

GCSE Paper 2 - Conflicts and Conquests, c1876 - c1895 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 third section focuses on conflicts on the Plains including the tensions between homesteaders and ranchers resulting in the range wars and the growing conflict between the US government and the Plains Indians which ultimately led to the destruction of the Plains Indians way of life.

Key concepts

1. Consequence	A result of something happening (can be good or bad).
2. Narrative	An account of events that sequenced in chronological order.
3. Importance	Explaining why something is important e.g. what was its impact

Key events

4. The Battle of Bull Run, 1861	A battle between the US 7 th Cavalry led by General Custer and the Sioux Indians led by Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. The Sioux won killing Custer and all his men.
5. The Exoduster Movement, 1879	The name for the mass migration of black Americans from the South to Kansas.
6. Gunfight at the OK Corral, 1881	A gunfight in Tombstone; part of an ongoing conflict between Deputy Sheriff Wyatt Earp and his brothers and the Clantons and McLaurys.
7. The Great Die-Up, 1886-87	During the winter with 15% of cattle dying due to heavy snow and low temperatures.
8. Dawes Act, 1887	Stated that Indian tribes no longer had any rights to their traditional land. Instead, individual Plains Indian families received 160 acres of land each for their family.
9. The Wounded Knee Massacre, 1890	The 7 th Cavalry killed 250 Sioux in 10 minutes. It was the last clash between the US army and the Sioux.
10. Closure of the Indian Frontier, 1890	The US government declared there was no longer a frontier between white settlement and Indian lands. The USA had complete control of the West.
11. Johnson County War, 1892	A range war that took place in Wyoming between the WSGA and small ranchers and homesteaders.
12. Oklahoma Land Rush, 1893	The US government opened up Oklahoma for settlement. When the clock struck 12 on 22 nd April they rushed over the boundary line to find the best land they could and claim it as theirs.

Key vocabulary

13. Ranch	A large farm where cattle are kept
14. Open range	An area of land without fences or barriers where cattle could roam freely.
15. Beef bonanza	When beef was in high demand and lots of money could be made from raising and selling cattle.
16. Overstocking	When ranchers bought a lot of cattle because of the profit that could be made.
17. Overgrazing	Overstocking meant that there was not enough grass for the cattle to eat. This meant cattle became weak and the meat was not good enough quality.
18. Bankrupt	When a business is no longer profitable so cannot afford to continue trading.
19. Cowboys	People who looked after cattle, first on long drives and later on ranches.

Key vocabulary (continued)

20. Long drive	When cowboys would take cattle along cattle trails, from Texas to states in the east of America such as Missouri.
21. Round-up	Happened in spring, cowboys gathered cattle from the open range and drove them back to a ranch.
22. Ride the line	Cowboys herded stray cattle back to the ranch and protecting the herd from wolves and rustlers.
23. Bunkhouse	The building on a ranch where cowboys (now ranch-hands) lived together.
24. Homesteader	A person who claimed land in the West for the purpose of farming.
25. Rancher	Someone who owned and ran a cattle ranch.
26. Public land	Land where anyone could pasture livestock for free.
27. Outlaws	Criminals who remain free or who are on the run from law enforcement
28. Town Marshal	Elected to deal with law and order in towns
29. Reno Gang	A group of Civil War deserters who terrorised communities in the West
30. Pinkerton Detective Agency	A private agency that was used to track down outlaws and bring them to justice.
31. Cow town	Towns used by cowboys after they had been paid for driving cattle.
32. Hell on Wheels towns	Towns that were created by the railroad
34. Range Wars	A series of armed conflicts for control of land in the West between cattle barons on one side and small ranchers and homesteaders on the other.
35. Cattle barons	Men who dominated the cattle industry and became powerful as a result.
36. Cattle rustling	Stealing cows from a ranch
37. Vigilante justice	When someone takes the law into their own hands to catch and punish criminals.
34. Assimilate	When different ethnic groups live like the dominant culture in society.
35. Reservation	An area of land 'reserved' for the use by American Indians.
36. Reservation Agency	Managed reservations on behalf of the federal government.
37. Ghost Dance	Plains Indians believed that if they danced this sacred dance, the Great Spirit would bring all the dead Plains Indians back to life and a great flood would wash away white people.
38. Extermination	The killing of a whole group of people or animals e.g. the buffalo.
39. Indian Territory	Land that the US government had set aside for Plains Indian tribes.