

Settling the West

1865-1900

Chapter 13

Dreams of Home



Jacob Waldorf arrived in Virginia City, Nevada, in 1873 to seek his fortune in the fabled silver mines of the Comstock Lode. Like many others, he found work at one of the big mining companies. Seven days a week he toiled in a dangerous mine shaft, earning enough to support his family and buy a little stock in local mining companies. As his son John recalled:

“The favorite game with our father was stocks. . . . Mother used to say to me, ‘Some day we’re going back east,’ but for years none of the stocks in which Dad invested showed any disposition to furnish us with the price of transportation.”

In 1877 the stock Waldorf owned skyrocketed in value. “Dad’s holdings rose . . . to \$10,000 and mother began to talk of buying a farm,” John wrote. “The stock kept going upward. Dad was worth \$15,000 for at least a minute.” He waited for the stock to go even higher before selling, but instead it plummeted: “The bottom fell out of Ophi [a mining stock], and Mother’s dream farm fell with it, for Dad was broke.”

Jacob Waldorf overcame this financial setback. Earning the respect of his fellow workers, he headed the miners’ union in 1880 and later served as a state legislator.

—adapted from *A Kid on the Comstock*



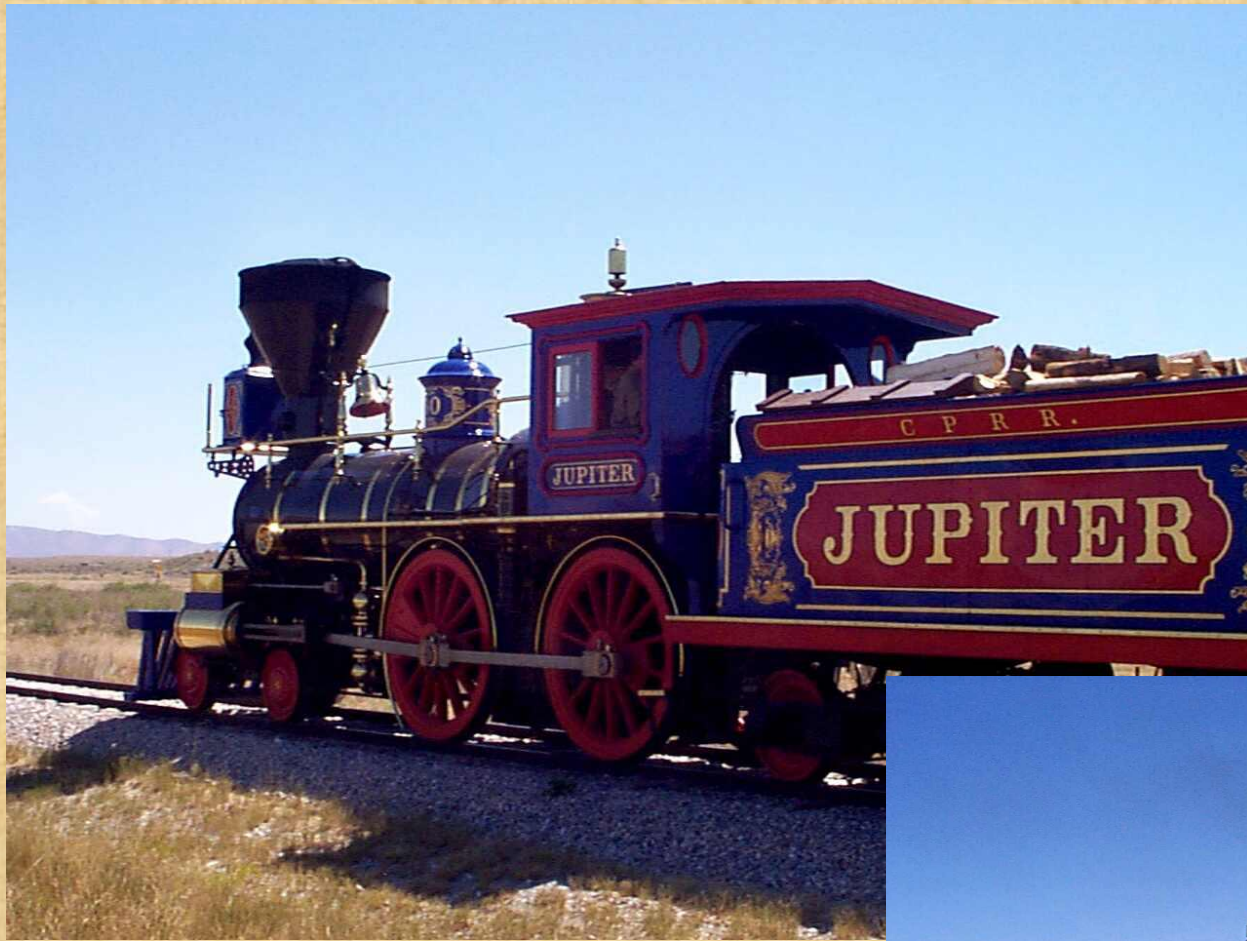
USUSC P0019 Sun Pictures of Rocky Mountain Scenery
13. Church Buttes - Near Fort Bridger, Wyoming.

Railroads Bring People West





- Transcontinental Railroad brings people west

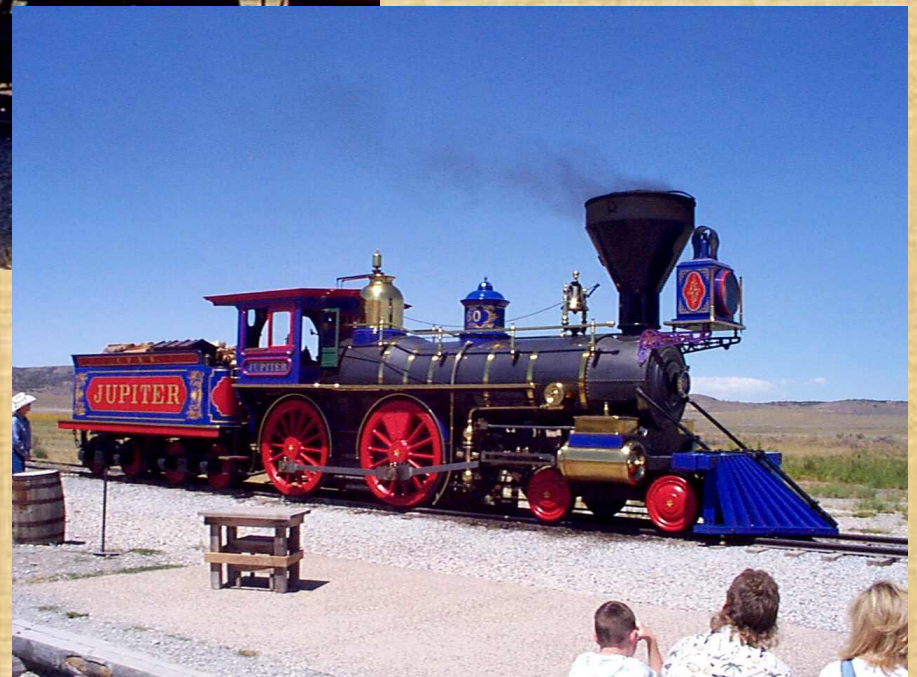


Transcontinental RR

Central Pacific

Union Pacific

Promontory Point, Utah



Transcontinental RR review

1. _____ brought the first wave of settlers that populated the mountain states of the West after the Civil War.
2. The first transcontinental railroad was built by two companies, the _____ and the _____.

- Mining
- Prospectors
 - Small time placer mining
 - Big time quartz mining
 - Gold
 - Silver
 - Comstock Lode
 - Virginia City
 - Six Mile Canyon
 - Leadville
 - Denver
 - Supplies town for miners



- Ranching
- Cowboy
 - Mavericks
 - Texas Longhorns
- Open Range
 - Eastern cattle would die
 - Longhorns thrive
- Texas
- Cattle Drives
 - Chisholm Trail
 - North from Texas to Abilene Kansas and the Railroad





- Cattle Trails
- Texas northward
- Oklahoma
- Kansas/Missouri
 - Abilene
 - Sedalia
- Railhead
- East to Chicago

Cowboy Life



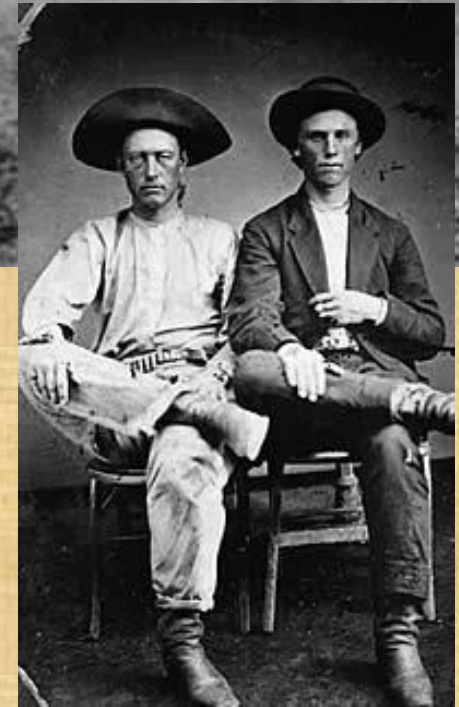
Cowboys



1st trail to Sedalia, Mo.

Big Chisholm Trail to
Abilene, Kan.

Vigilantes keep the law in the
wild west at first until
professional law men



Western Cowboy Dude



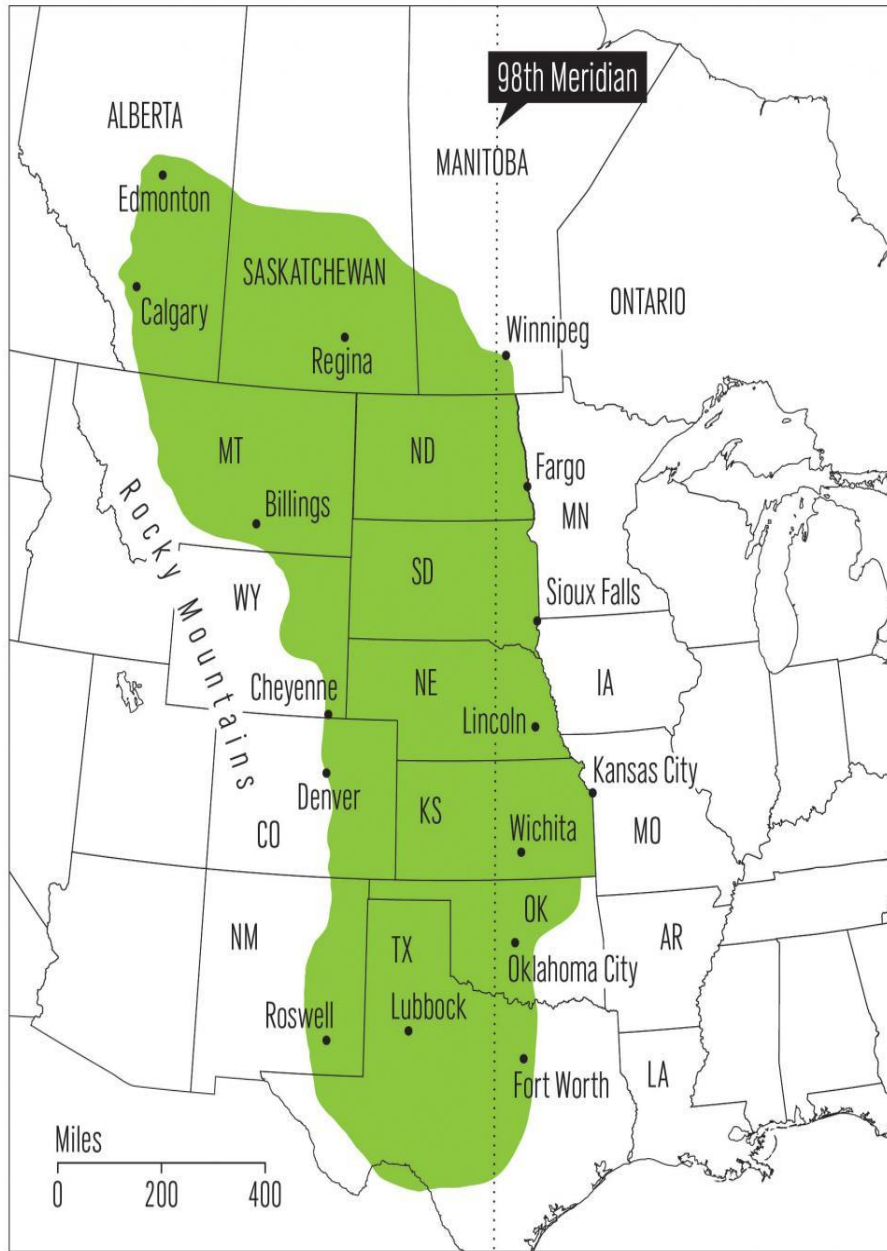
**The Great American
Desert!**

Western Settlement review

1. The wild _____ from many different un-named owners made up the herds in great cattle drives.
2. Only a few _____ became rich by mining.
3. The _____ Lode was a rich deposit of _____ ore in Six-Mile Canyon in Nevada.
4. _____ became the supply depot for miners in the Rockies.

- Big Business
- Mining
 - Silver
 - Minerals
- Ranching
 - Barbed wire
 - Kept cattle in/out
 - Demise of cowboys
 - Ends long drive
 - Longhorns decline
 - Range wars
- Boom towns





The environment on the Great Plains was vastly different to farmers from the East. On the Great Plains, building materials were scarce. There were no dense forests and few stones. Eastern farmers had used these natural resources to build fences. Even if wood or stone were available, it would have been too costly to enclose a 160-acre parcel of land. The Great Plains— a treeless, grassy region—includes land in ten different states.

Looking for a solution, the homesteaders tried “furrow fences” by digging trenches around their fields. They also tried raised strips of plowed land as barriers. Neither worked. In the late 1860s and early 1870s, some farmers made fences out of thick, thorny bushes that grew on the plains. These thorny fences worked a little better but still were not effective in protecting their farms. In addition, growing the plants in the large numbers needed for fences took a very long time.

Would the pioneers’ dream of turning the vast lands into prosperous farms ever come true? It would—but only with the invention of a new kind of fencing material.

Chisholm Trail



- Tex.
- Okla.
- Kan.

Great American Desert







- Many faces of the Great American Desert



Western Cowboys review

1. _____ helped bring an end to the cowboy's way of life and began the time that cowboys were more of ranch hands rather than free rangers.
2. The _____ trail was the most famous of all the cattle trails between the state of _____ and the railheads in _____.

On September 15, 1884, the O’Kieffe family left their home in Nebraska and headed west across the state in a covered wagon to start a challenging new life on the open plains. The O’Kieffes faced a new environment that lacked many things that people in the East took for granted, including easy access to water and wood for building a house. Without trees to use as timber, they built their house from chunks of sod, densely packed soil held together by grass roots. To obtain water, the family had to drill a well 134 feet deep and operate the pump by hand. They let nothing go to waste. In summer, they ate the weeds from their garden as well as the vegetables, obeying the rule, “If you can’t beat ‘em, eat ‘em.”

There were other settlers in the area, and they would gather to socialize and help each other. When disaster struck, however, each family had to be prepared to face the trouble alone. In January 1888, a three-day blizzard struck without warning. As Charley, the youngest son, reflected: “By the end of the three-day blizzard we were in fine shape to take care of our stock. Many others did not fare so well; but that’s life. After all, we said to each other, this was a new country and folks had to learn how to look after themselves.”

—adapted from *Western Story: Recollections of Charley O’Kieffe*

- Farming the Plains
- Myth, “Great American Desert”
 - Reality, Prairies, plains, grasslands
- Wheat is king
 - Takes less water
- Water is gold



- Homesteading
- Homestead Act 1862
 - Free land from gov. if you live on it 5 years straight
- Sodbusters
 - Prairie fires
- Overproduction
 - Wheat
 - Supply vs. Demand
- Frontier closes





There came through Emporia yesterday two old-fashioned mover wagons headed east...These mover had seen it stop raining for months at a time. They had heard the fury of the winter wind as it came whining across the short burned grass. They have tossed through hot nights, wild with worry and have arisen only to find their worst nightmares grazing in reality on the brown stubble in front of their sun-warped doors.

---William Allen White, Emporia Gazette

Homesteader's house

- Prairie Soddy



I expect you think we live miserable because we are in a sod house but I tell you in solid earnest I never enjoyed my self better It is because we are . . . on our own and the thoughts of moving next spring does not bother me and every lick we strike is for our selves and not half for some one else.

–Mattie Oblinger, June 16, 1873

Western Settler's review

1. _____ fires, insects, and fear of Indian attacks were constant dangers to homesteaders.
2. The _____ act of 1862 encouraged western settlement and required that settlers only live on the land for _____ years before gaining title.
3. _____ was the preferred crop of the great plains because it required less water than traditional crops in the east like corn.

In October 1867, a Comanche chief named Ten Bears arrived with other Native American leaders and their followers at Medicine Lodge Creek in present-day Kansas to meet with federal treaty-makers and army officers. The federal officials wanted them to sign a treaty agreeing to move to confined areas called reservations and to submit to American authority. In return, the government offered them food, housing, instruction in farming, and other assistance. After listening to the treaty-makers, Ten Bears spoke against moving to a reservation:

“That which you say we must now live on is too small. The Texans have taken away the places where the grass grew the thickest. . . . The white man has the country which we loved, and we only wish to wander on the prairie until we die.”

In the end, Ten Bears and the other chiefs had little choice but to sign the treaty. The army's main representative at the council, General William Tecumseh Sherman, told them bluntly that they would have to accept the deal: “You can no more stop this than you can stop the sun or moon; you must submit and do the best you can.”

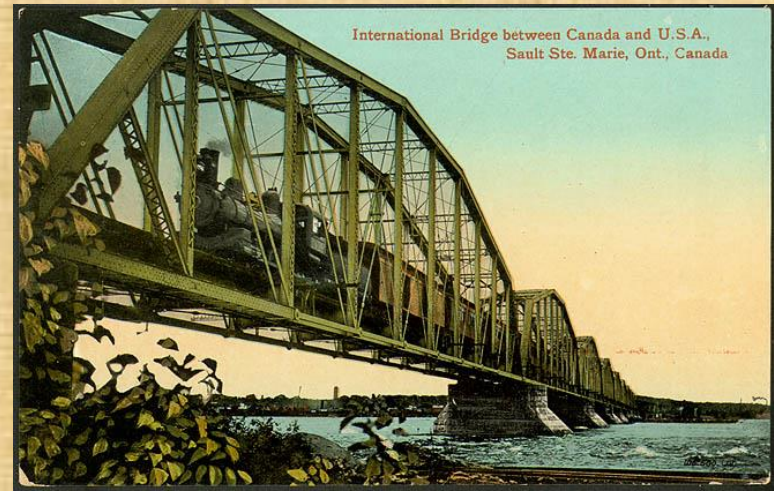
—adapted from *Tribes of the Southern Plains*

- Western Native Americans
- Nomadic
- Follows Buffalo herds
- Spiritual beliefs base on nature



Disruptions

- Immigrants, little problem
- Railroads, big problem
- Settlers, biggest problem



- Food Supply Dwindles
- Buffalo killed off
- Uprisings
- Reservations

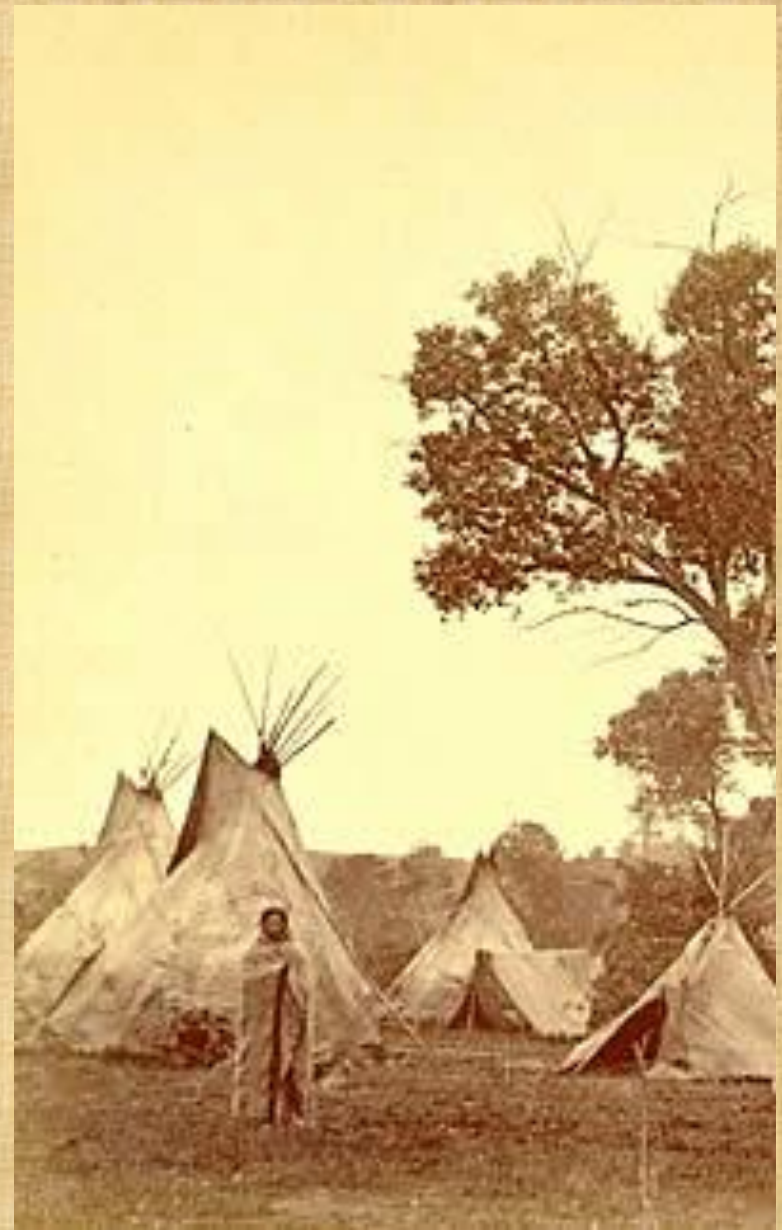


Native American Indian review

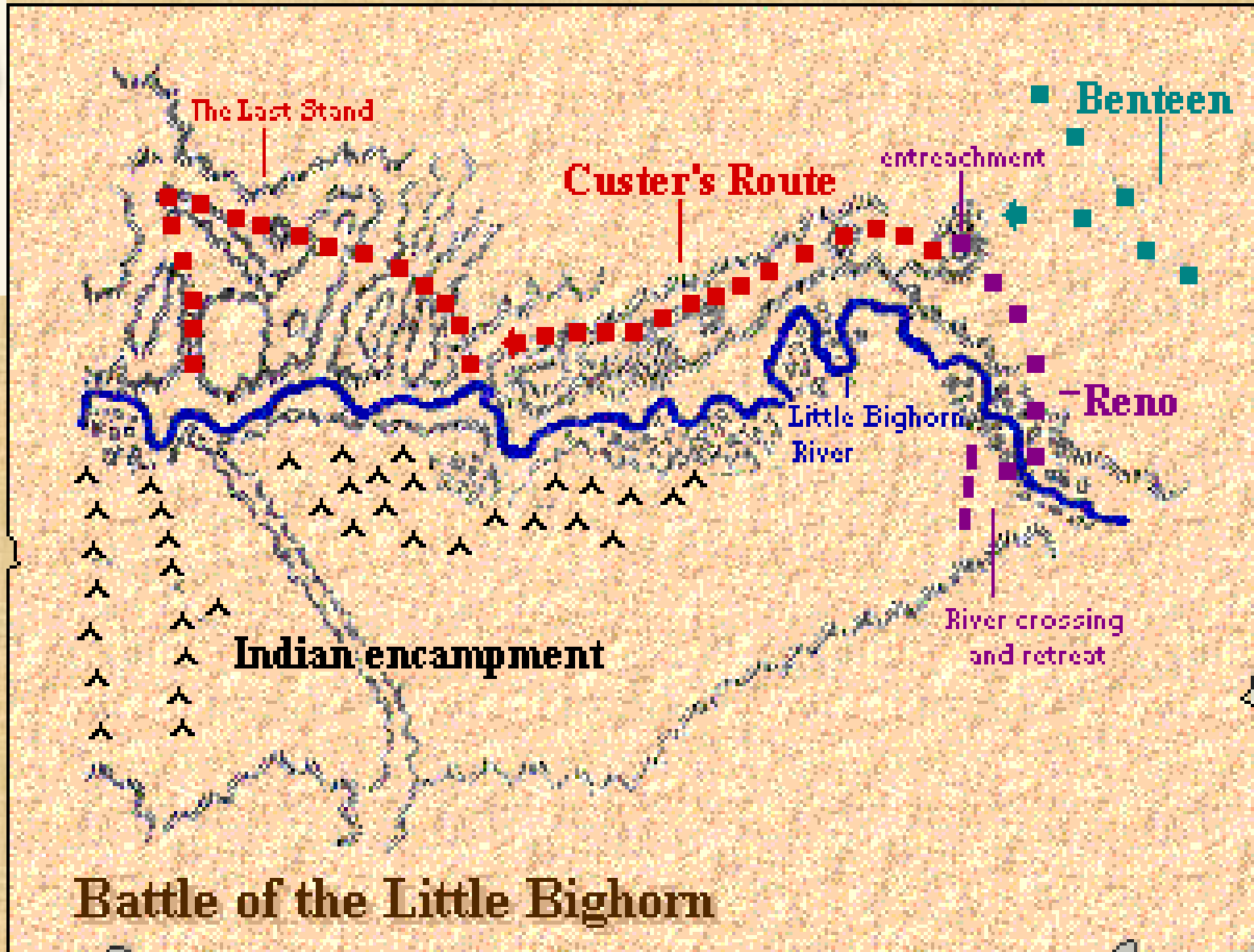
1. Most _____ practiced a religion based on a belief in the spiritual power of the natural world.
2. Most Native American nations on the Great Plains had lived as _____.
3. The _____ was the primary food supply for most Great Plains Indians.

Indian Wars

- **Sioux , Minn. 1862**
 - Little Crow.
- **Sand Creek, Col. 1864**
 - Black Kettle
 - Chivington
 - Negotiations fail, Indians massacred
- **Fetterman Massacre, Wyo. 1866**
 - Red Cloud/Crazy Horse
 - Capt. William Fetterman killed
- **Little Big Horn, Mont. 1876**
 - George Custer attacks
 - Crazy Horse
 - Sitting Bull
 - Custer Dies (Last Stand)



Custer's Last Stand 1876



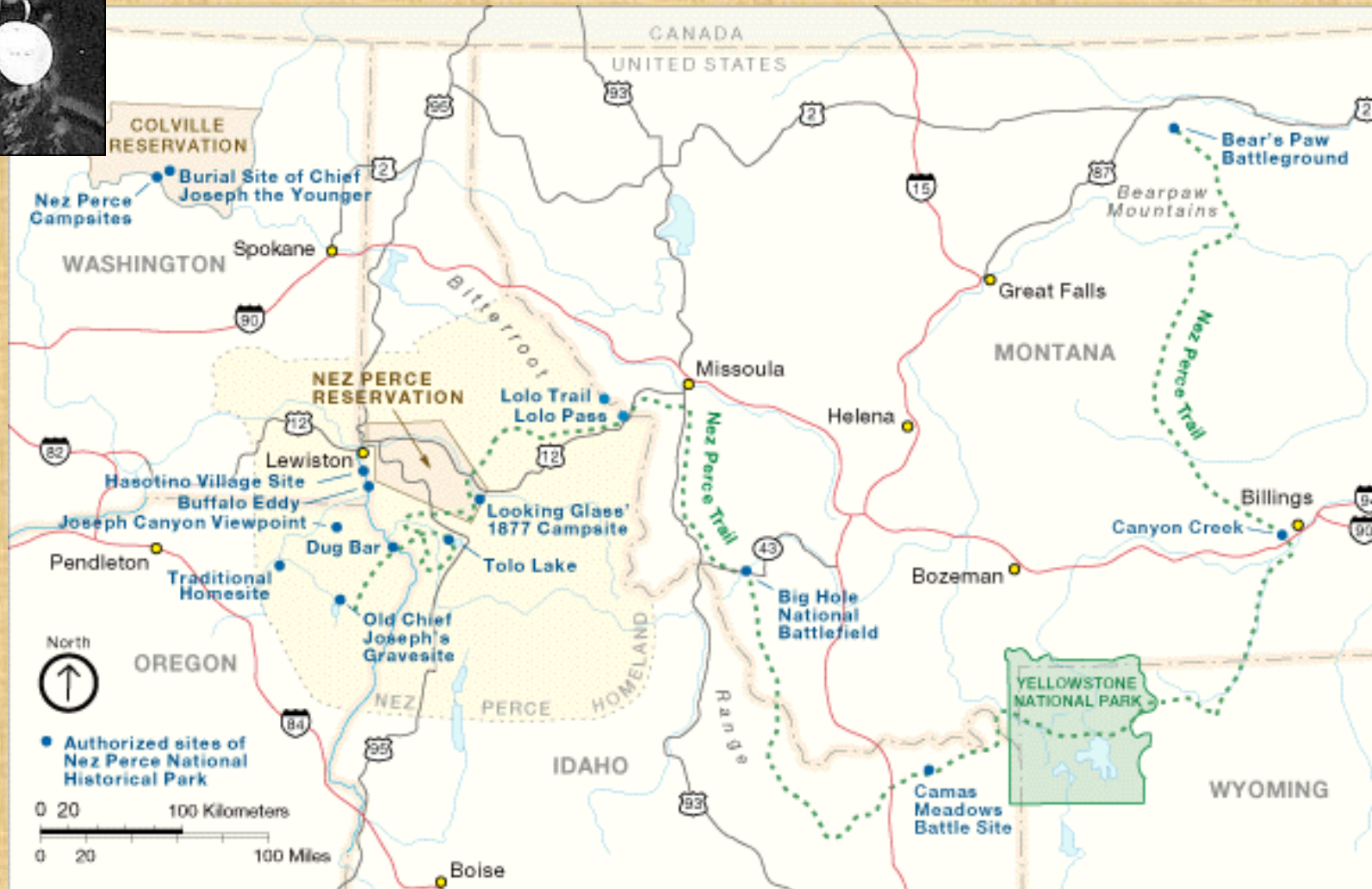
George Custer
vs.
Sitting Bull & Crazy Horse





Flight of the Nez Perce

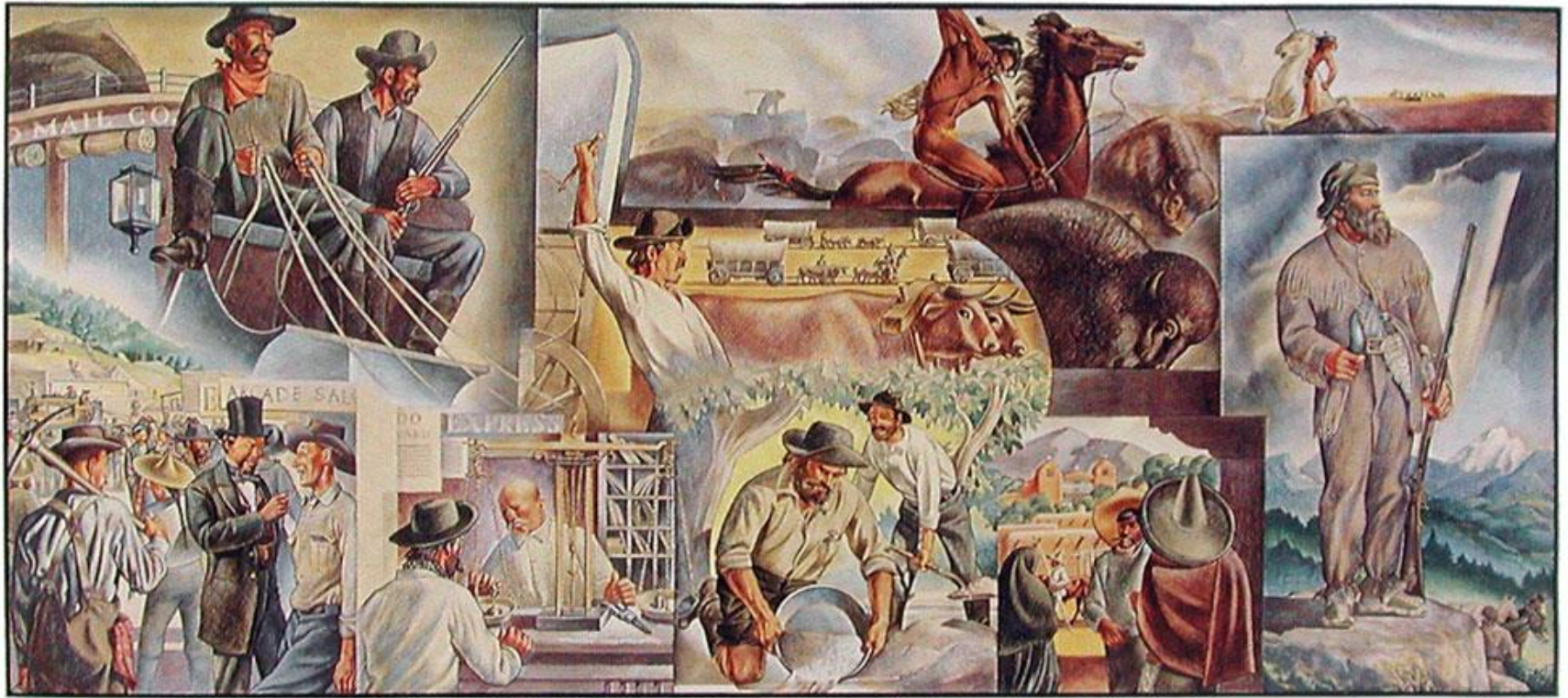
- Chief Joseph



Indian Solutions

- Nez Perce 1877
 - Chief Joseph,
 - *"I will Fight No More Forever"*
- Wounded Knee 1890
 - Sitting Bull, killed
 - Ghost Dance
- Dawes Act
 - Reservations
 - Selling land to individual Indians to settle them like white men.
- Helen Jackson
 - Pro-Indian





Up to and including 1880, the country had a frontier of settlement but at present the unsettled area has been so broken into by isolated bodies of settlement that there can hardly be said to be a frontier line.

–Superintendent of the Census, 1890

Wounded Knee

- End of the Indian way of life





Using timelines:

1. How long did the western Indian wars last?
2. What was the result of the Ghost Dance Movement?
3. How could the Battle of the Little Big Horn been avoided?

Indian Wars review

1. Lakota Sioux chief killed at Wounded Knee was _____.
2. Lakota Sioux religious leader and war chief who lured an army detachment into an ambush in Wyoming was _____.
3. _____ was the US Cavalry commander who battled the Lakota Sioux at Little Bighorn.
4. _____ was the chief who led the Dakota Sioux uprising in Minnesota.
5. _____ was the leader of the Cheyenne who were massacred at Sand Creek.
6. _____ was the militia commander who attacked the Cheyenne at the Sand Creek Massacre.
7. _____ declared that he ***Would fight no more forever*** after his Nez Perce tribe was defeated by the US Cavalry.
8. _____ stated that the Native American Indian had been unfairly treated.