What Factors encouraged the settlement of the “Last West”? (1865-1890s)

Do Now: What thoughts, words, images come to mind when you think of the West?
What are the characteristics of the Cowboy?
What values do they represent?

Cowboys:
- Individualism, Self Reliant
- Adventure
- Opportunity
What is the frontier?
Frontier

• The furthermost region of settlement
• An imaginary line dividing civilization and wilderness
Frontier

• **1650** - along the Atlantic Coast
• **1750** – spread to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains
• **1840** – reached the Mississippi River
• **1890** – Frontier closed – sufficiently populated
• From the beginning of settlement there has always been a frontier.
• Which areas of the West were settled first? Why?
• Which area of the country was settled last? Why?
Factors Discouraging Settlement of Great Plains and Rockies and desert South West

- Harsh environment
  - “The Great American Desert” - western part of the Great Plains east of the Rocky Mountains

- Native-American Resistance to settlement

- Distance from Trade Routes
• How did the Federal government push for settlement of the Last West during this time?
Federal Policies Encouraging Migration to the Plains and Rockies

• Homestead Act (1862) – free federal land to settlers (160 acres developed in 5 years)

• Railroad Land Grants and Subsidies. (First Transcontinental railroad completed in 1869)
Oklahoma Land Rushes (1889, 1893)

- [Far and Away - Land Rush Scene - YouTube](#)
Indian Reservations today
MILLIONS OF ACRES

[Image: View on the Big Blue, between Omaha and Crete, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.]

IOWA AND NEBRASKA LANDS

FOR SALE ON 10 YEARS CREDIT

BY THE

Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co.

AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.

Only One-Seven of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase.

20 PER CENT. DEDUCTED FROM 10 YEARS PRICE, FOR CASH.

LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD

and Cost allowed in First Interest paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket. Ten Thousand Land Buyers to GET A FREE PASS in the States where the Land bought is located. These TERMS are BETTER at $5, than to purchase United States Land at $3.50 per Acre.

EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS on FREIGHT and PASSAGE are AFFORDED TO PURCHASERS and THEIR FAMILIES.

Address GEO. S. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER,
or T. H. LDAVITT, Asst Land Comm'r, Burlington, Iowa.

or apply to

FREE ROOMS for buyers to board themselves are provided at Burlington and Lincoln.
Exodusters

• African Americans who migrated from states along the Mississippi River to Kansas in the late nineteenth century
• First general migration of blacks following the Civil War.
PROOF REQUIRED UNDER HOMESTEAD ACTS MAY 20, 1862, AND JUNE 21, 1866.

WE, Joseph Graff and Samuel Kilpatrick, do solemnly swear that we have known Daniel Atkinson for over five years last past; that he is the head of a family consisting of a citizen of the United States; that he is an inhabitant of the Township No. 4 N. of Range No. 5 E. and that no other person resided upon the said land entitled to the right of Homestead or Pre-emption.

That the said Daniel Atkinson entered upon and made settlement on said land on the 1st day of January, 1863, and has built a house thereon, 24 by 20 feet, one story, with two doors and windows, strung roof, board floor and is a comfortable house to live in, and has lived in the said house and made it his exclusive home from the 1st day of January, 1863, to the present time, and that he has since said settlement ploughed, fenced, and cultivated about 35 acres of said land, and has made the following improvements thereon, to wit: built a stable, a sheep shed 100 feet long, corn crib, and has 40 apple and about 100 peach trees set out.

Joseph Kilpatrick.

I, Henry Atkinson, do hereby certify that the above affidavit was taken and subscribed before me this 30th day of January, 1868.

Henry M. Atkinson
Registrar.

We certify that Joseph Graff and Samuel Kilpatrick, whose names are subscribed to the foregoing affidavit, are persons of respectability.

Henry M. Atkinson
Receiver.
Pattern of Land Grants

- Railroad track right of way
- One square mile sold to others or withheld
- One square mile granted to railroad
R.R. Land Grants
Inventions encouraging settlement

• Important Inventions
  – John Deere – Steel Plow (1830s)
  – McCormick Reaper (1840s)
  – Barbed Wire (1870s)
Federal Indian Policy
Indian Removal, 1830’s
Indian Policy, 1860-1887

• Indian Wars
  – Sand Creek (1864)
  – Little Big Horn (1876)
  – Wounded Knee (1890)

• Reservation System
• 1800 – 8,000,000 Buffalo

1900 – 600 Buffalo
Policy Towards Plains Indians (1850s-1880s)

• Reservation system (1851-1887)
• Indian Wars
• Decimation of Buffalo herds
  – 1500 – estimated 30-60 million buffalo (located as far east as Ohio
  – 1872 – estimated 5,000 buffalo killed per day for hide and bones
  – 1884 – estimated 325 wild buffalo remaining in the United States
  – Today – 20,000 – 30,000 on public lands
    » 250,000 in private herds (for meat)
Indian Policy, 1860-1890

• Reservation System (1850s-80s)
• Reform Movement – 1880’s
Helen Hunt Jackson –
A Century of Dishonor
A New Policy - 1887

• The Dawes Act (1887)
  - Divided reservations into 160 Acre plots.
  - 25 years, receive title to land and American citizenship
  - Purpose – break up tribes
    - encourage assimilation – “Americanize” Native-Americans
    - encourage agricultural work

• Boarding Schools – The Carlisle School, Carlisle Pennsylvania
1920s and 30s

• 1924 – granted citizenship
• 1934 – Wheeler-Howard Act – A New Deal for Native Americans. Reversed Dawes Act