

# GCSE Paper 2 - Development of the Plains, c1862 - c1876 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 second section focuses on the development of the Plains including the development of homesteading, the railroad and the cattle industry and how these developments impacted on the way of life of the Plains Indians.

Key concepts		Key vocabulary (continued)	
1. <b>Consequence</b>	A result of something happening (can be good or bad).	18. <b>Homesteader</b>	A person who claimed land in the West for the purpose of farming.
2. <b>Narrative</b>	An account of events that sequenced in chronological order.	19. <b>Sodhouse</b>	Houses made out of large blocks of earth (sods).
3. <b>Importance</b>	Explaining why something is important e.g. what was its impact	20. <b>Cow chips</b>	Dried dung that could be used as fuel
Key events		21. <b>Wind pump</b>	Used to pump clean water from deep underground.
4. <b>The American Civil, 1861 - 65</b>	A conflict between the northern states (the Union) and the southern states (who broke away to form the Confederacy).	22. <b>Sulky plough</b>	A ride on steel plough that could be used on the Great Plains.
5. <b>The Homestead Act, 1862</b>	Encouraged more people to settle and farm in the West by offering 160-acre plots of land for \$10.	23. <b>Turkey Red Wheat</b>	A type of wheat that thrived in the climate on the Plains.
6. <b>The Pacific Railroad Act, 1862</b>	The act provided money for the Transcontinental Railroad to be built. The Central Pacific Railroad Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company were given the job of constructing the railroad.	24. <b>Dry farming</b>	A new technique that aimed to conserve the amount of water in the soil by ploughing the soil immediately after it rained
7. <b>Little Crow's War, 1862</b>	The Dakota Sioux attacked agency warehouses and settlers when they were denied food on their reservation.	25. <b>Mechanisation</b>	Using new machinery to make farming more efficient and more productive.
8. <b>The Sandcreek Massacre, 1864</b>	130 Indian men, women and children were killed by the US army	26. <b>Barbed wire</b>	A cheap and effective solution for protecting crops from wandering animals
9. <b>The Goodnight-Loving Trail, 1866</b>	A trail started by Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving that could be used to drive cattle into the West.	27. <b>Cattle</b>	A large group of cows kept on a farm or ranch for food or milk.
10. <b>Joseph McCoy develops Abilene, 1867</b>	McCoy realised the potential of Abilene to be a place to transport cattle from. It became the first cow town.	28. <b>Texas Fever</b>	A disease which affected cattle and spread between them easily.
11. <b>John Iliff starts ranching on the Plains</b>	Iliff realised the potential of ranching on the Plains to avoid the expense and difficulty of the long drive.	29. <b>Long drive</b>	When cowboys would take cattle along cattle trails, from Texas to states in the east of America such as Missouri.
12. <b>Red Cloud's War, 1868</b>	Chief Red Cloud led attacks on gold prospectors who used the Bozeman Trail which crossed their land.	30. <b>Cowboys</b>	People who looked after cattle, first on long drives and later on ranches.
13. <b>Second Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868</b>	The government agreed to close the Bozeman Trail as long as Red Cloud agreed to take his people to a reservation in Dakota	31. <b>Ranch</b>	A large farm where cattle are kept
14. <b>The Timber Culture Act, 1873</b>	Let homesteaders have another 160 acres if they promised to plant trees on a quarter of it.	32. <b>Open range</b>	An area of land without fences or barriers where cattle could roam freely.
15. <b>The opening of the Transcontinental Railroad, 1869</b>	This made travelling West easier and cheaper. People no longer had to worry about the dangers of the Oregon Trail.	33. <b>Public land</b>	Land where anyone could pasture livestock for free.
Key vocabulary		34. <b>Cattle barons</b>	Men who dominated the cattle industry and became powerful as a result.
16. <b>Claim</b>	The ownership of land for the purpose of looking for gold or living.	35. <b>Cow town</b>	Towns used by cowboys after they had been paid for driving cattle.
17. <b>Acre</b>	A measurement of land	36. <b>Electric telegraph</b>	Ran along the railroad, improved communication between law officers.
		37. <b>Bozeman Trail</b>	A shortcut on the Oregon Trail that was used by gold prospectors
		38. <b>Reservation</b>	An area of land 'reserved' for the use by American Indians.
		39. <b>Reservation Agency</b>	Managed reservations on behalf of the federal government.

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13. <b>The Timber Culture Act, 1873</b>	Let homesteaders have another 160 acres if they promised to plant trees on a quarter of it.	34. <b>Beef bonanza</b>	When beef was in high demand and lots of money could be made from raising and selling cattle.
14. <b>The opening of the Transcontinental Railroad, 1869</b>	This made travelling West easier and cheaper. People no longer had to worry about the dangers of the Oregon Trail.	35. <b>Outlaws</b>	Criminals who remain free or who are on the run from law enforcement
Key vocabulary		36. <b>Town Marshal</b>	Elected to deal with law and order in towns
15. <b>Claim</b>	The ownership of land for the purpose of looking for gold or living.	37. <b>Reno Gang</b>	A group of Civil War deserters who terrorised communities in the West
16. <b>Acre</b>	A measurement of land	38. <b>Pinkerton Detective Agency</b>	A private agency that was used to track down outlaws and bring them to justice.
17. <b>Homesteader</b>	A person who claimed land in the West for the purpose of farming.	39. <b>Cow town</b>	Towns used by cowboys after they had been paid for driving cattle.
18. <b>Sodhouse</b>	Houses made out of large blocks of earth (sods).	40. <b>Hell on Wheels towns</b>	Towns that were created by the railroad
19. <b>Cow chips</b>	Dried dung that could be used as fuel	40. <b>Electric telegraph</b>	Ran along the railroad, improved communication between law officers.
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