 1876 in Montana, the Sioux wiped out the Seventh Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer. The Battle of Little Big Horn was the last major Native American victory. The news of Custer's defeat shocked the Nation, and the U.S government put more military in the region.

The Nez Perce (nehz PURS) tribe lived throughout eastern Oregon and Idaho. During the 1860s, whites began forcing tribe members to sell their land and move. In 1877 a group of Nez Perce led by Chief Joseph refused and were eventually forced to surrender.

In the Southwest, both the Navajos and the Apaches fought against being moved to reservations.

A way of life for the Native Americans ended with dwindling of the Buffalo. A Native American named Wovoka preached about a new age where the white man would be removed and the Native Americans could once again hunt the buffalo. Wovoka urged the people to perform ghost dances. Various tribes began assembling at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The federal government feared they were preparing for war. The ghost dancers were rounded up and placed in a temporary camp near wounded knee creek. The next day as the Sioux were surrendering a shot was fired- the result was the killing of about 300 men, women and children. This is known as the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Some called for better treatment of the Native Americans, -- In 1887, the Dawes Act encouraged Native Americans to assimilate, or adopt, white culture by becoming farmers it was meant as a way to help but in the end, this act did little to help Native Americans.

Western life provided new opportunities for women. They worked as teachers or domestics servants. Some became sheriffs, gamblers, and even outlaws.

Could own property and control their own money unlike in the East.

In Wyoming, women first earned the right to vote.

Railroads also brought rapid growth to the West. Omaha, Nebraska, flourished as a meat-processing center for area cattle ranches. Portland, Oregon, became a regional market for fish, grain, and lumber

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