

Section I: The Last West

Walter P. Webb

The Great Plains
(book about the “last west”)

Joseph Glidden

invented barbed wire

Sod-houses*

houses made from rectangles of prairie sod grass, interior walls of plaster or canvas.

“Frontier Thesis”

Frederick Jackson Turner's theory
that having the frontier made
Americans a tough people.

Buffalo Culture

the buffalo was vital to the survival
of the Plains Indians

William F. Cody

“Buffalo Bill” killed buffalo for the
railroad workers & started a
“Wild West Show.”

John Muir*

founder of the Sierra Club;
preserved Yosemite & Sequoia;
father of the modern
environmental movement

Frederick Remington

artist who painted
scenes of the Old West

Little Bighorn

The Little Big Horn River in Montana was the site of the massacre of George Armstrong Custer & his 700 troops by 2,000 Sioux under Chief Crazy Horse.

Chief Joseph

leader of the Nez Perce who said
“From where the sun stands now,
I will fight no more forever.”

Ghost Dance*

a religious movement incorporated
in many Indian cultures

Wounded Knee

U. S. Army slaughtered in their
sleep a band of Sioux Indians...

Inspiration for 1960 book

“Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.”

A Century of Dishonor

Helen Hunt Jackson's chronicle of
the relationship between the U. S.
and Native Americans

Temperance Movement*

WCTU or Women's Christian Temperance Union was founded in 1880 to try to abolish the use and even the making of alcohol.

Dawes Act

tried to “de-Indianize” the Indians &
make them farmers.

Homestead Act

1862, 160 acres and title in five
years (25 for Indians)

Boomtowns

small towns that sprang into
existence with the discovery of gold.

Mark Twain

wrote about boomtowns;
The Celebrated Jumping Frog;
Tom Sawyer; Huck Finn

“Cattle Kingdom”

The “open range” without fences allowed cattle drives to the northern railroad connections.

Joseph McCoy

the “real Mc Coy” was a butcher who got the RR to connect Abilene, Kansas to the Chicago stockyards.

Chisholm Trail

Jesse Chisholm marked a trail &
water holes from South Texas to
Abilene, Kansas.

Bonanza Farms*

large scale farms usually dedicated
to wheat; in the Dakotas and
Minnesota of the 1870s.

Transcontinental RR

RR companies began in Chicago and Sacramento to eventually have a transcontinental railroad.

Promontory Summit

**“golden spike” driven to
commemorate connection of
transcontinental railroad in Utah
(1869)**

Philip Sheridan*

Indian fighter and promoter of
Yellowstone National Park

polygamy*

multiple spouses
(the practice of polygamy by the
Mormons kept Utah from
becoming a state)