01. Early Settlers

Key Words

Manifest Destiny	The belief that Americans had a God-given right to settle across America
Nomadic	Moving around
Reservations	an area of land 'reserved' for American Indians and managed by the government
Sioux	Tribe of the Plains Indians
Mormon	Followers of Joseph Smith

1836: Oregon Trail opens
It was 3,220 km long. The trip would take 8-9 months. By 1869, 400,000 people had migrated along it

1846: The Donner Party.
The Donner Party left it too late in the year to travel. They got stuck in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and many died

1846-7: The Mormon Migration
After the murder of Joseph Smith in Illinois, the Mormons headed West under Brigham Young to Salt Lake City. They planned the journey well and arrived in 1847.

1849: The Californian Gold Rush
Gold was discovered in California in 1848. 100,000 people travelled to California. California's population grew to 300,000 by 1855. Many stayed to farm.
The rapid growth of mining towns led to problems with law and order. Migrants also murdered or enslaved Plains Indians who were in the way

1830 ———————————————— **1840** ———————————————— **1851**

1830: The Indian Removal Act
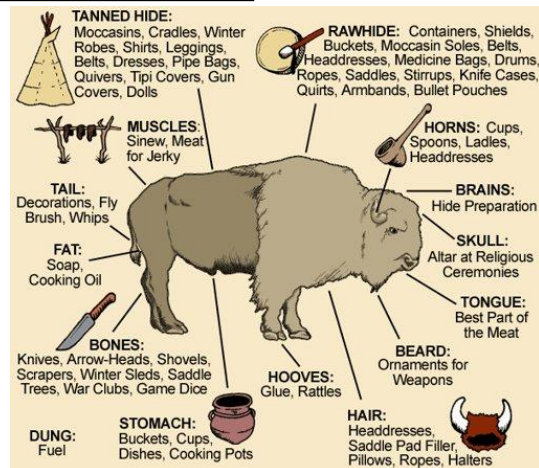46,000 American Indians moved west of the Mississippi River

1834: The Permanent Indian Frontier
This divided the USA from Indian Territory. People were not allowed to settle here.

1848 Mexico War
America defeated Mexico and gained control over huge swathes of the USA. Indian Territory was now surrounded by the USA.

1851 Fort Laramie Treaty said that:
- Migrants must be allowed to travel safely across the Plains
- The US government offered money and food to the Indians
- It set up areas of territory for each tribe.

1851 Indian Appropriations Act
This provided money to pay for moving Plains Indians onto reservations

The Great Plains
enormous size
lack of trees
semi-arid - little water available
unpredictable weather, including extremely cold and violent winters
ferocious winds - the winter 'Northers' and the scorching summer winds
many areas flat and featureless
inhabited by locusts and grasshoppers
inhabited by wolves

Tipis
The tipi was the home of each Indian family. It had between ten-twenty buffalo skins sewn and stretched over them. The flap at the top could be moved to direct the wind so the smoke from the fire blew away. In summer, the skins at the bottom were rolled up to let air though and in winter earth was banked up to keep it cosy. Plains Indians were **nomadic –** the tipi could be taken down quickly and put up again just as quickly.

TANNED HIDE: Moccasins, Cradles, Winter Robes, Shirts, Leggings, Belts, Dresses, Pipe Bags, Quivers, Tipi Covers, Gun Covers, Dolls
RAWHIDE: Containers, Shields, Buckets, Moccasin Soles, Belts, Headdresses, Medicine Bags, Drums, Ropes, Saddles, Stirrups, Knife Cases, Quirts, Armbands, Bullet Pouches
MUSCLES: Sinew, Meat for Jerky
HORNS: Cups, Spoons, Ladles, Headdresses
TAIL: Decorations, Fly Brush, Whips
BRAINS: Hide Preparation
FAT: Soap, Cooking Oil
SKULL: Altar at Religious Ceremonies
TONGUE: Best Part of the Meat
BONES: Knives, Arrow-Heads, Shovels, Scrapers, Winter Sleds, Saddle Trees, War Clubs, Game Dice
BEARD: Ornaments for Weapons
HOOVES: Glue, Rattles
DUNG: Fuel
STOMACH: Buckets, Cups, Dishes, Cooking Pots
HAIR: Headdresses, Saddle Pad Filler, Pillows, Ropes, Halters

Horses
Before horses, Plains Indians could not live in the Plains. Once horses were introduced they could now hunt the buffalo across the Great Plains.
They became so important that by the 1840s Indians measured their wealth in horses.

02. Settlement of the Plains

Key Words

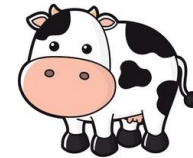|	
Homestead	A Plot of land on the Great Plains
Abilene	The first cow town
Bozeman Trail	Gold miners started to cross Indian Lands
Long Drive	Driving cattle to the North to be sold

1862: The Homestead Act: 160 Acre plots were offered for just $10. Anyone over 21 could claim. They had to live there for five years. Many failed in the harsh conditions and returned home.

1862: The Pacific Railroad Act Split the job of building railroads between two companies. The railroad would be built from East-West.

1865: Slavery ends in the USA. Four million slaves were freed. Many headed west.

1866: Goodnight and Loving teamed up to sell cattle to Indian reservations in the West.

1869: First Transcontinental Railroad completed

1867: Abilene the first Cow Town was built by Joseph McCoy. Between 1867-1881 1.5 million cows passed through

1858-9: Gold discovered in the Rocky Mountains

1859: Gold Mines open in Colorado and Nevada. Thousands of miners start to cross Indian land.

1862 Gold discovered in Montana. The Bozeman Trail opened

1861-65: The American Civil War

1852 — 1860 — 1869

1862: Little Crow's War Food promised to the Santee Sioux didn't arrive. Little Crows attacked the reservation agency and stole food, killing US soldiers. As a consequence, the Sioux were forced into a small reservation and many starved to death.

1864: The Sand Creek Massacre Miners were moving through Cheyenne lands. The Indians were given a small reservation area to farm but many resisted going into the reservations. In 1864, 1,000 troops attacked a Cheyenne village at Sand Creek, under **Colonel Chivington**. 150 men, women and children were killed.

1866-68 Red Cloud's War Gold had been discovered in 1862 in Montana. The Bozeman Trail crossed Indian lands, breaking Fort Laramie. Indians starting attacking miners. In 1866, **William Fetterman** and 80 soldiers rode into a trap and were massacred, Red Cloud surrounded Fort Kearney. The US army negotiated the Second Fort Laramie

1868: Fort Laramie Treaty (2) US government abandoned three forts and the Bozeman Trail. Red Cloud agreed to move his tribe to a reservation. But this splits up Indian Tribes so they couldn't work together

03. Conflict and destruction

1870: Cattle Ranching begins
John Iliff saw opportunities to sell meat on the plains. He began ranching cattle on the Plains, selling to miners, reservations and railroad workers

1873: Timber Culture Act
Let homesteaders have another 160 acres if they promised to plant trees on half of it

1874: Barbed Wire
In 1874 Joseph Glidden invented barbed wire – solving the problem of lack of wood. Increased settlement but led to conflict

1874: Wind-powered water pump
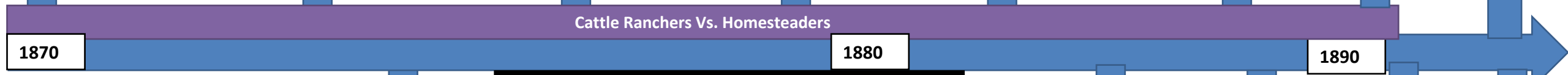Solved the problem of lack of water on the Plains

1879: Exodusters Benjamin Singleton
pioneered the move of former slaves to Kansas. 40,000 black Americans migrated to Kansas, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois.

1881 OK Corral
Wyatt Earp were involved in a war between businessmen and ranchers. Earp had increased lawlessness in Tombstone, Arizona. The gunfight at OK Corral highlighted lawlessness

1886-7: The 'Great dieback'. The cold winter killed 15% of cattle and most cowboys moved to work on smaller ranches.

1892: The Johnson County War
war between cattle barons vs. homesteaders and small ranchers.

1893: Oklahoma Land Rush

Cattle Ranchers Vs. Homesteaders

1870

1880

1890

1876-81: The Great Sioux War

Key Words

Open Range	Breeding cattle on the Great Plains, allowing them to wander freely
Ranches	Huge areas of open land
Land rush	White settlers rushing over the boundary to claim Indian Land
Ghost Dance	Rumour that a dance could bring dead Indians back to life

1874: Custer leads an expedition to the Black Hills
General Custer was sent to the Black Hills of Dakota, sacred to the Sioux, where Gold was found. The Sioux refused to sell the land to the government

1876: The Battle of the Little Bighorn
General Custer attacked the Indian Camp at the Little Bighorn. They were badly defeated – 225 men died. As a consequence, the USA built forts on Indian Land, give up weapons and horses and sell the Black Hills.

1885: All Plains Indians resettled on reservations

The Dawes Act 1887
Each Indian family was allotted 160 acres of land. If they took the land and left the reservation they could become citizens. Any land leftover was sold to white Americans.

1890 Wounded Knee
The Ghost Dance worried white people and the army were sent in. At Wounded Knee there was confusion and a shot was fired. 250 Sioux died.

1893: The Frontier is closed