

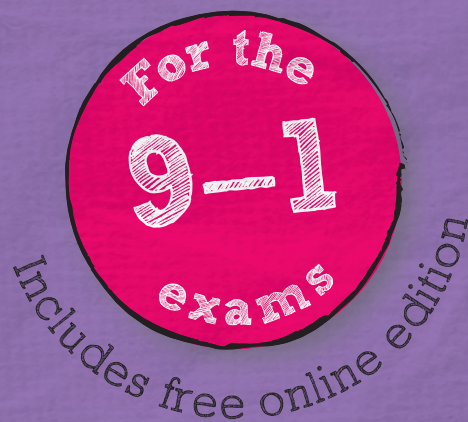
**REVISE AQA GCSE (9–1)**

# History

**AMERICA, 1840–1895:**

**EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION**

# REVISION GUIDE AND WORKBOOK





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# History

**AMERICA, 1840–1895:****EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION**

# REVISION

## GUIDE AND WORKBOOK

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Authors: Sally Clifford and Julia Robertson

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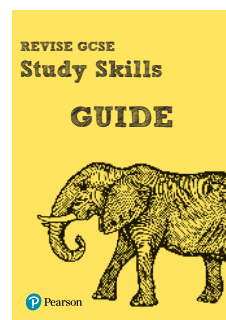
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#### A small bit of small print

AQA publishes Sample Assessment Material and the Specification on its website. This is the official content and this book should be used in conjunction with it. The questions and revision tasks in this book have been written to help you revise the skills you may need for your assessment. Remember: the real assessment may not look like this.

# The Great American Desert

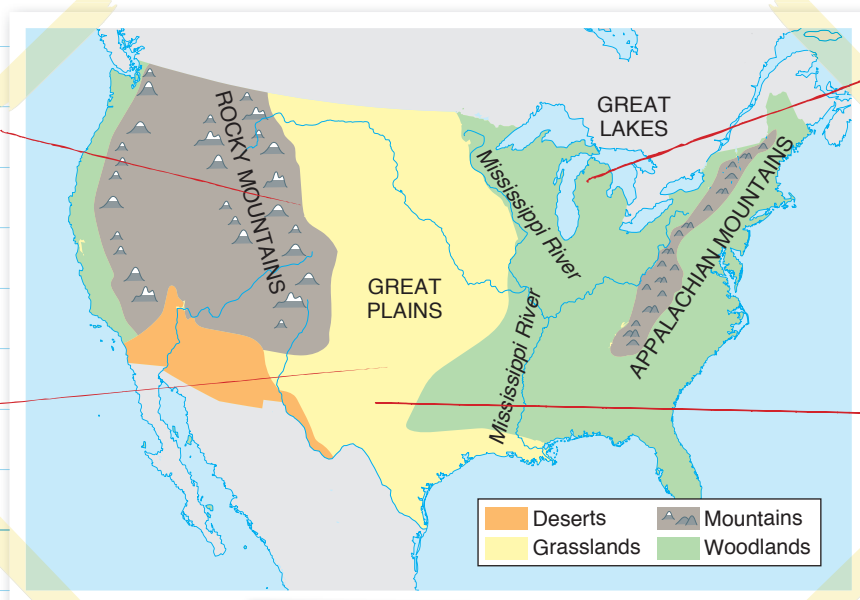
In 1840, white settlers thought that the Great Plains were an inhospitable desert. North America's many natural frontiers made it hard to cross the continent to settle.

**Inhospitable** means harsh and difficult to live in. A **frontier** is a border between two areas.

## The landscape of North America, 1840

The American West: the two-thirds of North America to the west of the Mississippi River

An enormous, natural grassland stretching from north to south between the Mississippi River in the east and the Rocky Mountains in the west



Snow-belts: areas of very heavy snowfall in winter

Before the name Great Plains was given, the area was known as 'The Great American Desert'

Map of North America, c1840

## Attitudes to the Great American Desert

This region is almost wholly unfit for cultivation and farmers cannot hope to live on this land. Occasionally there are large areas of fertile land but the shortage of wood and water will mean settling the country is impossible ...

American explorer, Major Stephen H Long (1784–1864)

In 1819, Major Long was sent to explore the lands west of the Mississippi River. Afterwards, he published a report and map that led to the Great Plains being called 'The Great American Desert'.

You will need to know the main natural features which led to the attitude that the American West could not be lived in.

## Inhospitable conditions

Until the 1840s, the American government and people living east of the Appalachian Mountains believed that the Great Plains were not inhabitable (fit to live in) due to:

- a lack of trees, meaning that it was hard to find wood to build with
- dry conditions, with very little water
- scorching hot summer winds
- its flat, featureless landscape
- bitterly cold winter conditions
- from November to March, harsh winds called 'Blue-Northerners' causing sudden drops in temperature and heavy rain
- the presence of dangerous wolves
- the presence of locusts, which would ruin crops.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph to explain why people thought the Great American Desert was uninhabitable. Include at least **three** natural features of the land in your answer.



# 'Manifest Destiny'

'Manifest Destiny' was the idea that it was the God-given right of white Americans to expand westwards across North America. It was a concept that would have huge importance in the settlement of the West and the attitudes of white settlers to the Plains Indians.



The painting *American Progress* by John Gast (1872) shows 'Manifest Destiny', looking like an angel, leading the way west for white settlers.

## The idea of 'Manifest Destiny'

- ✓ White Americans saw themselves as a superior race. They believed they had the right to populate all of North America from the east coast to the west coast.
- ✓ It was their mission (God's will) to spread westwards across North America.
- ✓ By populating all of North America they would spread democracy and Protestantism.
- ✓ The white settlers were compelled by God to establish the 'American way of life' across the Great Plains.
- ✓ The idea was heavily promoted by the American government and newspapers.

Land that had been previously seen as worthless, and best left to the Plains Indians, became a target for settling.

The Plains Indians had to make way for the white settlers, causing conflict and unrest.

White Americans were comfortable with the idea of clearing the Plains Indians out of the way as it was 'God's will'.

## The importance of 'Manifest Destiny'

Americans gained access to new resources, such as gold and silver, strengthening the American economy.

For more on 'push' and 'pull' factors, see page 5.

'Manifest Destiny' became a major 'pull' factor in **migration** from the East to the Great Plains.

The size of America increased.

## The origin of 'Manifest Destiny'

The phrase 'Manifest Destiny' was first used by John L. O'Sullivan, the founder of the *United States Magazine* and the *Democratic Review*. He used the phrase in an article in 1845, in which he encouraged the expansion of North America all the way to California in the West.

'Manifest Destiny' continued to be a key factor in the settlement of the West all the way through to the 1860s and 1870s.

For more on the role of 'Manifest Destiny' in the settling of homesteaders in the West, see page 24.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph to explain how the painting above symbolises 'Manifest Destiny'.

# The Mormons: persecution

The Mormons are a good example of why people moved west and the challenges early settlers faced. **Persecution** (treating others in a cruel way because of race, religion, politics, or some other difference) in the East meant the Mormons headed west.

## Joseph Smith and the Mormons

In 1830, Joseph Smith founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known as the **Mormons**. He believed that an angel had given him a book from God, and his persuasive manner meant that he quickly attracted followers. He was assassinated in 1844.

## Why were the Mormons persecuted?

Religious and political reasons: The movement grew very quickly, which worried people.

Religious and political reasons: The Mormons moved in large numbers, causing tensions with existing communities.

Political and economic reasons: People were angry about the financial crash and wanted someone to blame.

Other reasons: **The Danites**, a Mormon militia group, were often violent towards non-Mormons.

Political and economic reasons: Americans worried that Smith was planning to overthrow the United States government and disrupt the economy.

Political and economic reasons: The Mormons encouraged freedom for slaves.

Religious reasons: People were against the practice of **polygamy**.

Religious reasons: The Mormons claimed to be Christians, but other Christians were offended by their new **religion**.

Other reasons: The Mormons were very private and did not mix with non-Mormons.

## Mormon history, 1831–1848

In 1831, after being arrested in New York and fearing further persecution, Smith and his wife left for **Kirtland, Ohio**, where they built a huge temple.

In 1833, a mob destroyed the Mormons' printing office in **Independence, Missouri**.

In 1838, Smith fled to **Missouri** after the bank that he set up in Kirtland went bankrupt during the financial crash.

In **October 1838**, after Mormons attacked a unit of state militia at the **Battle of Crooked River**, the governor issued an order expelling the Mormons from Missouri. A mob then massacred a group of Mormons at **Haun's Mill**. Smith was arrested and sentenced to death for **treason** but the executioner refused to kill him and Smith spent the next five months in prison.

By **early 1839**, the Mormons were forced out of Missouri. Brigham Young helped to relocate them to **Nauvoo, Illinois**.

In **April 1839**, Smith escaped from prison and travelled to Nauvoo.

By **1843**, rumours of controversial new practices introduced by Smith, such as **polygamy** (being married to more than one person at the same time), had spread and anti-Mormon feeling grew again.

In **1844**, Smith was arrested after ordering his followers to destroy a newspaper company. While in prison he was shot by a mob.

In **1846**, thousands of Mormons left Nauvoo led by Brigham Young and suffered difficult winter conditions on the march west.

In **1847**, an advance party reached the **Great Salt Lake**, outside the boundaries of the United States.

By **1848**, thousands of followers had left the winter camp in Iowa and reached the **Great Salt Lake**.

## Now try this

List **two** religious reasons and **two** economic reasons why the Mormons were persecuted.

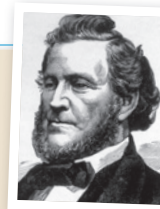


# The Mormons: Great Salt Lake

In 1847–1848 the Mormons settled in the **Salt Lake Valley**, which was then part of Mexico. Brigham Young was a key figure in the organisation and was a vital part of the success of the Mormons' move to the valley, where they built Salt Lake City.

## Brigham Young

Brigham Young became a Mormon in 1832 and rose to become the second leader of the Church. When Joseph Smith was murdered in 1844, Young took control of the Church. In 1846, he led the Mormons out of Illinois. He was president (official leader of the Church) from 1847 until his death and is widely believed to be the reason behind the success of the Mormons settling in the Salt Lake Valley.



## The journey west: problems and solutions

**Problem:** The journey to the Salt Lake Valley was very dangerous and there were a lot of people to move.

**Solution:** Young organised a count of all the people and wagons they had to move (about 3000 families in 2500 wagons), so he was able to plan carefully.

**Solution:** The migrants were divided into small groups; each group had a leader.

**Solution:** To avoid arguments and make sure that people knew what to do if they were split up, Young gave everyone a specific job and insisted on strict discipline.

**Problem:** The Mormons did not know what to expect when they got to the Salt Lake Valley.

**Solution:** Young spoke to a number of guides, including Plains Indians, to find out as much as he could about the destination so they could prepare thoroughly.

## Settling in the Salt Lake Valley: problems and solutions

**Problem:** Life in the Salt Lake Valley was very hard, the land was very dry and there were no trees for wood.

**Solution:** Irrigation systems (to supply water for crops) were quickly organised to divert water from the melting snow in the mountains.

**Solution:** Houses could not be made from wood, so they used mud bricks.

**Solution:** Young's strict leadership was crucial. His followers believed that he was sent by God and so they obeyed him.

**Problem:** The Mormons had to be able to produce everything they needed.

**Solution:** Young declared that the Church owned all the land and that everyone must work together for the good of the community. Settlements were organised carefully, with each one producing something different under the leadership of a Church elder (a leader with authority).

**Solution:** Settlements further away from the Lake had to send products back to Salt Lake City.

**Problem:** The area was part of Mexico when the Mormons arrived in 1848, but was soon occupied by the American government.

**Solution:** Young declared the settlement part of a separate state called Deseret.

**Solution:** To begin with it looked as if the Mormons and the American government would go to war. However, Young eventually came to a compromise with the government and the area became part of the new territory of Utah in 1850.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph to explain **one** problem the Mormons faced when they moved to the Great Salt Lake and how they overcame it.

# Journey west: push and pull

There were many different reasons why people decided to make the long and dangerous journey west. Some of these factors pushed migrants away from the East, while others pulled them west, to places like California and Oregon.

## Pull factors for moving west

- 👍 Freedom and independence
- 👍 Free farming land
- 👍 Government promotion
- 👍 'Manifest Destiny'
- 👍 Positive stories from traders and fur-trappers
- 👍 Oregon Trail
- 👍 Gold

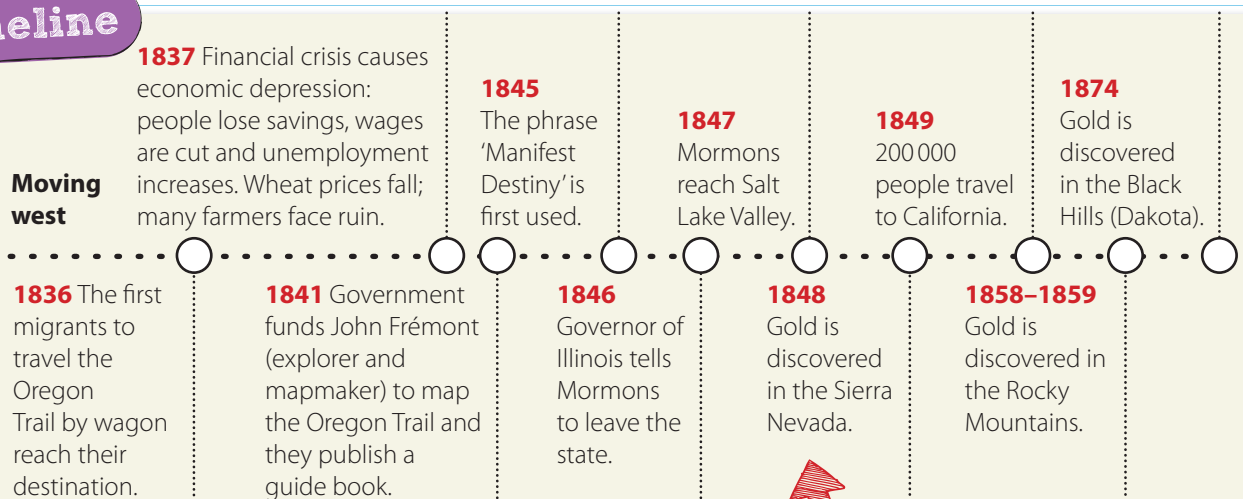
For more on 'Manifest Destiny', see page 2.  
For more on the Oregon Trail, see page 6. For more on the California Gold Rush, turn to page 7.



## Push factors for moving west

- 👎 Financial crisis of 1837
- 👎 Overpopulation
- 👎 Persecution
- 👎 Unemployment

## Timeline



Although some of the events mentioned here took place before 1840, it is important that you know them so you can write about factors that made the early settlers decide to go west.

A cartoon from the *Times* newspaper commenting on hardship in New York City during the 1837 economic crisis. Many people lost their jobs, businesses and savings and decided that life would be better in the West.

## Now try this

Explain **one** push and **one** pull factor, which led early settlers to move west.



# Journey west: pioneer trails

The pioneer trails which led west were established to show migrant farmers the best way to get to the West. They were often dangerous – even when the trails were followed disaster could strike.

## The journey west

There was a fear of attacks by Plains Indians but these were rare. Plains Indians were more likely to help travellers than attack them.

Migrants began the trail in April, in Independence, Missouri, when there would be enough grass on the Plains for their animals.

Crossing the Great Plains was made dangerous by: extreme temperatures, storms, disease, stampeding buffalo, and running out of supplies.

The biggest danger came from illness; cholera and dysentery, in particular, killed many.

Wagons were hauled across the mountain terrain using chains, ropes and pulleys. Injuries were common.



Migrants needed to take supplies for the entire journey.

Early migrants used explorers or Plains Indians as guides; later migrants relied on guidebooks.

Pioneer trails taken by migrant farmers going west

Most people used strong oxen to pull the loaded wagons, but oxen were also very slow. Timescales for the journey were tight and delays could lead to disaster.

The safest way to travel was in large groups of 20 or more wagons, known as wagon trains. These would often contain people with a mix of skills that would be useful along the way.

Each trail crossed two mountain ranges: the Rockies, and either the Blue Mountains or the Sierra Nevada. They were steep, and bad weather meant that people often froze to death.

## Migrants going west

### Donner Party, 1846

In May 1846, the Donner family set off for California as part of a train of almost 500 wagons. They suffered many hardships, and only 46 of the 87 members of the party survived to reach California because:

- Arguments divided the group over whether to take a largely untested route.
- The shortcut cost time, wagons and livestock as they tried to pass through difficult terrain.
- With supplies running out, arguments started, and one man was murdered.
- Snow and delays caused by the shortcut left them stranded alone through the winter.
- They had to eat animal skins, and eventually resorted to cannibalism in order to survive.

### Sagar Party, 1844

In April 1844, Naomi and Henry Sagar set out along the Oregon Trail with their six children. Their daughter Catherine later wrote down what happened during the journey:

- Extreme rain and mud slowed their progress.
- Naomi Sagar gave birth to her seventh child during the journey and never fully recovered.
- Catherine Sagar broke her leg jumping off a wagon.
- Many of the travellers got sick with 'camp fever' (typhus), which killed both Henry and Naomi and left their children as orphans.

### Gould Party, 1862

The Gould party consisted of Jane Gould, her husband Albert and their two sons. Jane kept a diary of her experiences, detailing the hardships they faced, including:

- the extreme cold, wind and rain of the Great Plains and Utah desert
- running out of supplies
- cattle stampedes
- attacks by Plains Indians
- crossing the harsh terrain of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada.

## Now try this

Imagine you are a survivor of the Donner Party. In a short paragraph, describe the challenges you faced on your journey west.

# The miners

In 1848, gold was discovered in California, leading to a **gold rush** in 1849. Large numbers of migrants headed west with major consequences for both California and America as a whole.

## The pull of gold

The biggest 'pull' factor for migrants heading to California was gold.

- It was first discovered in the Sierra Nevada in 1848.
- By April 1849 over 200 000 people had left the East and set off in the hope of finding gold and becoming rich.
- Life for a gold prospector was hard and not everyone was successful.
- Many spent their life savings travelling to the area and buying their equipment, but most did not find gold.

**Prospectors** (people who search for gold) came from all over the world and, by 1855, 300 000 had settled in California. At first it was mainly men who set up in temporary camps hoping to make a fortune and then return home. However, they were soon joined by female servants and prostitutes, and later by their families.

## The California Gold Rush



Map showing important locations in the California Gold Rush

Those who set off along the Oregon Trail in 1849 were later known as the '49ers'.

## The effects of the Gold Rush

Positive	Negative
<p>👍 The Gold Rush helped the American economy to recover from its financial problems.</p>	<p>👎 Problems with Plains Indians due to increased use of the Oregon Trail.</p>
<p>👍 Farming in California grew into a strong industry and California's economy grew quickly as prospectors needed food, equipment and entertainment.</p>	<p>👎 Widespread lawlessness in mining camps, including murder of Californian Indians by migrants.</p>
<p>👍 Strengthened the image of the West and the idea that 'Manifest Destiny' was true.</p>	<p>👎 Racism and tension within the settler community due to mass immigration from all over the world.</p>

## Impact on Plains Indians

The discovery of gold brought large numbers of migrants onto Indian land. This brought with it serious problems:

- The trails that the migrants used crossed the Black Hills of Dakota, which were sacred to the Plains Indians.
- White settlers brought diseases with them that the Plains Indians had not been exposed to before.
- White settlers had a very different view of how the land should be treated. Mining caused flooding, clogged rivers and killed wildlife. This made it hard for the Plains Indians to survive.

For more on the beliefs of the Plains Indians, see page 9.

## Impact on America as a whole

The American government was very pleased with the expansion in California. In 1850, California officially set itself up as a state. By the time the Gold Rush ended in 1856, so many American people lived there that it was unlikely to be attacked or invaded by other countries.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph to explain the negative impact of the Gold Rush on the Plains Indians.



# Plains Indians: way of life

White settlers first came into contact with the Plains Indians, and their very different way of life, in the 1840s. Life on the Great Plains was very hard and the Plains Indians relied on buffalo and horses to survive.

## The Indian nations

A number of Indian nations (or tribes) lived on the Great Plains. These included the Apache, the Cheyenne and the Lakota Sioux. The Plains Indians were not a single group – each nation had its own distinct culture, and there was often conflict between the tribes. However, they shared some key features and beliefs.

White Americans tended to treat the Plains Indians as a single group and ignored the differences between them. This made dealing with the Indian nations more difficult.

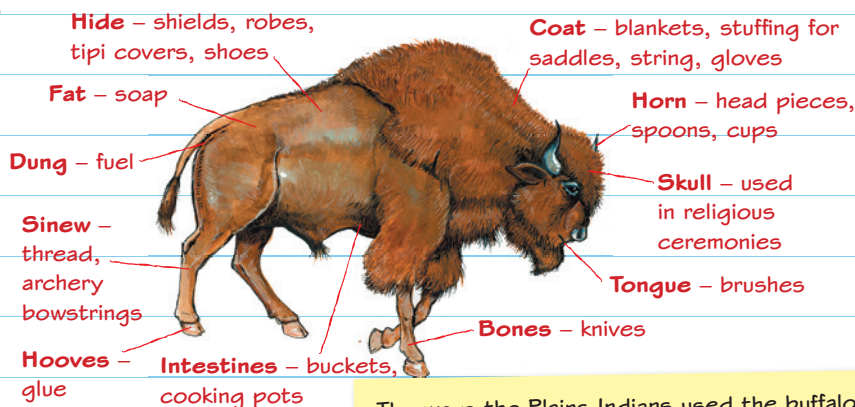
## The importance of horses

Horses had been brought to America by the Spanish in the 1600s. They gradually became more important to native tribes.

- Plains Indians followed the buffalo through their summer and winter migrations, so horses were vital for transport.
- Hunting on horseback was more efficient than hunting on foot.
- When there was conflict between tribes, horses were used in warfare.
- Plains Indians measured their wealth and status by how many horses they had.

## The importance of buffalo

The Plains Indians lived a **nomadic** (travelling) lifestyle centred around the buffalo, which they would follow and hunt throughout the year. The buffalo provided everything the Plains Indians needed. They used every part of the buffalo except for the heart. This was left on the Plains; the Plains Indians believed this gave the herd new life.



The ways the Plains Indians used the buffalo

Plains Indians moved their belongings using a 'travois'. This was a triangular platform or net in a V-shaped frame made from two long poles. The travois could be pulled by hand or by horses or dogs. White settlers thought the travois was basic, but it was actually more efficient on the Plains as it was better suited to soft soil and snow than wheels.

As well as tipis, Plains Indians often built circular **lodges**. These were made of tree trunks and woven reeds before being covered with earth. Lodges were usually partially underground. Most of the work was done by women, and a lodge was considered the property of the woman who built it.

## The tipi

- ✓ The tipi was a shelter made from buffalo hide.
- ✓ The pyramid shape of the tipi allowed it to withstand the strong winds of the Plains.
- ✓ A tipi was easy to build and take down quickly, fitting with the nomadic lifestyle of the Plains Indians.
- ✓ Tipis were cool in summer and warm in winter, which suited the extreme weather conditions on the Plains.
- ✓ The circular shape was in keeping with the Indians' spiritual beliefs about circles.

For more on the importance of circles to the Plains Indians, see page 9.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph explaining how the Plains Indians' dependence on both horses and buffalo were linked.

# Plains Indians: beliefs

The Plains Indians shared certain key beliefs – mainly centred on a respect for nature and the land – and these beliefs brought them into conflict with the white settlers who came west.

## The land:

The Plains Indians believed that the land was a living thing and saw it as their mother: living things came from the land and after death they returned to it. They wanted to live in harmony with the land. They thought no person could own it and that farming was disrespectful to the earth.

## The spirit world:

The Plains Indians believed that the world was created by the Great Spirit *Wakan Tanka*. During puberty, boys would attend a ceremony to find their **spirit animal** to guide their **visions**. Visions of the spirit world were very important to the Plains Indians' spirituality.

## Plains Indians' beliefs

## Nature:

The Plains Indians had a deep respect for nature. For them all things had a spirit, including animals, plants, stones and water.

## Circles:

Circles were very important to Plains Indians such as the Sioux Nation. They believed that life was a circle from birth through to death. They were respectful of circles in nature, such as the sun and the moon, and the pattern of the seasons. **Tipis** were circular and **Tribal Councils** would sit in a circle as part of this spiritual belief. Dances often took a circular form.

## Dances

**Sun dance** – to thank the Sun for past help and ask for guidance in the future.

Plains Indians performed a number of spiritual **dances** to enter into the spirit world. This painting shows a Sioux war dance.



**Buffalo dance** – to bring the buffalo to them.

The **Ghost Dance** was invented in 1889 after the Battle of the Little Big Horn. The idea was that the spirits of the dead could be reunited with the spirits of the living and together they could beat the white settlers who were oppressing them.

**War dance** – before going on a raid, tribes would often have up to four days of rituals, designed for them to enter into the spirit world and ask the Spirit for help in the coming battle.

**Scalp dance** – to celebrate victory in war.

For more on the Battle of the Little Big Horn, see page 28.

## Plains Indians vs white settlers

- Many of the settlers were very religious themselves, mostly Christian. The Plains Indians' ideas about the spirit world and their religion offended the white settlers.
- The white settlers were coming to the Plains intending to own the land, which they believed '**Manifest Destiny**' showed they should live on. This was the opposite of the Plains Indians' idea that the land could not be owned.
- Witnessing things like war dances was very frightening for the white settlers and increased their fear that they were going to be attacked.

You need to be able to identify why these beliefs caused conflict with the white Americans who settled on the Plains.

For more on 'Manifest Destiny', see page 2.

## Now try this

Select **three** beliefs of the Plains Indians and explain how these beliefs might bring them into conflict with white settlers.



# Plains Indians: tribes and warfare

The Plains Indian **nations** were made up of **tribes**, which in turn were made up of **bands**. Tribal government was based on community spirit and decision making. This seemed very strange to white Americans.

**Bands** were the smallest unit in a tribe and were often made up of extended families. They were led by chiefs and a council.

Tribes were led by **chiefs**. Chiefs were advised by a tribal council made up of tribal **elders**. The harsh conditions of life on the Plains meant that community spirit was incredibly important.

Laws were not really needed because if people did not work together and do the right things then the bands would not survive.

## Leadership

Decisions were made **collaboratively** (everyone discussing and coming to an agreement together).

A chief was usually chosen for his skill as a warrior.

One tribe might have multiple chiefs for different things, such as war and spirituality.

Although a chief's people respected him deeply, he had no power over them.

The white Americans thought that the government should make laws for the good of everyone and make sure they were followed. This was very different to the Plains Indians' tribal way of life. The white settlers could not understand why chiefs could not make their people do as they were told. They did not understand the idea of governing by discussion and community agreement and thought that the Plains Indians simply did not have any kind of government.

## Roles within the tribes

You need to be able to compare the lifestyles of the Plains Indians and white settlers.

Even though men could have more than one wife (**polygamy**) this did not mean women were less respected. Polygamy was practised mainly because many young men died in warfare and so there were not enough to look after all the women and children.

### Women

Although women could not be chiefs, they held important roles within the tribe. They were responsible for looking after their families, maintaining the **tipi** and processing the parts of the buffalo. Women were greatly respected in Indian society and had special roles in ceremonies such as the Sun dance.

For more on dances, see page 9.

### The elderly

Not looking after your parents was seen as a terrible crime and the young took great pride in looking after the elderly. However, when the elderly felt they were no longer useful they would commit **exposure** by voluntarily going off on their own to die in the wilderness.

### Children

The Plains Indians cherished their children. There was no formal schooling, but children were prepared for adult life by their relatives. Children were expected to behave well and take part in looking after the family, especially the elderly.

One of the aims of warfare was to steal **horses** and supplies from other tribes or white settlers.

**Counting coup** was where a warrior would bravely attempt to hit their enemy with their hand, bow or **coup stick** (a special stick on which the warrior recorded their coup success) and then escape unharmed. This was the highest honour an Indian warrior could achieve.

The main tactic was **ambush**.

Fighting was totally **voluntary**.

## Warfare and bravery

If a raid looked as if it was not going to be successful, the warriors would **retreat**.

**Scalping** (removing the skin and hair from an enemy's head to keep as a trophy) was practised in order to stop the enemy from going on to the afterlife, known in some tribes as **The Happy Hunting Ground**.

The Cheyenne had brotherhoods of elite warriors called **Dog Soldiers**.

For more on the conflict caused by the differences in ways of life on the Plains, see page 12.

## Now try this

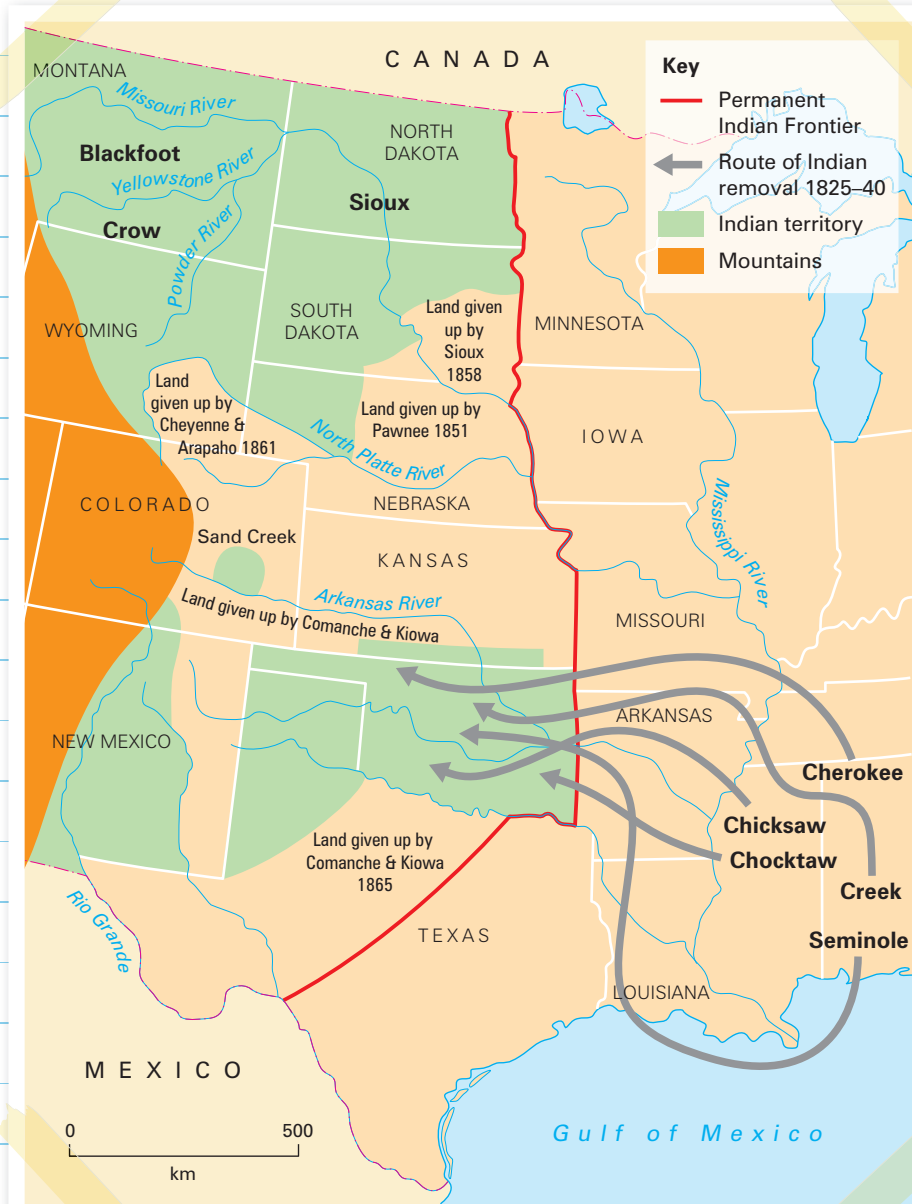
Give **two** differences between the governments of the Plains Indians and the white settlers.

# The Permanent Indian Frontier

The American government had always been unsure of what to do about the Plains Indians.

The increased migration of white settlers across the Plains, from the 1840s onwards, only made the problem worse.

## Early American government policy



Map of the Permanent Indian Frontier including tribes to the west.

### 1 1830 Indian Removal Act

This forced Indians living east of the Mississippi to move west, where it was thought they could live separately and without government interference. At this time white Americans and the government thought the Plains were worthless and impossible to settle on. The forced march west became known as the **Trail of Tears** because of the many Cherokees who died during the march.

### 2 1834 Indian Trade and Intercourse Act

This put in place a **Permanent Indian Frontier** between Indian territory and the Eastern states. The government still believed that the Plains were worthless and could be given to the Indians as '**One Big Reservation**' behind the Permanent Indian Frontier, where the different tribes could live without American government interference. Since many of the removal treaties promised to protect the relocated tribes from white settlers, and since the settlers also demanded protection from the Indian tribes, several forts were built up and down the Frontier.

### 3 Migration to the West

By the 1840s, the idea that the land beyond the Permanent Indian Frontier was worthless and could be left to the Indians began to change and so did American government policy. The discovery of gold, west of the Frontier, only made these problems worse. More white settlers began to enter and settle on lands west of the Frontier.

## Now try this

Write **three** sentences to explain why the American government introduced the Permanent Indian Frontier.



# Changing relationships

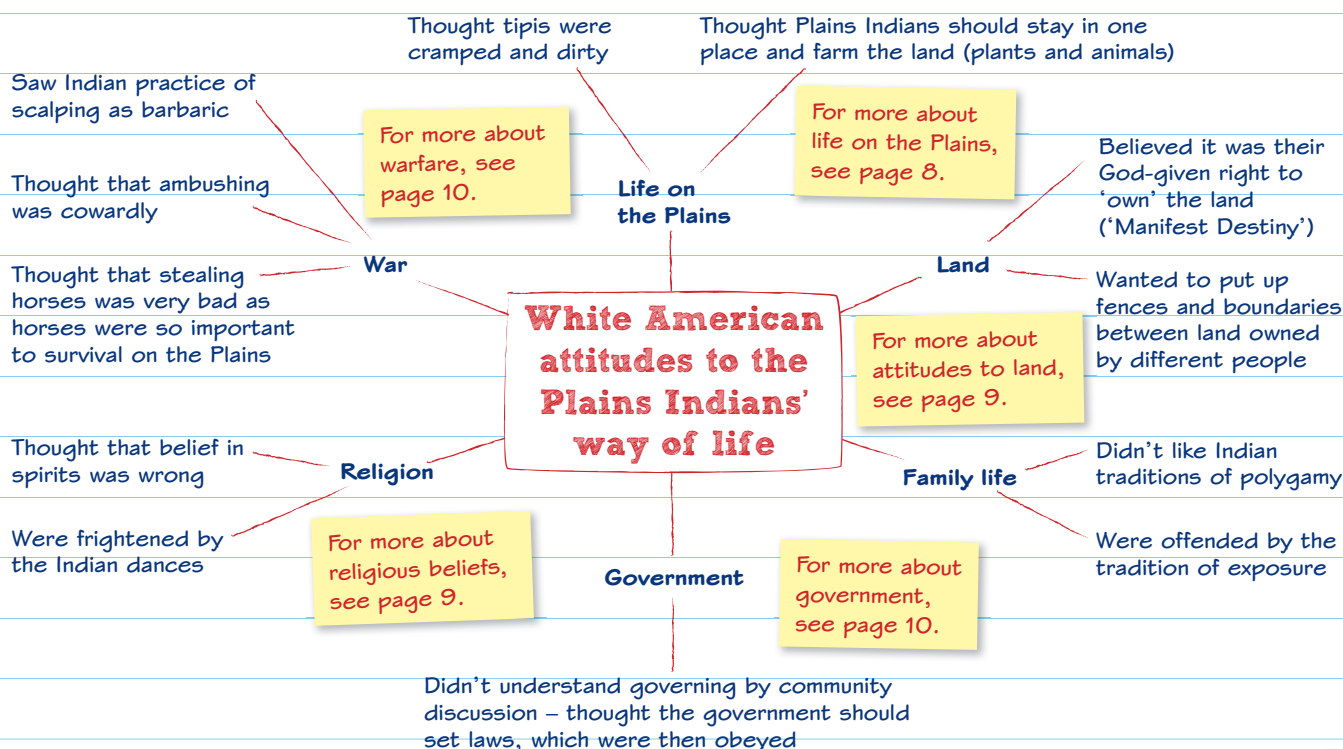
The arrival of white settlers on the Plains by the 1840s changed relationships with the Plains Indians as they now had to live together. Their ways of life were very different and tensions quickly grew.

## Attitudes to land

Life on the Great Plains was tough and both settlers and Plains Indians had to work hard to survive. However, unlike the Plains Indians, the white settlers thought that God had given them the right to own the land ('Manifest Destiny').

For more on 'Manifest Destiny', see page 2.

Remember, the relationships between white Americans and the Plains Indians changed because rather than just crossing the Plains to reach places like California, white Americans now began to settle on the Plains in areas where the Plains Indians lived.



The fact that the Plains Indians and white settlers were now living near each other meant that the white settlers saw more of the Plains Indians' lifestyle and so developed deep prejudices against them.

All of this was made worse by the huge increase in numbers of migrants travelling the Oregon Trail in 1849 and 1850 following the discovery of gold in California.

For more on the Gold Rush, see page 7.

Migrants crossing the Plains were alarmed when they saw Indian war parties and assumed they were a threat. This led to more calls for the American government to protect the migrants.

## The arrival of the white settlers

The presence of white settlers arriving on the Great Plains affected the lives of the Plains Indians in a number of ways:

- 👉 pressure on food supplies as buffalo herds were disturbed
- 👉 increasing conflict between Indian tribes as food supplies declined
- 👉 tension caused by differences in culture and government.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph to explain why relationships between the white settlers and Plains Indians changed.

# Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851

By 1851 the tension between the Plains Indians and white settlers had become a real problem for the American government. The government was keen to expand the settlement of land further westwards but struggled to know how to keep Plains Indians and white settlers apart, so they came up with the **Fort Laramie Treaty**.

## Fort Laramie Treaty, 1851

- Each of the Plains tribes would be given its own territory.
- White settlers, travellers and railroad surveyors would be allowed to cross tribal lands safely.
- The American government was allowed to establish forts and roads within Indian territory.
- Selected chiefs from each tribe would negotiate with the American government.
- Plains Indians should pay if their people broke the Treaty.
- The American government promised to protect Plains Indians from white settlers.
- If the Plains Indians stuck to the Treaty, they would be given food and money (\$50 000 a year).

Remember there were two Fort Laramie Treaties, in 1851 and in 1868. You can revise the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 on page 26.

## Consequences and difficulties

- ✓ The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 ended the idea of One Big Reservation and instead **concentrated** each tribe within their own lands. Although the Treaty did not create reservations, it was the first step towards them.
- ✓ The Treaty created a relationship in which the Plains tribes became dependent on the American government for food and money. They were expected to begin behaving in a certain way.
- ✓ The Treaty was written in English, and without enough interpreters many of the tribes did not fully understand what they had agreed to.
- ✓ Cultural differences led to misunderstandings. The American government was used to the idea of elected representatives, but Plains tribes had no single leader. Many individual bands still acted as they wanted to.

In the end, the Fort Laramie Treaty failed, and so did the policy of concentration it had introduced.

Many members of the tribes did not even know the Treaty existed.

Those who did know about the Treaty often ignored it and carried on moving into other tribes' territories.

Migrants were supposed to be able to **cross** the Plains Indians' territories without fear of attack but in reality they didn't stick to the official trails and some even settled on land that had been 'given' to the Plains Indians.

## The failure of concentration

Cattle drives often went onto Indian territories, causing problems. The discovery of gold in Lakota territory in 1861, and the introduction of railroads, caused further problems.

The American government did nothing to protect the Plains Indians from white settlers, or stop American citizens from causing further conflict.

The promised payments for sticking to the Treaty weren't always made.

## Now try this

List **three** outcomes of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851.



# Indian Wars, 1862–1867: 1

By 1862, the treaties between the Plains Indians and the American government were beginning to break down, and fighting was becoming more common.

## Clash of cultures:

- White settlers in the West did not understand the Plains Indians and, because of this, they were afraid of them. White Americans also thought the Plains Indians were not as good as them and should be more like them.
- **The Homestead Act (1862)** promised white settlers on the Plains 160 acres for free as long as they built a home and farmed the land.
- 'Manifest Destiny' meant that the white settlers believed they should own land. The Plains Indians thought land could not be owned, only looked after.

For more on the differences between white settlers and Plains Indians, see page 12.

## Broken agreements:

- In the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 the Dakota Sioux had agreed to pay off their debts to traders before getting the money the government had promised them. However, they failed to do this so the government refused to pay.
- Some tribes were promised compensation by the government for the poor quality of the land on the reservation they had been moved on to, but the money never came.
- White settlers often ignored the boundaries of reservations and took land that was good for farming.

## Reasons for the Indian Wars

### Failure of treaties:

- **The Fort Wise Treaty (1861)** had moved the Cheyenne on to the **Sand Creek reservation** but the land was only a thirteenth of the size of the reserve they had before. Some Cheyenne claimed that the treaty never had the approval of most of the tribe, and said that the chiefs were bribed into signing it. Migrants crossing the Plains did not always stick to the agreed trail routes, often straying into land which the Plains Indians used for hunting. This was against the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851).

For more on the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, see page 13.

### Poor conditions on the reservations:

- Many tribes who had been moved onto reservations under the policy of concentration faced starvation. This was because of the poor quality of the land they were now living on and the widespread killing of the buffalo they depended on.
- Local traders refused to trade with the Plains Indians so they could not even buy food. Some tribes were reduced to eating grass to try to survive.

For more on concentration, see page 13.

## Little Crow's War, 1862

- Little Crow was the chief of a band of Dakota Sioux.
- In 1851, the tribe signed treaties agreeing to move to a reservation in southern Minnesota, giving up 24 million acres of land.
- Land on the reservation was unsuitable for farming, the American government failed to make its promised payments, their crops failed and people began to starve. The government refused to hand over supplies.
- On 17 August 1862 a small Sioux hunting party killed five white settlers. The following day, Little Crow attacked a town, stealing food and supplies and killing over 700 white settlers and soldiers.
- The American government sent in a huge army, and many Sioux surrendered after the **Battle of Wood Lake** on 23 September 1862. 300 Sioux were sentenced to death, and 38 were eventually hanged.

## The Cheyenne Uprising, 1863

- After the **Treaty of Fort Laramie**, seven Indian nations (including the Cheyenne) were given a vast territory covering parts of present-day Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas.
- The discovery of gold in Colorado in 1858 caused a gold rush and large numbers of white settlers moved into Indian territory.
- The **Treaty of Fort Wise** in 1861 greatly reduced Cheyenne lands and meant they were living in places that were bad for farming, and far away from the buffalo herds they hunted for survival.
- Many bands of Cheyenne Indians were angry about giving up their lands, and did not think the chiefs who had agreed to it spoke for them.
- In 1863, faced with starvation, some Cheyenne began attacking wagon trains and stealing food and supplies.

## Now try this

Give **five** reasons why conflict between white settlers and the Plains Indian tribes became more common from 1862.

# Indian Wars, 1862–1867: 2

Confrontations continued to get worse. The **Sand Creek Massacre (1864)** and **Fetterman's Trap (1866)** led to painful consequences for the Plains Indians and their relationship with white settlers and the American government.

## Sand Creek Massacre, 1864

Led by their chief, **Black Kettle**, the Cheyenne had attacked wagon trains and stolen food during the Cheyenne Uprising. In response, the American army commanded by **Colonel Chivington** attacked their settlement at Sand Creek on the morning of 29 November 1864. Even though the Plains Indians waved white flags in surrender, Chivington had been given orders to 'kill and destroy' the Plains Indians. More than 150 of them were massacred in a dawn raid, including many of the chiefs who had wanted peace with white Americans. Some, including Black Kettle, escaped to tell other Plains Indians about what had happened.

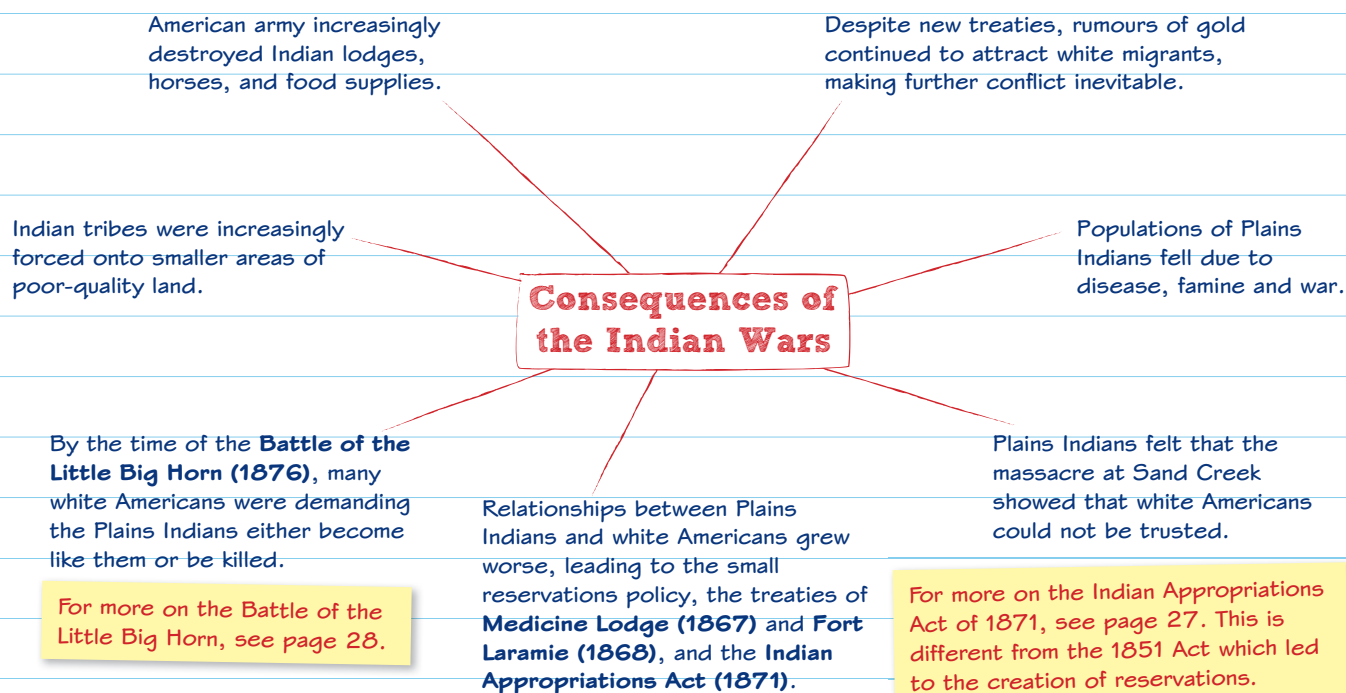
## Red Cloud's War, 1866–1868

In 1863, a miner called John Bozeman established the Bozeman Trail, connecting the Oregon Trail to Montana, where gold had been found. The Bozeman Trail crossed Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapaho hunting grounds, breaking the Treaty of Fort Laramie. Red Cloud, a chief of the Lakota Sioux, led attacks against the travellers that lasted from 1866–1868 and became known as **Red Cloud's War**.

For more on the Fort Laramie Treaty (1851), see page 13.

## Fetterman's Trap, 1866

During Red Cloud's War, the American government had established **Fort Phil Kearny** and the Plains Indians began to concentrate their attacks there. On 21 December 1866, a small group of Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho hid near the fort and attacked a party of woodcutters. As the Plains Indians had planned, a group of soldiers under the command of Captain William J. Fetterman left the fort to protect the woodcutters. They were ambushed by a huge force, and all 81 soldiers were killed. The Plains Indians then blocked the route so that no one else could use it. Afterwards, the American government negotiated a second **Fort Laramie Treaty (1868)**. In the Treaty, the government agreed to abandon three forts and the Bozeman Trail, while Red Cloud agreed to move his tribe to a much smaller reservation between the Black Hills of Dakota and the Missouri River.



For more on the Battle of the Little Big Horn, see page 28.

For more on the Indian Appropriations Act of 1871, see page 27. This is different from the 1851 Act which led to the creation of reservations.

## Now try this

Choose **either** the Sand Creek Massacre **or** Fetterman's Trap. Give **two** consequences for the Plains Indians, and their relationships with white settlers and the American government.



# North vs South

As the United States grew, the country started to struggle with different ideas about how it should be run. The way the states were **governed**, **slavery** and the **expansion** of the country were all causes of tension.

## The federal nature of the American government:

This led to power struggles between states and the federal government, often about whether the federal government had the right to stop states from practising slavery.

Each state had a lot of control over its own laws. The states joined together in a **Union**, overseen by the central (**federal**) government which set some laws that were meant to apply to everyone.

## Social and cultural differences between North and South:

After the **American Revolutionary War** (1775–1783), people in the North started to see the **oppression** of slaves as the same as the British oppression of the Americans before the Revolution. As a result, they called for slavery to be abolished (got rid of). This led to a division of the states into **slave states** and **free states**.

In **slave states** slavery continued to be practised and in **free states** slavery was banned.

**Oppression** means treating someone cruelly and limiting what they can do.

## Long-term causes of tension

### The debate over secession:

Soon, free states started calling for slavery to be banned throughout the Union but slave states did not agree and threatened to **secede** (leave the Union) if this was the case.

### Economic differences between North and South:

Slavery was hugely important to the economy of the **agricultural** South where the majority of slaves worked on the plantations. Many of the wealthy businessmen in the **industrial** northern states had made their money by investing in the plantations. However, slavery was not so important to the economy in the North.

### The westward expansion of America:

This meant that tension over slavery grew as the federal government tried to restrict slavery in new territories applying to join the Union (and become a state). This led to the Missouri Compromise.

For more on the Missouri Compromise, see page 17.

## Slavery

Slavery arrived in America in 1619 when a Dutch ship carrying 20 African slaves landed in Virginia. Slaves were a cheap source of labour and worked mainly on the rice and tobacco plantations in the South. In the late 18th century a machine called the **cotton gin** was invented to pick and process cotton. As a result, the South started producing cotton on a large scale to supply the growing textile industry in Britain. This meant that more and more slaves were needed. Between the 1830s and 1860s, support for **abolitionism** grew in strength in the North.

To **abolish** means to put an end to something. **Abolitionism** was the movement to end slavery.

See page 10 to compare this system with the ways the Plains Indians governed themselves.

## Federal and state government

The USA's federal system of government means that power is divided between federal and state government with some powers shared.

### Federal powers

- To declare war
- To admit new states to the Union
- To print money
- To make treaties with other countries

### Shared powers

- To set and collect taxes
- To manage law and order
- To establish courts

### State powers

- To agree amendments to the Constitution
- To look after local government
- To oversee businesses in the state

## Now try this

List **three** reasons for tension between the North and the South.

# Growing tensions

Between the 1820s and 1859 problems continued to grow between the North and the South as more territories applied to join the Union. These tensions ultimately led to the outbreak of the Civil War.

## Growing tension in the medium term, 1820–1859

### Missouri Compromise, 1820

The **Missouri Compromise** was an agreement designed to deal with the spread of slavery into the new territories of the West. It was triggered when Missouri applied to join the Union as a slave state. The compromise drew a line through Louisiana: north of this line slavery would be forbidden, except in Missouri. To balance things out, Maine which was below the line was allowed to join the Union as a free state.

For more on free states and slave states, see page 16.

### Nat Turner's Rebellion, 1831

In August 1831, Nat Turner, a black slave, led a slave rebellion which terrified the South. He and six other slaves killed their owners, took horses and weapons and killed 51 white people. The incident made divisions between slave owners and anti-slavery campaigners in the South much deeper and led to harsh laws against slaves.

### The Compromise of 1850

The **1850 Compromise** was designed to deal with the issue of slavery in the territories gained by the westward expansion of the USA in the Mexican War (1846–1848). It included laws making it easier for slave owners to get escaped slaves back (such as the **Fugitive Slave Act**). This Compromise also allowed California to join the Union as a free state, created the territory of Utah, and ended the slave trade in Washington, D.C.

For more on Utah, see page 20.

### Publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1852

### Kansas–Nebraska Act, 1854

As the new states of Kansas and Nebraska were north of the line drawn in the Missouri Compromise, they should have been free states. However, the **Kansas–Nebraska Act** allowed people in these states to decide whether or not to allow slavery themselves. This Act caused the breakdown of the 1850 Compromise, as well as leading to increased tensions and widespread violence.

### John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, 1859

In October 1859, the **abolitionist** John Brown led an armed raid on the American military weapons store at Harpers Ferry in Virginia. The raid was supposed to be the first stage in a plan to set up a refuge for freed slaves in the mountains of Virginia. However, Brown was captured, convicted of treason and hanged. The raid made white Southern fears of slave rebellions worse and greatly increased tension between Northern and Southern states.

It might seem as if arguments over slavery were the only cause of the Civil War but the reality was more complicated. It was the combination of all these long-term issues that made the tense situation even worse from the 1820s onwards.

## Uncle Tom's Cabin

*Uncle Tom's Cabin* tells the story of some Southern slaves and was written to persuade people that slavery should end. The novel came out two years after the Fugitive Slave Act and showed many people the true horrors of the Southern slave system. The book had a huge impact on people's opinions about slavery, and made tensions between slave states and free states worse. Some historians even think that the book contributed to the outbreak of the Civil War.



A poster advertising *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe. It claims it is 'the greatest book of the age' and has sold 270 000 volumes (copies).

## Now try this

Write **three** sentences explaining how the poster for *Uncle Tom's Cabin* helps you understand the causes of the Civil War.

# Outbreak of war

The election of President Lincoln in 1860 was deeply unpopular in the South. When South Carolina seceded the Union in the same year, other Southern states followed and war soon broke out.

## Short-term causes of the Civil War, 1860–1861

### New political parties

By 1854, a new political party called the **Republicans** had formed in America. The party was made up of: **Northerners** who had left the **Whig Party** which no longer existed; some **Democrats** who didn't like slavery or the concept of 'Manifest Destiny'; and a few members of the strongly Protestant and anti-immigration **Know Nothing Party**.

For more on  
'Manifest Destiny',  
see page 2.

### President of the United States of America

The election of the strongly anti-slavery president **Abraham Lincoln** was deeply unpopular in the South and they could see no other option than secession.

### Secession of South Carolina

Southern States had been threatening to secede if the Republicans and their anti-slavery candidate won the White House. South Carolina was the first state to secede and, by the time Lincoln was **inaugurated** as president in March 1861, seven Southern states had seceded and formed the **Confederate States of America**.

An American president does not start their role until they are formally inaugurated, which involves a ceremony to mark the beginning of their term. This usually takes place 2–4 months after the election.

### President of the Confederacy

When the Southern states began seceding, pro-slavery Southerner Jefferson Davis was chosen to be President of the Confederacy in February 1861. In November 1861, Davis was elected to a six-year term under a new Confederate constitution.

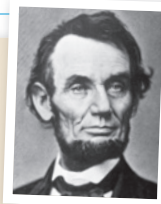
### The Battle of Fort Sumter

In April 1861, the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Confederate forces rowed to the fort (in boats rowed by slaves) and demanded that the Union forces leave. When they refused the Confederates opened fire.

### Abraham Lincoln

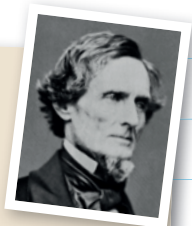
Abraham Lincoln was born on 12 February 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. Before his career in politics, he was a lawyer.

During the 1860 election campaign, he presented himself as a man of the people and an opponent of wealthy slave owners. He promised to give more land to settlers in the West and stop the expansion of slavery. He became known as 'Honest Abe' and took over the presidency in 1861, shortly before the start of the Civil War. After a difficult second election he was re-elected in 1864 but he was then assassinated in April 1865.



### Jefferson Davis

Jefferson Davis was the first and only President of the Confederate States of America. He was born and grew up in the South and was a firm believer that slavery was both right and important for the economy. Davis had experience as a soldier as well as a politician and did not actually want to be president, but he was very popular because he was so dedicated to the Confederate cause. He became unpopular after promoting unpopular leaders and a series of Confederate losses. He was captured by Union troops in May 1865, a few weeks after the Confederates surrendered.



## Now try this

You will need to refer to pages 16–18 for your answer.

Draw a three-column table with these headings linked to the American Civil War: Long-term causes; Medium-term causes; Short-term causes. Under each heading, list **three** examples. These could be issues or events. Try to give dates for any events you list.



# Impacts of the war

The Civil War changed the lives of thousands of ordinary people. The social and economic impacts of the American Civil War on civilian populations were huge.

## What were the social and economic impacts of the American Civil War on civilians?

### Industry and agriculture

- Large armies trampled across farms in the South and the border states between the North and South, confiscating animals and farm buildings for the war effort.
- The industrial North had a big advantage over the South because it already had factories and railroads, whereas the South had been an agricultural economy. As a result, the North was able to produce supplies for soldiers and civilians more easily than the South could.
- The agriculture in the North used more machines than the South, where the land was mainly worked by slaves. As a result, the war and the end of slavery had less of an impact on agriculture in the North than in the South.
- The South struggled as they had no real currency and inflation was very high. As the war went on the money printed in the South became worth less and less.

### The spreading of news

- The invention of the telegraph meant that news of the war could reach the North faster than ever before. As a result, people were more aware of the horrors of war.
- Newspapers carrying news of the war, including pictures, were more widespread than before.



A photograph of dead soldiers after the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863. For the first time, newspapers were able to show the horrors of war to those who lived far away from any actual fighting.

### Changing role of women

- The Civil War pushed women in the North and South into public life in a way that had been unthinkable before.
- In both the North and the South, thousands of women worked as nurses or set up societies to try to supply troops with everything they needed.
- In the South, women – whose children were starving – sometimes organised protests against the conditions they were living in.

### Living in a war zone

- Life was hugely disrupted for families in both the North and the South, especially if **conscription** forced their husbands, brothers and sons into military service.
- The North blockaded (stopped goods entering or leaving) the South, which caused shortages as Southerners could not produce everything they needed or buy in extra supplies from the North.
- Many people in the South, especially women and children, left homes in communities which had become occupied and were now battlegrounds. This created a large refugee population.
- **Guerrilla warfare** raged in many Southern states. This was frightening and disruptive for people living in the occupied areas.
- Southern towns were often placed under martial law (control by the army) with restrictions to people's rights and daily lives.

**Guerrilla warfare** is where small, unofficial groups use surprise tactics, such as ambushes and sabotage, against larger forces.

## Now try this

How were Americans affected by the ways they got information about the Civil War? Write a short paragraph to explain your thoughts, using the photograph as well as the information above to help you.

# Mountain Meadows Massacre, 1857

Between 1848 and 1896 the Mormons and the American government had to work out the relationship between Utah and the rest of the Union. They needed to come to terms, in other words, reach an agreement.

For more on the Mormons, see pages 3–4.

## Coming to terms with the Mormons

### 1848: Handover of Salt Lake to the USA

The Mexican–American War broke out in 1846 over who owned Texas. It ended in an American victory in 1848, and Mexico handed over a huge amount of territory to the USA – including the Salt Lake Valley. The Mormons, who had settled in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, were now back in the USA and old tensions returned. Under the direction of Brigham Young, the Mormons asked the American government to recognise their lands as an independent state called 'Deseret'.

### 1850: Utah established as a territory

The USA refused to allow an independent Deseret, but instead established the territory of Utah, appointing Brigham Young as governor. Utah was not a state, so it did not have the right to make its own laws on matters such as marriage or property. Mormon settlements spread quickly and the government in the East began to worry about the spread of Mormonism.

### 1857: Mountain Meadows Massacre

In 1857, the government sent troops to Utah to force Young to follow American laws. The result was the Mountain Meadows Massacre. The Massacre almost led to America and the Mormons declaring war as relations between them were already poor.

### 1857–1858: The Utah War

Apart from Mountain Meadows, there was an armed standoff between the American government and the Mormons. Eventually an agreement was negotiated about how Utah would relate to the rest of the Union. The Mormon rebels were pardoned in exchange for accepting the authority of the American government.

### 1890: The Mormon Manifesto

Wilford Woodruff, President of the Mormon Church, issued his *Manifesto*. This formally ended the practice of polygamy in an attempt to compromise with the American government.

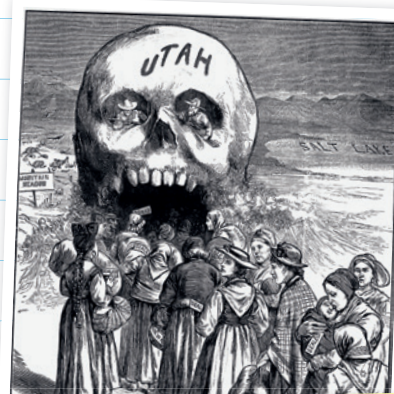
In 1896, Utah was admitted to the Union as a state.

## The Mountain Meadows Massacre, 1857

Believing the American military were on their way to Utah to attack them, the Mormons began to prepare for war. A group of Danites (Mormon militia) led by John D Lee persuaded a group of Paiute Indians to join in an attack on the Baker–Fancher wagon train carrying migrants on their way to California.

After a five-day siege, the attackers lured 120 people, including men, women and children, away from the camp by pretending they would see them safely out of Utah. They then murdered them. The possessions of the dead were auctioned off and the youngest children, who had been left alive, were taken in by local families.

In their hurry to bury the bodies the Danites left some exposed and were found out. John D Lee was the only person ever tried and executed for the crime.



Cartoon from an American newspaper of 1882, entitled 'Mormonism in Utah – the cave of despair', warning European migrants of the dangers awaiting them in Utah. The sign on the left of the picture reads 'Mountain Meadows' and the label at the back reads 'Salt Lake'.

## Now try this

Write a short paragraph to explain what the cartoon above tells you about the worsening relations between Mormons and other Americans at this time.