

The Transcontinental Railroad

*Helps to move the United States
to a Second Industrial Revolution!*

The South Builds Railways

- After the Civil War, the South began building more railroads to rival those of the North.
- South now relied on its own manufacturing centers.
- New railway “hub” cities developed; including Dallas, TX and Atlanta, GA.



Mining Towns

- During and after the Civil War, westward migration continued.
- Thousands flocked West in hopes of finding gold or silver.
- Around these deposits of minerals, “mining towns” developed.

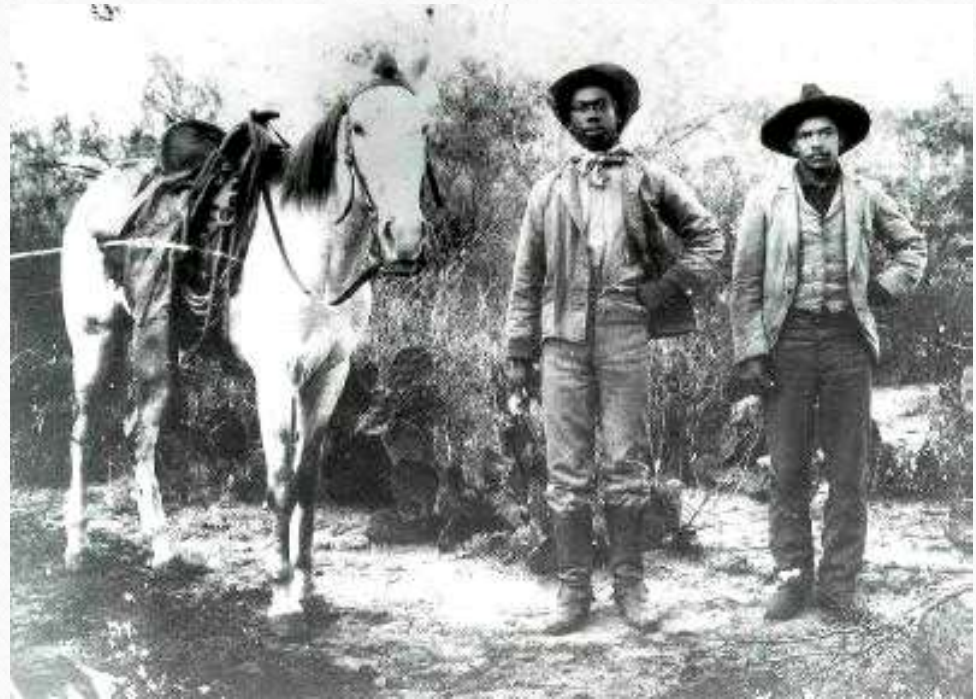






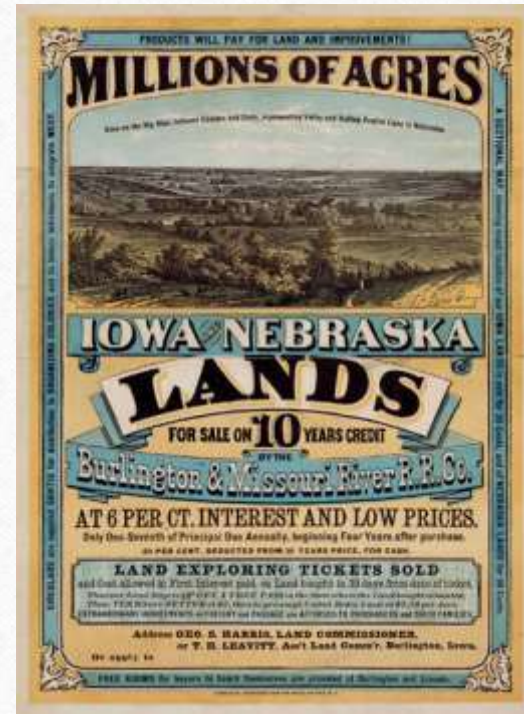
Home on the Range

- Cattle ranching fueled westward migration as well.
- Open prairies of the West were perfect for grazing.
- Newly-invented barbed wire made ranching more efficient.
- As a result, the beef industry exploded.



Farmers Move West

- Farmers migrated West in pursuit of new, fertile, cheap lands.
- The Homestead Act of 1862 promised plots of land to anyone willing to move and settle in these Western lands.
- Prairie states became a new agricultural center of the US





Question: How was Western Growth Possible?

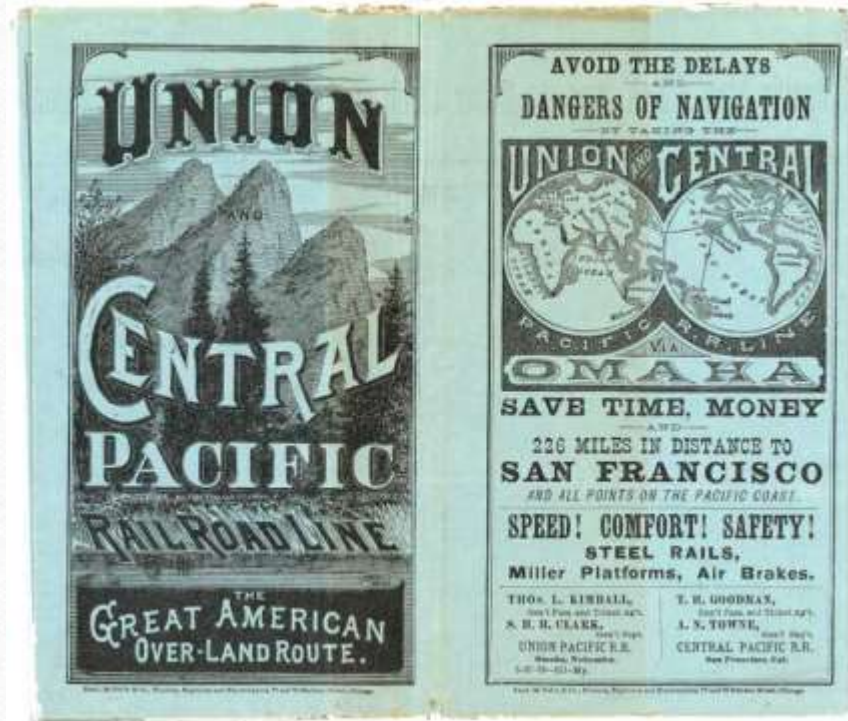
- How did the West grow so rapidly?
- How did the mining industry expand?
- How did the beef industry develop?
- How did the prairie states become the new agricultural center?

Answer: The Transcontinental Railroad

- To link eastern markets to western territories, the government proposed a transcontinental railroad.
- The government provided loans and land grants to private companies to build the railroad.

Two Companies Compete

- In 1863, two different companies began construction of the Transcontinental RR.
- The Central Pacific Company began laying track eastward from California.
- The Union Pacific Company laid track westward from Nebraska.



Immigrants Build Railroads

- Irish immigrants in the east and Chinese immigrants in the west were used to build the railroad.
- Thousands of these immigrants died due to dangerous working conditions.



Two Tracks Meet

- In 1869, the two tracks finally connected at Promontory Summit in Utah.
- A symbolic golden spike was the final one driven in to mark the completion of the transcontinental railroad.



Transcontinental Railroad



Native Americans & Westward Expansion

Westward Expansion & Native Americans

- In the 1860s, the US government began forcing Native Americans onto reservations.
- Settlers pushed the buffalo (a sacred animal in Native traditions) to the brink of extinction.
- Faced with no other options, Native Americans had no choice but to fight back.







430. Capt. Geo. Sword, Chief of Police with Buffalo
Bill's Indians, Pine Ridge Agency, S. D.

165801

Westward Expansion & Native Americans

- In 1875, gold was discovered in the hills of South Dakota.
- Miners began settling on Sioux tribal lands in search of gold.
- Sioux leader, Sitting Bull, assembled his own army of Natives to drive the settlers out.



Battle of Little Big Horn

- In June 1876, the US sent General George Custer to battle the Sioux.
- Custer's 700 men were slaughtered by 7,000 Sioux Indians at the Battle of Little Big Horn.
- The US Army retaliated, crushing the Sioux, and forcing Sitting Bull to flee to Canada.





Ghost Dance Brings Hope

- In response to the loss of their land and the buffalo, many Natives welcomed a religious revival based on the Ghost Dance.
- Fearing the Ghost Dance would cause problems, the US government ordered the capture and arrest of Sitting Bull.
- In a confrontation over his arrest, Sitting Bull was killed.



Wounded Knee Massacre

- As Natives fled after Sitting Bull's murder, troops were sent out to capture them.
- At Wounded Knee Creek, troops slaughtered over 100 Native men, women and children.
- The Wounded Knee Massacre effectively ended the Native attempts to push back the white settlers.





Natives Forced to Assimilate



Transcontinental Railroad TOD

- It's 1869. Your job is to promote the upcoming “joining of the railroads” at Promontory, Utah.
- Create a promotional flyer that you might want to hand out or write a letter to a friend inviting them to join you at the ceremony.
- **Be sure to include the who, what, when, where and why of the event!!!**
- Turn these in before class ends.