

Coatbridge High School



S1 History Homework Booklet

Unit 2: The American West USA 1850-1880

The American West 1850 - 1880

Homework Questions to confirm knowledge & understanding:

Your teacher will issue homework on a regular basis throughout unit 2. Attempt the questions you have been set in as much detail as you can. Write in sentences and paragraphs. Use the source to help and add your own knowledge if you can?



1) Homework - In Source A; a Blackfoot Native American chief talks about the importance of land.

Source A

Our land is more valuable than your white man's money. It will not perish by the flames of fire. As long as the sun shines and the waters flow, this land will be here to give life to men and animals. We cannot sell the lives of men and animals, therefore we cannot sell this land.

**Q. Describe the attitudes of Native Americans ("Indians") to the land.
(3)**



2) Homework - Source B was written by someone who was worried about the effects of Westward expansion.

Source B

With the steam of emigration westwards, the buffalo will dwindle away. The wandering tribes who depend on them for support will be broken and scattered. The Indians (Native Americans) will soon be ruined by whisky and controlled by military posts.

Q. Explain some of the ways Native Americans (Indians) were affected by Westward expansion.

(3)



3) Homework – In Source C a Native American (“Indian”) discusses the white settlers’ attitude to land ownership.

Source C

Why do these “People Greedily Grasping for Land” want more acres than they need to grow food on? Why do they build houses that will outlast their occupants? Why does the white man insist that land he has brought becomes his exclusively and for all time? Sell a country? Why not sell the air, the clouds and the great sea?

Q. Explain the attitude of the Native American (“Indian”) towards land ownership.

(3)



4) Homework – Source D is from “The American West” by T. Boddington.

Source D

At first American emigrants settled in areas of the West where they could farm as they had done in the East. Then, in 1858 gold was discovered in the mountain and plateau regions of what would become Colorado and Nevada. A new gold rush began. Adventurous prospectors

set off from the eastern states and travelled west. “Pike’s Peak or Bust!” was the familiar phrase written on the canvas of miners’ wagons.

Q. Why did westward expansion increase in the years 1850-1880?

(3)



5) Homework - Source E gives evidence about the effects of railroad building on the West.

Source E

Thousands of farms were created close to the rail routes. On the Great Plains, the railroads gave a great boost to homesteading farmers. Ranching and the cattle industry also benefited from the railroads as animals could be easily transported. Some cities grew large because of the railroads.

Q. Describe the effects of the railroads on the West of America.

(3)