Native Americans and Westward Expansion: Cultures and Conflicts

Timeline Cards
Westward Expansion After the Civil War

Timeline Cards
Introduction

In 1804, Lewis and Clark set out to explore the Louisiana Territory.
Introduction

In 1838–1839, thousands of Native Americans were forced to relocate west of the Mississippi River. Their migration became known as the Trail of Tears.
Introduction

From the 1840s–1850s, more pioneers traveled across the plains to the Far West using the Oregon and California Trails.
Introduction

The discovery of gold in California lured even more people to California in 1848–1849.
The prospect of discovering gold or silver led to mining towns being established in the present-day states of Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Arizona, Wyoming, and South Dakota from 1849–1879.

**Big Question:** How did mining affect the development of the American West?
During the 1860s, Chinese, Irish, and other immigrants labored in difficult and dangerous conditions to construct the transcontinental railroad.

**Big Question:** What were the benefits and drawbacks of the transcontinental railroad?
CHAPTER 3: The Cattle Frontier

From 1866–1886, cattle drivers spent months on the open range, keeping track of and steering thousands of head of cattle.

**Big Question:** How did the rise of the cattle industry shape the use of land?
Railroad companies encouraged people to settle in the Great Plains. In 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act, making it easier for poor families to start farms out west.

**Big Question:** What attracted farmers to the Great Plains?
CHAPTER 5: Adjusting to Life on the Plains

Settlers faced many challenges in adjusting to life on the plains, including the threat of damage to their crops by grasshoppers.

**Big Question:** How did farmers adjust to the hardships of the Great Plains?
Annie Oakley, born Phoebe Ann Moses (or Mosey), was one of the attractions in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show, which began in 1883.

**Big Question:** How did the legends of the Wild West come about?
In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William Seward bought Alaska from the Russian czar for $7.2 million.

**Big Question:** What were the events leading to America’s purchase of Alaska?
Introduction

In 1492, when Columbus made his first voyage to North America, there were an estimated five million Native Americans in what today is considered the United States (minus Alaska).
Native Americans in the Great Basin lived in an area shaped like a big bowl, with the Rocky and Sierra Nevada mountains as its “sides,” and a desert inside the bowl.

**Big Question:** How did the climate and physical landscape of the Great Basin shape life for the Native Americans who lived there?
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Native Americans of the Plateau lived in the area that includes parts of the present-day states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, and areas in Canada.

Big Question: What does “living by the seasons” reveal about life in the Plateau region for Native Americans?
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CHAPTER 3: Native Americans of the Plains

Native Americans of the Plains lived in the area that extended from central Canada south to Mexico and from the midwestern United States westward to the Rockies.

Big Question: What impact did the introduction of the horse have on the way of life for the people of the Plains?
Horses changed the way Native Americans of the Plains lived.

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Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest lived in the area that extends from southern Alaska along Canada’s coastline to Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

**Big Question:** How would you describe life for the Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest?
Big Question: How would you describe life for the Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest?
As European settlers moved farther west, Native Americans were forced to leave their homelands. Eventually, Native Americans were forced to relocate to reservations.

**Big Question:** What challenges did Native Americans face as America developed and expanded?
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Native American children were taken from their homes to live in boarding schools, where they learned the Europeans’ way of life. One of the schools was the Carlisle School, founded in 1879.
As a result of contact with the Europeans, many Native Americans died from deadly diseases. Between 1780 and 1820, half of the Native Americans living in the northern Rockies died.

**Big Question:** What factors made it increasingly difficult for Native Americans to live according to their own traditions?
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Demand for sport hunting of bison by American settlers drove the bison almost to extinction.
CHAPTER 6: Tensions Mount

Big Question: What factors made it increasingly difficult for Native Americans to live according to their own traditions?

This painting shows an artist’s version of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, an event that shocked the nation. Colonel Chivington ordered the brutal killing of the Native Americans.
Sitting Bull and other Native American leaders led their men to victory against General Custer and his U.S. troops at the Battle of Little Bighorn, also known as Custer’s Last Stand, in 1876.

**Big Question:** What factors made it increasingly impossible for Native Americans to resist the settlement of their land?
At his surrender in 1877, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce said, “My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.”
CHAPTER 7: The Indian Wars

Big Question:
What factors made it increasingly impossible for Native Americans to resist the settlement of their land?

In the 1880s, Geronimo led the Apache against U.S. troops.
CHAPTER 8: The Ghost Dance

Introduced in 1889, the Ghost Dance became a symbol of hope and resistance for many Native Americans.

Big Question: How did the Ghost Dance come about, and what did it represent for Native Americans?
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Big Question: How did the Ghost Dance come about, and what did it represent for Native Americans?

Hundreds of Native Americans, including women and children, were killed at the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890.
Westward Expansion After the Civil War

Subject Matter Experts
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<td>USA Treasury Warrant for US$7.2 million used to purchase Alaska from the Russian Empire, 30 March 1867 / Bridgeman Images</td>
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Native Americans: Cultures and Conflicts

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