

GCSE Paper 2 - Early Settlement of the West, c1835 - c1862 Glossary

Rationale: The American West, c1835 - c1895 is the period study and will be examined on Paper 2. The topic is taught three sections. The first section focuses on the traditional way of life of Plains Indians, the reasons why white people wanted to migrate West and how this influenced the policies of the American government towards the Plains Indians..

Key concepts		Key vocabulary (continued)	
1. Consequence	A result of something happening (can be good or bad).	19. Exposure	When elders were left behind to die if their weakness threatened the survival of the band.
2. Narrative	An account of events that sequenced in chronological order.	20. Nomadic	Living a life with no fixed home; Plains Indians moved to follow the buffalo.
3. Importance	Explaining why something is important e.g. what was its impact	21. Buffalo	An animal that lived on the Great Plains. It was hunted by Plains Indians and was important for their survival.
Key events		22. Tipi	A tent made from buffalo skins and wooden poles. It was easy and quick to take down and put up.
4. Indian Removal Act, 1830	American Indians living in the east were pressured into moving to new land west of the Mississippi River. The government promised they would never lose this Indian Territory.	23. Sun Dance	A ritual dance that allowed Plains Indians to enter the spirit world.
5. Indian Trade and Intercourse Act, 1834	Established a Permanent Indian Frontier to divide eastern states from Indian Territory.	24. Vision quest	A way for Plains Indians to contact the spirit world guided by spirit animals.
6. American-Mexican War, 1846-48	The USA won this war and gained huge new territories in the West including California. White people could now cross the Permanent Indian Frontier to migrate to the new territories.	25. Counting coup	A type of fighting in which a warrior would attempt to hit or touch (rather than kill) an enemy and get away without being injured or killed.
7. Indian Appropriations Act, 1851	Provided government money to move Plains Indians onto reservations.	26. Territory	The name given to parts of America that had not yet been made into states. Some of this territory was Indian territory.
8. Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851	An agreement between the government and Plains Indians attempting to end problems between Indians and white settlers.	27. Reservation	An area of land 'reserved' for the use by American Indians and managed by the federal government.
9. The opening of the Oregon Trail, 1836	Provided a way for migrants to travel West over the mountain ranges of the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada with wagons.	28. Manifest Destiny	A belief that God wanted white people to settle all across the continent of America.
10. The failed migration of the Donner Party, 1846	The group took an untried shortcut off the Oregon Trail. Only 46 out of 87 made it to California.	29. Migration	The movement of people from one place to another.
11. The successful migration of the Mormons, 1846-47	The Mormons believed God wanted them to migrate to Salt Lake Valley, Utah.	30. Settler	A person who moves to live or 'settle' in a new area.
12. The California Gold Rush, 1849	The discovery of in California led to a large number of people migrating West.	31. Wagon train	A group of horse drawn wagons used by settlers to migrate West.
Key vocabulary		32. Mormons	A religious group who were persecuted by other Christians.
13. Tribe	The social group that Plains Indians lived in. They consisted of families and were linked by a common culture.	33. Prospector	A person who moves to an area to search for gold.
14. Band	Each tribe was made up of a number of different bands.	34. Claim	The ownership of land for the purpose of looking for gold or living.
15. Warrior brotherhood	A group of men who had proved their bravery and skill in fighting other tribes.	35. Immigrant	A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country
16. Guard unit	They protected the tribe and organised the yearly buffalo.	36. Federal government	The national government based in Washington D.C.
17. Chief	The leaders of Plains Indians society. Each tribe had many chiefs e.g. a war chief, a spiritual chief.	37. US Marshal	The top lawman in charge of law and order in a state or territory.; appointed by the president
18. Polygamy	The tradition of a man having more than one wife.	38. Sheriff	Elected to deal with law and order in towns of over 5,000 people
		39. Posse	A group of ordinary men gathered together to catch criminals.
		40. Miners' Court	Set up by miners to settle disputes over claims.
		41. Vigilante	Someone who takes the law into their own hands to catch criminals.