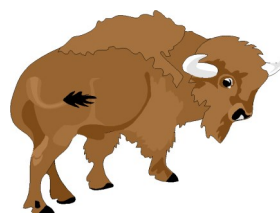## Paper 2 Knowledge Toolkit

Plains Indians

Plains Indians live in **bands** (like families), each led by a **Chief.** Bands meet together once a year for **tribal** meetings to trade and discuss issues. They lived a **nomadic** lifestyle (moved around).

Men: Hunted and fought enemies

Women: Made clothes, prepared food and the tipi

Children: Learnt the skills of their parents

Elders: Respected, but may be left behind (exposure)

Plains Indians depended on **horses** (to hunt) and **buffalo** (they used every part) for their survival.

They believed that **land was sacred** and could not be owned.

Government policy towards the Indians:

1830 Indian Removal Act: Forced the Indians in eastern states to move west of the Mississippi River.

1832 Permanent Indian Frontier: Divided Indian territory from the eastern states. Whites not allowed to cross Indian land.

1851 Indian Appropriations Act: Government paid Indians to give up land that whites wanted and move on to reservations.

Westward Migration

Manifest Destiny: Belief that it is a God-given right for white Americans to settle all of America.
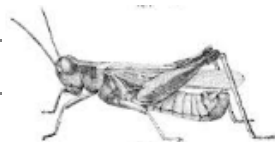
Oregon Trail: The route from Missouri that wagons could take all the way to Oregon, or California.

The Donner Party 1846-7: A group of travellers that tried a short-cut on the Oregon Trail in 1846. Snow came early and they ran out of food. Only 46 out of 87 people made it. This put some migrants off.

Mormon migration 1846-7: Mormons were persecuted in the East so they were motivated to move west. Their leader Brigham Young was very organised. They migrated to the Great Salt Lake. They were disciplined and everyone had a role. Their migration was successful.

Problems of farming on the Plains

Climate	Weather
Lack of timber	Prairie fires
Lack of water	Thick sod (soil)
Insect plagues	

Conflict and Tension

The Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851

As the number of migrants using the Oregon Trail to cross Indian lands grew, tensions increased between white settlers and Plains Indians. Here are the terms of the treaty and the **consequences:**

Territories were set out for the tribes -> *led to reservations*

White settlers were allowed into Indian territories and railroad surveyors and military posts were allowed on Indian territories-> *led to white settlement of the Plains*

Tribes received **resources** from the government ($50,000 yearly payment) -> *led to loss of Indian independence*

Lawlessness

Law enforcement was stretched too thin to make sure the law was obeyed and lawbreakers were punished. Gangs emerged in San Francisco and claim jumping (taking over a claim to a mining area) became common.

The Homestead Act, 1862

After the Civil War, the Southern states split from the USA until 1865, allowing the Homestead Act to be passed into law. It aimed to encourage the settlement of the West by individual family farmers.

Homestead Act, 1862	People got 160 acres of land for $10. They must work it for 5 years, then they could 'prove up' and own it for $30.
	Over 6 million acres of land was homesteaded by 1876. The promise of free land encouraged immigration to the USA and was significant in encouraging white settlement of the Plains.
	However, there was a 60% dropout rate (people who did not 'prove-up' as some plots were too small for the dry environment.
The First Transcontinental Railroad, 1869	The Pacific Railroad Act (1862) gave two railroad companies the job of building the first transcontinental railroad.
	By 1880 the railroad companies had settled 200 million acres in the West, as companies sold plots across their routes and used effective marketing to encourage people to move

The Cattle Industry

The growth in the cattle industry occurred as railroads provided a way to move cattle worth $5 a head to Texas to the industrial cities of the North, which would pay $40 a head.

Abilene, the first cow town

Joseph McCoy set the first cow town up, which included stockyards, hotels and spending $5000 on marketing to encourage people to take their cattle there.

The Goodnight-Loving Trail

Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving realised there was another market for Texan cattle: new settlements in the West. This trail encouraged the cattle industry to spread.

John Iliff and Plains ranching

Iliff saw opportunities to sell meat to booming mining towns in Colorado. As it was difficult to get supplies there, he decide to raise cattle on the Plains, and began ranching near Denver in 1866. He became a millionaire by selling beef to miners, Indian reservations and railroad worker gangs.

Changing roles for cowboys

Cowboys went from working on cow trails to ranches. Fewer cowboys were needed, but work was now full-time and all year round. Drinking and gambling were banned. It became less dangerous.

Ranchers vs Homesteaders

Rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders increased. Ranchers needed a lot of land for their cattle, and homesteaders wanted to claim this land for themselves.

Ranchers fenced off land to block the homesteaders, or took them to court (as they knew they were too poor to pay).

Before homesteading

After homesteading

Impact on Plains Indians, c1862-76

Railroads: Increased settlement and disrupted the buffalo herds, leading to their extermination.

Cattle industry: Cattle and buffalo competed for the same grass. This put pressure on the buffalo. Cattle also crossed Indian lands, leading to tension.

Gold prospecting: The California Gold Rush (1849) led to whites trespassing on Indian lands. This led to the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) and the Indian Appropriations Act (1851).

Impact of reservations: They undermined the Indians' traditional way of life and meant that Indians could not hunt. They became dependent on food supplies from the government.

1868 'Peace Policy': President Grant realised that bad reservation management was leading to conflict. He appointed new Christian reservation agents and gained a $2million budget to improve conditions.

The Indian Wars

Little Crow's War, 1862	**Cause:** Crops failed and Indians faced starvation. **Events:** Little Crow and others attacked the agency. They stole food and killed several US soldiers. **Consequences:** By October most Santee had surrendered or been captured. They were then moved to a smaller reservation, Crow Creek. Its barren landscape caused many deaths that winter.
The Sand Creek Massacre, 1864	**Cause:** The Cheyenne on the Sand Creek reservation were starving after crop failures. **Events:** Led by their chief, Black Kettle, they attacked wagon trains and stole food but didn't harm travellers. After three years of attacks, Black Kettle negotiated with government officials and the army. Colonel Chivington led a dawn raid on their camp. More than 150 Indians were massacred even though they waved white flags. **Consequences:** Some, including Black Kettle, escaped and told other tribes what had happened. A US Senate Committee and Enquiry condemned Chivington. Both white men and Indians were horrified.
Red Cloud's War, 1866-68	**Cause:** The Bozeman Trail connected the Oregon Trail to gold in Montana. This broke the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 because it crossed the Sioux lands. **Events:** Red Cloud (a chief of the Lakota Sioux) led attacks on the trail travellers. In 1866, the government talked with him but he stormed out when he learned that two more forts were planned along the trail. In December 1866, Captain William Fetterman and 80 soldiers rode into a trap and were massacred by the Sioux, who blocked the route so no traveller could see it. **Consequences:** The US army then negotiated a second Fort Laramie Treaty.

The (Second) Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868

US Army agrees to abandon 2 forts and the Bozeman Trail. Red Cloud agrees to move his tribe to a reservation. The Indians are now split into reservations on separate sites and find it hard to act together.

Changes in Farming

By the 1890s, problems faced by farmers on the Plains became more manageable due to new technology:

Dry farming: Conserves water in the soil.

Wind pumps: Access water underground.

Barbed wire: Solution to lack of wood for fences.

Changes in the Cattle Industry

The end of the open range: After the harsh winter of 1886-7 cattlemen moved to smaller ranches, as smaller herds were easier to manage and could be brought to shelter in bad weather.

Continued settlement and growth

The Exoduster Movement, 1879: 43,000 black migrants settled in Kansas due to a lack of equality in the southern states (after the Civil War slavery was abolished).

The Oklahoma Land Rush, 1893: Land that was previously seen as too dry for faming became available. Due to an economic depression, 100,000 people dashed to claim the land.

Lawlessness

Tensions in the West grew at this time

Billy the Kid: Billy's gang caused chaos in New Mexico in 1878.

Wyatt Earp: Became Deputy Sheriff in Tombstone in 1880. Earp and his brothers killed 2 McLaurys and 1 Clanton (ranchers in the area) at the **OK Corral** in 1886. This shows that law officers often committed crime themselves.

The Johnson County War

Causes: Cattle barons felt threatened by cattle rustling.

Events: Several killings and murder attempts happened. The cattle barons planned an invasion of Johnson County, with a death-list of 70 names. Nate Champion held off the invaders for a day, and the alarm was raised. Local people were armed and ready, and the invaders had to retreat.

Consequences: The defeated cattle barons were brought to trial but never convicted for their actions. However, they were widely condemned. They never had the same power in Wyoming again and the homesteaders and small ranchers were able to continue their lives in peace.

The Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1876

Causes: The US Army was ordered to attack any Sioux Indians who had not returned to their reservations.

Events: There was no effective communication between the 3 columns of soldiers. General Custer disobeyed orders and arrived a day early by cutting across the mountains. He then attacked despite warnings from his scouts (because he wanted glory). The Indians outnumbered them 2000 to 200 and had repeating rifles (better weapons).

Consequences: There were no survivors from Custer's force. He was overwhelmed by Crazy Horse's attack. He was totally outnumbered. In the short-term the battle was a huge failure for the US Army. However, in the long-term it can be viewed as a success because public opinion turned further against the Indians and the Sioux were forced to give up land.

The End of the Indians' Way of Life

The Ghost Dance: In 1890 the Indians were desperate due to lack of food. In response to a vision, many of them started a Ghost Dance. This worried the Indian agents and white settlers.

Wounded Knee Massacre, 1890: In response to the Ghost Dance, 250 Indians were killed in the last clash between the Sioux Indians and US Army.

Buffalo hunting and extermination: Due to a cheaper way to make leather from buffalo skin, hunting for sport and settlement on their habitat, buffalo numbers fell from13 million (1840) to only 200 (1885).

Life on the reservations: The Indian way of life was broken down on the reservations due to the banning of their beliefs, their children being taught white values, they were banned from hunting, they were de-skilled and tribal chiefs lost their power.

The Dawes Act, 1887: Indian families were give 160-acre homesteads. By 1890, the Indians had lost half of the land they had in 1887 to whites. There was no longer an Indian Frontier.