

## Knowledge Organiser – American West

### Part 1 – Early Settlement of the West 1835 – 1862.

#### **Key Events:**

**1830** – Indian Removal Act. 46,000 Indians are forced to leave the Eastern states by the US government to re-locate to the Great Plains.

**1834** – Indian Trade Act. Sets out the Permanent Frontier which divided Indian territory from the eastern States, running from the Appalachian Mountains.

**1836** – Oregon Trail opened.

**1846** – Donner Party. Migration of 300 people to California that failed. Trapped by the early snow in the Rocky Mountains it led to cannibalism.

**1846 – 7** – The Mormon Migration. Migration led by Brigham Young from the eastern states to Salt Lake City, Utah.

**1848** – America wins the war against Mexico. Gave the Americans new territory to the south and west of Indian Territory; included California.

**1849** – Gold Rush. Discovery of gold in California in 1848 led to a huge migration to the West in search of wealth. 300,000 moved by 1855.

**1851** – Indian Appropriations Act. Government created reservations so whites could take Indian lands and farm. Indians paid to move to smaller areas n reservations where they could be 'civilised' and farm the land.

**1851** – First Fort Laramie Treaty. Agreement between Indians and the white government that Indians would not attack those travelling on the Oregon Trail in exchange for land.

#### **Key people:**

Red Cloud -  
Sitting Bull  
Crazy Horse

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Band             | A group of people, mostly families who formed part of a larger tribe – Oglala Sioux.                                       |
| Buffalo          | Plains animal central to the Indians survival.   |
| Chief            | Leader of band/tribe but not elected. Became chief due to wisdom, healing power or skills as a warrior.                    |
| Counting Coup    | Touching an enemy in battle and getting away without being injured – a sign of bravery.                                    |
| Great Plains     | Large grasslands to the west of the Mississippi River. Tough environment with hot summers, cold winters and no vegetation. |
| Manifest Destiny | Idea it was God's will that white Americans should settle over all of America.   |
| Miners Courts    | Miners who set up their own court to settle disputes over claims as US federal law had not reached the west coast.         |
| Oregon Trail     | A 3000km long trail used by those who wanted to reach California from Missouri. Crossed the Great Plains.                  |
| Prospectors      | People looking for gold.   |
| Reservation      | An area of land to live on given to the Indians by the Federal Government. Designed to contain the Indians.                |
| Scalping         | Taking the scalp of a person a warrior has beaten and to stop them coming back in the afterlife.                           |
| Sheriff          | Individuals responsible for keeping the law in the counties.   |
| Sioux            | The biggest tribe on the Plains, made up of smaller tribes and bands e.g. Oglala and Dakota.                               |
| Tipi             | Home of the Plains Indians. Made of buffalo hide it could be packed away quickly.  |
| Tribal Council   | A group of elders who made the decisions for the tribe/band.   |
| US Marshal       | Appointed by the President to be responsible for a state. They used lots of deputies and town marshals.                    |
| Vigilante        | Ordinary citizens who punished suspected lawbreakers instead of using official system.                                     |
| Warrior Society  | A group of warriors from a band who hunted and protected the band.   |

## Knowledge Organiser – The American West c1835-c1895 Topic 2; Development of the Plains

### 1. Key dates

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1862    | The Homestead Act - 160 acres for farming the land  |
| 1862    | Little Crow's War.  |
| 1864    | Sand Creek Massacre.  |
| 1865    | The end of the Civil War.   |
| 1866-68 | Red Cloud's War.  |
| 1868    | President Grant made a Peace Policy to try and end conflict.  |
| 1868    | The second Fort Laramie Treaty was signed,  |
| 1869    | Transcontinental Railroad completed – connecting East-West.   |
| 1870s   | Growth of sheep farming reduced cattle grazing land.  |
| 1873    | The Timber Culture Act allowed the homesteaders 160 acres free land if they planted trees on a quarter of their new land. |
| 1875    | Over 6 million acres of land had become homesteads.   |
| 1875    | The sulky plough was invented to help plough the prairie grass,   |

### 2. Key people/groups

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Reno gang          | Group of civil war deserters who terrorised towns, |
| Goodnight & Loving | Rich cattle ranchers who made a cattle trail,      |
| John Iliff         | Cattle baron – sold beef to Indian reservations,   |
| President Grant    | Took away Indians' rights, no peace gained.        |
| Red Cloud          | Respected Sioux war chief.                         |
| Colonel Chivington | Led 700 cavalry to massacre 130 Plains Indians .   |
| Little Crow        | Dakota Sioux chief killed 600 settlers.            |
| Joseph McCoy       | Cattle baron who distributed meat via Abilene.     |

### 3. Key Terms / Concepts

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Red Turkey Wheat        | New strong crop brought over by the Russian Mennonite immigrants & grew well on the Great Plains.  |
| Long drive              | Cowboys drove herds of cattle from Texas to Kansas   |
| Vaqueros                | Mexican name for cowboys who raised cattle   |
| Texas fever             | The name of an illness which made cattle die.  |
| Cattle ranch            | The name for a farm where cattle was raised by cowboys.  |
| Rustling                | When someone steals livestock, especially cattle.  |
| Open Range              | A large area of unfenced land where cattle roam free   |
| Abilene                 | Joseph McCoy made Abilene key in the cattle transport industry.                                    |
| Barbed wire             | Joseph Glidden invented this in 1874 to protect farms.   |
| Dog soldiers            | Plains Indians warriors  |
| Reservations            | Fenced off land for Plains Indians from the government which the Plains Indians couldn't leave..   |
| Bozeman Trail           | Trail created after gold was found in Indian territory which went against the Fort Laramie Treaty  |
| Cow town                | The name given to places which sell beef on mass.  |
| Sears Roebuck & Company | A catalogue which was transported via the rail which provided isolated homesteaders with supplies. |
| Windmill                | The steel bladed windmill was invented by Halladay in 1870 to help homesteaders.                   |

## Knowledge Organiser – The American West c1835-c1895 Topic 3; Conflicts and conquest c1876-1895

### 1. Key dates

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1876   | Battle of Little Bighorn   |
| 1879   | Daniel Hardy Webster Campbell develops dry farming in Dakota.            |
| 1879   | Exoduster Movement - 40, 000 ex-slaves move West to Plains.              |
| 1881   | Last big cattle drive to Dodge City takes place                          |
| 1883   | The Northern Pacific Railroad is completed                               |
| 1886-7 | Very harsh winter causes the ‘Great Die Up’ in the cattle industry       |
| 1887   | The Dawes Act divides tribal land into family and individual plots       |
| 1889   | 50,000 homesteaders join the first land rush in central Indian Territory |
| 1893   | Oklahoma Land Rush   |
| 1890   | Massacre at Wounded Knee - Chief Big Foot & followers killed             |
| 1890   | Closure of the Indian Frontier by the government.                        |
| 1892   | Johnson County War   |

### 2. Key people/groups

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Billy the Kid      | Notorious outlaw who escaped jail.  |
| Wyatt Earp         | Lawman who fought outlaws at the OK Corral.   |
| Benjamin Singleton | Former slave who told Black people to move to Kansas as part of the ‘Exoduster’ movement.       |
| Henry Adams        | Like Singleton, he encouraged black migration.  |
| Pat Garrett        | The lawmen (sheriff) who shot Billy the Kid.  |
| Wovoka             | A Paiute Indian who started the Ghost Dance.  |
| Buffalo Bill       | Buffalo hunter who helped exterminate all the buffalos - causing the Plains Indians to die out. |

### 3. Key Terms / Concepts

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| OK Corral                  | A corral is an enclosure for horses. The OK Corral is where a famous gun fight took place.   |
| Land Rush                  | Where the government gives land away, and people race to claim a piece of the land.  |
| Exodus                     | Biblical story of the migration of people looking for equality, is applied to Black emigration to Kansas, 1879                               |
| Great Die Up               | Name for the harsh winter of 1886-7 with temperatures below - 55°c. At least 15% of open range herds died. Led to the end of the Open Range. |
| Overstocked                | When too many animals are living off the same area.  |
| Drought                    | Very little or no water, for example series of severe droughts in the 1890s.   |
| Mechanisation              | Making a farming process quicker and more effective using technology such as steel windmills & seed drills.                                  |
| Refrigerated railroad cars | Introduced in 1875, this revolutionised the cattle industry- meat could be transported to distant markets.                                   |
| Manifest racism            | This is a play on ‘manifest destiny’ which was deeply racist – belief in inferiority of non-white Americans.                                 |
| Sharecropping              | When a land owner lets a tenant use some land in return for a share in the crop they grow..  |
| Assimilate                 | To become like something else- for the Plains Indians to become like white Americans.  |
| Ghost Dance                | The Native American sacred dance/ritual in reservations to bring dead Plain Indians back to life.  |
| Millenarian beliefs        | The belief of oppressed people that a supernatural event will put right all the wrongs done to them.   |