

An Industrial Nation

Section 1



MAIN IDEA

As Native Americans gradually lost their battle for their lands in the West, settlers brought in new enterprises—mining, ranching, and farming.

Key Terms and People

Sand Creek Massacre the killing of about 150 Cheyenne by the U.S. Army

Battle of the Little Bighorn battle between the Sioux and the U.S. cavalry; the last victory for the Sioux

Sitting Bull Sioux leader at the Battle of the Little Bighorn

George Armstrong Custer U.S. cavalry commander at the Battle of the Little Bighorn

Wounded Knee Massacre the killing of about 300 Sioux men, women, and children by Army troops

Chief Joseph Nez Percé leader who tried to flee to Canada with his people

Geronimo Apache leader who led many raids on the Arizona-Mexico border

Dawes Act law that broke up some reservations and divided the land among individuals

Chisholm Trail cattle trail that began in San Antonio and ended in Kansas

Homestead Act law allowing any head of household over age 21 to claim 160 acres of land

Section Summary

CONFLICTS WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

Native Americans were used to traveling from place to place, following the migrations of the buffalo. Because of this, Native Americans did not believe that land should be bought and sold. If Native Americans would not settle the land, many white settlers thought the lands were available for taking. The government began sending Native Americans to reservations. There was a period of violence known as the Indian Wars. The U.S. Army killed about 150 Cheyenne at the **Sand Creek Massacre**. At the **Battle of the Little Bighorn**, thousands of Sioux led by **Sitting Bull** had their last victory. They defeated U.S. cavalry forces led by **George Armstrong Custer**. In the **Wounded Knee Massacre**, about 300 Sioux men, women, and children were killed by Army troops. The Nez Percé, under the leadership of **Chief Joseph**, tried to flee from Idaho to Canada. They were forced onto a

Why did Native Americans believe that land should not be bought and sold?

Underline the names of the two massacres of Native Americans.

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reservation. In the Southwest, the Apache leader **Geronimo** led raids for many years. Geronimo was eventually captured in 1886. The **Dawes Act** broke up some reservations and divided the land. Often the best land was sold. Native Americans got what was left.

What was the Dawes Act?

MINING AND RANCHING

New gold and silver discoveries drew many Americans west. Cities grew out of mining camps. In time, mining grew into businesses dominated by large companies. Cattle ranching became widespread. This was due to the demand for beef from growing cities in the East. Cowboys herded cattle on trails to railroads. One famous trail led from San Antonio to Kansas. It was called the **Chisholm Trail**. Sheep ranching also grew with the demand for wool. Sheep owners and cattle owners competed for grazing land. The invention of barbed wire brought the end of open grazing.

FARMERS ON THE GREAT PLAINS

In 1862 Congress passed the **Homestead Act**. It allowed any head of family over age 21 to claim 160 acres of land. Other acts gave millions of acres of land to the railroads. The railroads sold some of their land to settlers. The area that is now Oklahoma had been set aside as Indian Territory. However, about two million acres were not assigned to any Native American nation. White settlers claimed this land during the Oklahoma Land Rush.

How many acres of land could the head of a family claim under the Homestead Act?

Farming on the Great Plains was difficult. Sometimes the only water available was from wells. Settlers learned irrigation techniques from Hispanic and Native American farmers. There was little wood available. Thus, settlers built dugouts in the sides of hills. Sometimes they built homes from blocks of soil. Finally, in 1890 the United States Census Bureau said that the frontier was closed.

Who did the settlers on the Great Plains learn irrigation techniques from?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Elaborate Trace the Chisholm Trail on a roadmap. What present-day highways follow the old trail?