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AQA - GCSE (Grade 9-1)

STUDY GUIDE

America, 1840–1895: Expansion and Consolidation

GCSEHistory.com



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America, 1840–1895: Expansion and Consolidation

AQA - GCSE





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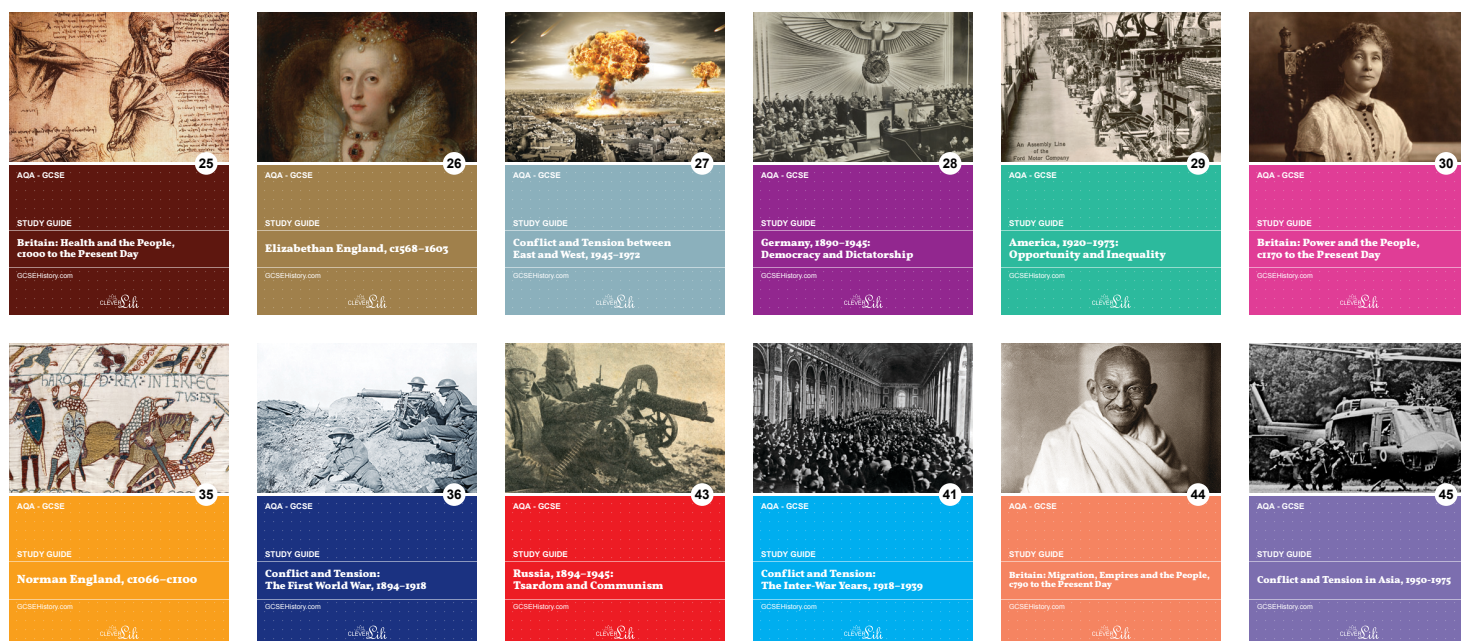
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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

In this study guide, you will see a series of icons, highlighted words and page references. The key below will help you quickly establish what these mean and where to go for more information.

Icons

-  **WHAT** questions cover the key events and themes.
-  **WHO** questions cover the key people involved.
-  **WHEN** questions cover the timings of key events.
-  **WHERE** questions cover the locations of key moments.
-  **WHY** questions cover the reasons behind key events.
-  **HOW** questions take a closer look at the way in which events, situations and trends occur.
-  **IMPORTANCE** questions take a closer look at the significance of events, situations, and recurrent trends and themes.
-  **DECISIONS** questions take a closer look at choices made at events and situations during this era.

Highlighted words

Abdicate - occasionally, you will see certain words highlighted within an answer. This means that, if you need it, you'll find an explanation of the word or phrase in the glossary which starts on **page 18**.

Page references

Tudor (p. 7) - occasionally, a certain subject within an answer is covered in more depth on a different page. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can go directly to the page indicated.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?




America, 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation, is a period study that investigates two aspects of the history of the United States in the second half of the nineteenth century. 'Expansion' explores the move westwards by settlers and pioneers, and the ensuing conflicts with Native American peoples. 'Consolidation' refers to the forging of the United States as a nation, through its political and economic growth. You will study a range of significant events, people and situations, which shaped the United States throughout this period.

Purpose

This study enables you to understand the challenges facing the United States, and how it overcame them. The challenges ranged from political conflict between the federal government and individual states, to the social and moral issues of dealing with slavery and Native American culture. Through the study of this topic you will develop key historical skills, such as cause and consequence, and change and continuity. You will also be encouraged to develop your critical thinking skills, through the analysis of interpretations.

Enquiries

America, 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation features 3 key enquiry topics:

-  Enquiry 1 looks at the American West, exploring the lifestyles of the Native Americans who lived on the Great Plains. It also examines the opportunities it offered for settlement, and studies the people who tried to carve their lives out of the Great American Desert.
-  Enquiry 2 focuses on the growing conflicts in the United States at this time: the wars between the US Government and the Native Americans of the Great Plains, and the internal struggle between northern and southern states in the American Civil War.
-  Finally. Enquiry 3 explores how conflict was overcome. It looks at reconciliation and reconstruction in the aftermath of the Civil War. It then examines the fate of Native Americans, the permanent settlement of the American West, and the end of the Indian Frontier.






Key Individuals

Some of the key individuals studied on this course include:

-  Brigham Young.
-  Little Crow.
-  Red Cloud.
-  Abraham Lincoln.
-  Crazy Horse.
-  Sitting Bull.
-  George Armstrong Custer.



Key Events

Some of the key events you will study on this course include:





-  The California Gold Rush.
-  The Indian Wars.
-  The American Civil War.
-  The abolition of slavery.
-  The Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Assessment

America, 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation is the period study component of your AQA qualification. It is examined in Paper 1. You should spend 1 hour on this section of the paper. There will be 6 exam questions: in questions 1-3 you will be required to assess and evaluate two historical interpretations about the period using detailed contextual knowledge. Questions 4-6 are purely knowledge based.

-  Question 1 is worth 4 marks. This question requires you to describe and explain how two interpretations are different.
-  Question 2 is worth 4 marks. This question requires you to describe and explain why the two interpretations are different.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

-  Question 3 is worth 8 marks. This question requires you to explain how convincing the interpretations are. You must give a substantiated judgement, based on the interpretations and your contextual knowledge.
-  Question 4 is worth 4 marks. This is a 'describe' question, in which you must provide two detailed reasons/ examples/features about a particular topic covered in America, 1840-1895.
-  Question 5 is worth 8 marks. This question will test your understanding of second order concepts (cause, consequence, change, continuity, etc.). In this question you must demonstrate your knowledge about a topic you have covered, and give different reasons based on the second order concept you are given.
-  Question 6 is worth 12 marks. This question will ask you to pick between two events, individuals or situations, and will ask you to make a sustained judgement of both bullet points, using your contextual knowledge and understanding of second order concepts.

Sample

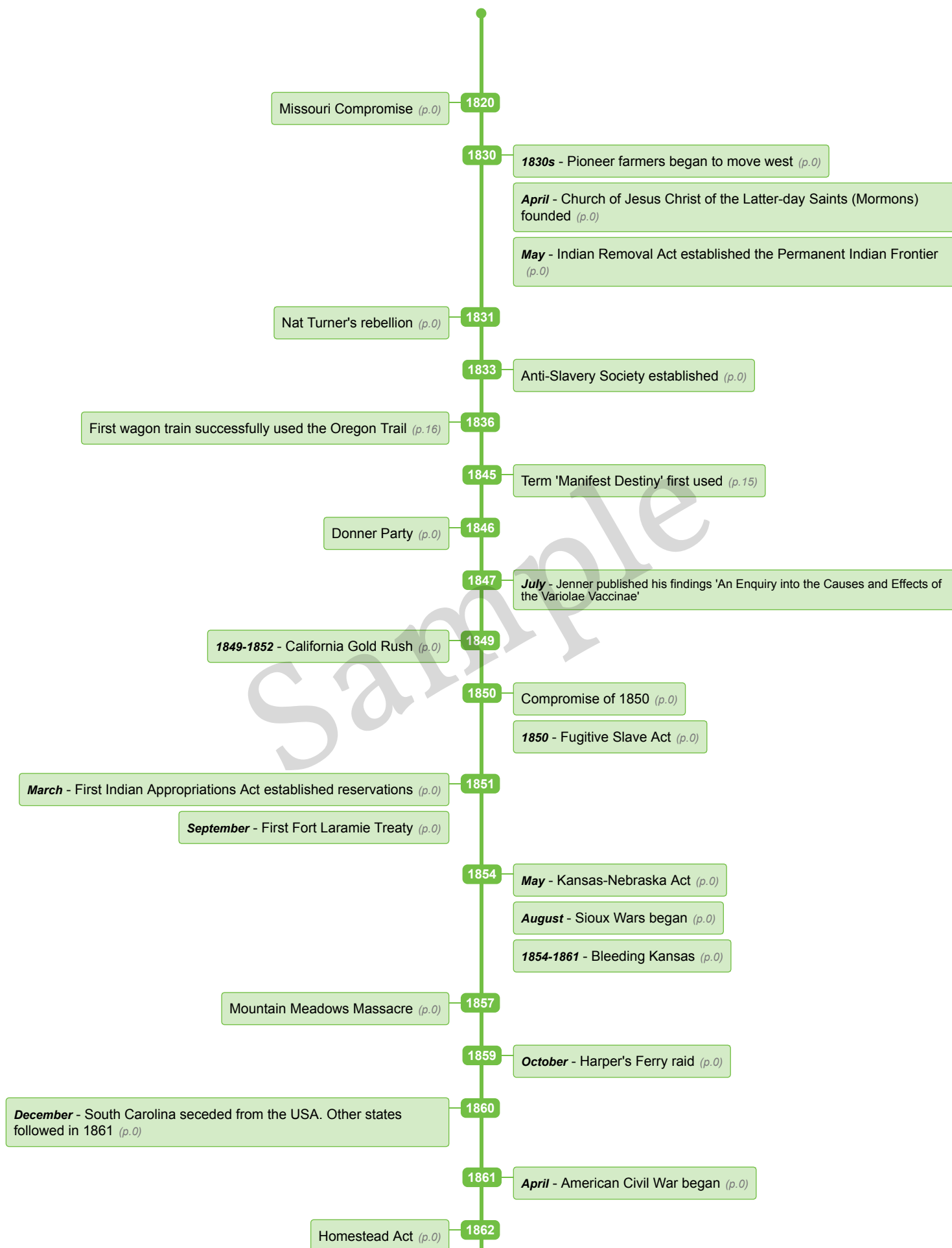


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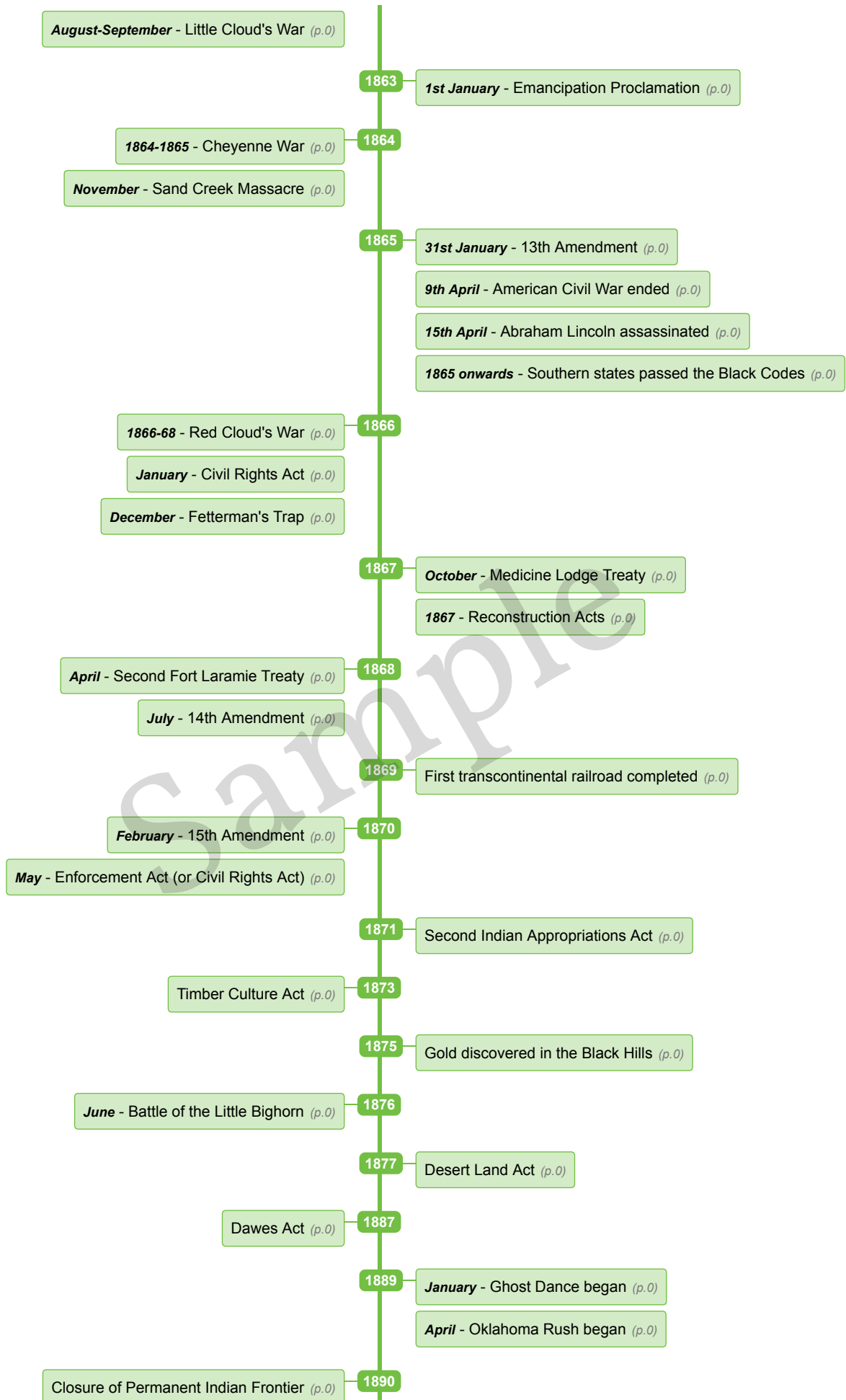
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AMERICA, 1840-1895: EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION

TIMELINE



AMERICA, 1840-1895: EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION



December - Battle of Wounded Knee. Sioux Wars ended (p.0)

Sample



THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT

The term used by people who lived east of the Mississippi River, when it was 'unknown' land.



What was the Great American Desert?

The Great American Desert was the area of land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. This was the name given to the area by the early settlers in America - later it became known as the 'Great Plains'.



What did white settlers think of the Great American Desert?

Due to the poor conditions, the area now known as the Great Plains was dismissed by most Americans as inhospitable. They called it the Great American Desert.



Why was the Great American Desert inhospitable?

There were 3 reasons why the Great American Desert was thought to be difficult to live in.

- ✓ The weather was **extreme**. It was cold and windy in the winter, and hot and dry in the summer.
- ✓ A lack of natural resources, particularly wood, made it difficult to build a home or farm the land.
- ✓ Dangerous or disruptive animals, like wolves and locusts, could cause problems for settlers.
- ✓ There were huge thunderstorms. Lightning could ignite fires that raged through the dry grass.



How did native people survive in the American Desert?

Although white Americans struggled to survive on the Great Plains, Native Americans thrived. They had developed ways in which to survive its conditions, mainly focused on a nomadic way of life.

- ✓ The Native Americans followed the vast herds of buffalo (*p.O*), which provided them with food and other resources. No part of a buffalo was wasted.
- ✓ They used tipis as homes, as these were easy to carry, and to erect and dismantle.
- ✓ They treated the land and animals with respect. This reverence helped them survive, as they co-existed with nature, and this honoured the Great Spirit.



How could native people survive the winter in the American Desert?

When the winter was particularly harsh the tribes sometimes moved into wooden lodges. These were circular buildings built from earth and logs, with a fire in the centre. They could fit around 60 people inside a lodge.



Why did attitudes towards the American Desert begin to change in the 1840s?

The USA won a war against Mexico in 1848. It took over land in California and Oregon. Texas also joined the Union in 1845. These two events meant that white settlers had to cross the American Desert to get to the new **territories**.

DID YOU KNOW?

At the time it was known as 'The Great American Desert', the area was only inhabited by Native American Indians. White settlers deemed it to be uninhabitable.



MANIFEST DESTINY

Destined to expand!



What was Manifest Destiny?

Manifest Destiny was the belief that white people had a God-given right to expand westwards, and to settle the entire continent of North America. It was also viewed by many as a mission to civilise the 'savage' Native American tribes.



Who thought of the concept of Manifest Destiny?

The journalist John L. O'Sullivan coined the phrase in 1845, to encourage people to travel west.



Why was Manifest Destiny important?

Manifest Destiny was important for 6 reasons.

- ✓ It increased the size of the United States, as more people moved westward.
- ✓ Americans gained access to new resources, such as gold, which made the **economy** grow.
- ✓ It caused major unrest in the Native American tribes.
- ✓ It opened up new land for settling, which led to laws such as the Homestead Act (p.0) of 1862.
- ✓ The idea that God wanted whites to settle the land made it easier for them to justify taking it from Native Americans.
- ✓ It was a major 'pull' factor in the expansion west.



How did the painting 'American Progress' show Manifest Destiny?

The painting 'American Progress' from 1872 shows the American ideals of **Manifest Destiny**. The painting shows the many types of migrants, including farmers and miners, and it shows a female representation of 'progress' as the Americans move across to the West. It shows the introduction of telegraph poles and the railroad. The Native Americans, the buffalo (p.0) herds, and wild animals are all being driven away by the white Americans.

DID YOU KNOW?

It was believed by many that God blessed the expansion of the American nation, and that He even demanded it.



THE OREGON TRAIL

A trail that was established to encourage settlers to move west.



What was the Oregon Trail?

The Oregon Trail was the route used by thousands of people to cross from the east, over the Great Plains, to the west. It was 3,200km long.



Where was the Oregon Trail?

The trail started in Independence, Missouri, and finished in Oregon City.



How did people travel on the Oregon Trail?

Pioneers travelled along the Oregon Trail by foot, horseback, or with wagons. They had to bring enough food for the entire journey, as well as the things they needed for their new life. Wagons were often pulled by oxen as they were strong, but they were very slow.



Why did people travel the Oregon Trail?

People wanted to move west, as they had heard of rich farming lands which they could obtain for free (*p.o*). The **economic** conditions in the east were not good, so people saw it as a new opportunity.



At what time of year did people travel the Oregon Trail?

People were advised not to travel the Oregon Trail in winter, as it froze, and not to travel until April at the earliest. This would allow the grass to grow, so that their animals could graze along the route.



Why did settlers not use an alternative to the Oregon Trail?

People could travel by sea to Oregon, but it was extremely expensive. Each journey cost \$300, and the journey could take a year. Taking the overland trail cost them the price of a wagon and supplies.



Who established the Oregon Trail?

Jedediah Smith established the Oregon Trail in 1825, when he discovered the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains.



Who were the first migrants with a wagon to use the Oregon Trail?

In 1836, two couples were the first to travel the Oregon Trail with a covered wagon for purposes other than trade. Narcissa and Marcus Whitman, and Henry and Eliza Spalding, were Christian missionaries.



What other examples of people travelling the Oregon Trail are there?

Once it was open, many groups used the Oregon Trail. It was safer to travel in groups with a range of skills. They formed 'wagon trains'.

- ✓ In 1840, the Walker family travelled the trail, with their 5 children.
- ✓ A group of 60 completed the trail in 1841, and another 100 in 1842.
- ✓ The 'Great Emigration' of 1843 saw Marcus Whitman leading 900 people along the trail.
- ✓ By 1846, an estimated 5,000 people had used the Oregon Trail to migrate west.



How did the government help people use the Oregon Trail?

The American government wanted people to use the Oregon Trail and move west, so they spent money on mapping and publishing reports on the trail. In 1841 the government spent \$30,000 on promoting the trail.



What problems were there using the Oregon Trail?

There were many difficulties in travelling the Oregon Trail, and it is believed that around 20,000 people died on the trail, including the famous Donner Party (*p.o*). The main problems were:

- ✓ Getting stuck.
- ✓ Drowning while crossing rivers.
- ✓ Accidents with wagons.
- ✓ Illness and disease, such as cholera.
- ✓ Running out of supplies.
- ✓ Fear of attack from Native Americans, although there are no recorded accounts of any.
- ✓ The length of the journey. The average journey on the Oregon Trail took four months.



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THIS IS A SAMPLE.
REMAINING PAGES REMOVED.
PLEASE PURCHASE THE BOOK FOR FULL CONTENT.

Sample

GLOSSARY

A

Abolish, Abolished - to stop something, or get rid of it.

Abolition - the act of abolishing something, i.e. to stop or get rid of it.

Agriculture - an umbrella term to do with farming, growing crops or raising animals.

Alliance - a union between groups or countries that benefits each member.

Assassination - the act of murdering someone, usually an important person.

B

Blasphemy - the act of speaking insultingly about or with lack of reverence for God or sacred objects.

C

Campaign - a political movement to get something changed; in military terms, it refers to a series of operations to achieve a goal.

Carpetbagger - the name given to someone from the northern states of the USA who moved south after the American Civil War to help with reconstruction efforts. The term comes from the bags they often carried which were made from carpet.

Casualties - people who have been injured or killed, such as during a war, accident or catastrophe.

Cavalry - the name given to soldiers who fight on horseback.

Civil rights - the rights a citizen has to political or social freedoms, such as the right to vote or freedom of speech.

Conscription - mandatory enlistment of people into a state service, usually the military.

Corrupt - when someone is willing to act dishonestly for their own personal gain.

Council - an advisory or administrative body set up to manage the affairs of a place or organisation. The Council of the League of Nations contained the organisation's most powerful members.

Coup - a sudden, violent and illegal overthrow of the government by a small group - for example, the chiefs of an army.

Culture - the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

Currency - an umbrella term for any form of legal tender, but most commonly referring to money.

D

Danites - a Mormon militia group.

Debt - when something, usually money, is owed by a person, organisation or institution to another.

Disarm - to remove any land, sea and air weaponry.

Discriminate, Discrimination - to treat a person or group of

people differently and in an unfair way.

E

Economic - relating to the economy; also used when justifying something in terms of profitability.

Economy - a country, state or region's position in terms of production and consumption of goods and services, and the supply of money.

Emancipation - liberation through gaining economic, political and social rights.

Export - to transport goods for sale to another country.

Extreme - furthest from the centre or any given point. If someone holds extreme views, they are not moderate and are considered radical.

F

Fasting - to deliberately refrain from eating, and often drinking, for a period of time.

Fatalities, Fatality - Deaths.

Federal - in US politics this means 'national', referring to the whole country rather than any individual state.

Frontier - a line or border between two areas.

G

Guerrilla tactics, Guerrilla warfare - a way of fighting that typically involves hit-and-run style tactics.

I

Immigrant - someone who moves to another country.

Independence, Independent - to be free of control, often meaning by another country, allowing the people of a nation the ability to govern themselves.

Industrialisation, Industrialise, Industrialised - the process of developing industry in a country or region where previously there was little or none.

Industry - the part of the economy concerned with turning raw materials into manufactured goods, for example making furniture from wood.

Inflation - the general increase in the prices of goods which means money does not buy as much as it used to.

Infrastructure - the basic physical and organisational facilities a society or country needs to function, such as transport networks, communications and power.

Integrate - to bring people or groups with specific characteristics or needs into equal participation with others; to merge one thing with another to form a single entity.

M

Manifest destiny - the belief white Americans had the God-given right to expand westwards across North America.

Massacre - the deliberate and brutal slaughter of many people.

Mechanisation - Where human workers are replaced by machines or robots.

Militia - an army created from the general population.

N

New World - the name given in the 16th century to describe the Americas and the Caribbean, distinguishing it from the 'Old World', which referred to Europe.

P

Paramilitary - a group of unofficial or private soldiers organised along military lines.

Persecution - hostility towards or harassment of someone, usually due to their race, religion or political beliefs.

Pioneer - the first person to explore or settle in a new area.

Polygamy - the practise of being married to more than one person at the same time.

Population - the number of people who live in a specified place.

Poverty - the state of being extremely poor.

President - the elected head of state of a republic.

Prevent, Preventative, Preventive - steps taken to stop something from happening.

Printing press - a machine that reproduces writing and images by using ink on paper, making many identical copies.

Production - a term used to describe how much of something is made, for example saying a factory has a high production rate.

Profit - generally refers to financial gain; the amount of money made after deducting buying, operating or production costs.

Prosecute - to institute or conduct legal proceedings against a person or organisation.

Prospector - someone who searches for gold.

R

Radical, Radicalism - people who want complete or extensive change, usually politically or socially.

Raid - a quick surprise attack on the enemy.

Rebellion - armed resistance against a government or leader, or resistance to other authority or control.

Reconstruction - a period in the USA from 1865-1877 where the southern states were reintegrated through a series of laws.

Refugee, Refugees - a person who has been forced to leave where they live due to war, disaster or persecution.

Reservation - an area of land given to Native Americans by the US

government to keep them away from settlers.

Riots - violent disturbances involving a crowd of people.

S

Secede, Secession - formal withdrawal from a larger entity, such as 11 states leaving the United States prior to the American Civil War.

Sharecropper - someone who farmed land belonging to a landowner in return for giving them a share of their crops.

Siege - action by enemy forces to surround a place or building, cutting off access and supplies, with the aim of either destroying it, gaining entry, or starving the inhabitants out.

Sod - the surface of the ground, often mud, on which grass is growing.

State, States - an area of land or a territory ruled by one government.

T

Tactic - a strategy or method of achieving a goal.

Terrain - a stretch of land and usually used to refer to its physical features, eg mountainous, jungle etc.

Territories, Territory - an area of land under the control of a ruler/country.

Treaty - a formal agreement, signed and ratified by two or more parties.

W

Ward, Wards - A ward is someone who is taken under the protection and power of someone else, usually because it is believed that they do not have the capacity to know what is best for them.

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