Key word	Definition
Ecological	Something that tries not to cause lasting harm to land or animal and plant life
Homesteaders	People who settled on the Plains
Immigration	The arrival of people from one place in another where they hope to stay and live
Indigenous	Something or someone whose origins are deeply rooted in a place e.g. Native Americans in America
Manifest Destiny	The belief in a God-given right to take over the whole of America
Mormon	Followers of the teachings of Joseph Smith and the book of Mormon
The Plains	The area of land between the Mississippi river and the Rocky mountains
Reservation	Areas of land set aside for Indian settlement
The Oregon Trail	A route across the middle of the USA from the Missouri to Oregon, some 3,000 km long
Persecution	Being treated badly because of race, religion, politics or gender
Permanent Indian Frontier	Land given especially to the Indians when they moved West
Donner Party	A group of people who made the journey West but took a 'short cut' that led to major delays
Gold Rush	When gold was found in California and people migrated there on masse to find their share

Year 11 – History – KT1: The American West 1835-1895 – Development of the Plains 1862 - 1876

Indigenous peoples of the Plains: their beliefs and way of life

- The Plains Indians were made up of different tribes and nations – some with very different customs
- Each tribe had one or more chiefs who negotiated with the government or other tribes
- The Plains Indians ideas about land, nature, warfare and property were very different from the white American settlers
- The buffalo was extremely important to the Plains Indians – they used all parts of it
- The Plains Indians believed land was sacred
- The US government supported the idea of Westward expansion
- Firstly, tribes were moved from the East behind a Permanent Indian Frontier
- Then, the tribes were put into reservations to keep them separate from the white settlers

Migration and early settlement

- Different factors encouraged migration to the West – some 'pulled' people West and others 'pushed' them
- The Mormons moved West (1846-47) due to persecution and set up home in Salt Lake City
- The Oregon trail made migration to the West possible but it was not easy
- The Donner Party showed how disastrous it could be – even with planning
- The Gold Rush of 1849 encouraged settlers to move to California to find their fortune. It also attracted immigrants from all over the world
- Early settlers on the Plains had a hard life due to the conditions there
- Farming was hard due to lack of rainfall, few trees and extreme weather conditions

Conflict and tension

- The growing number of people moving to the Plains caused tensions between the settlers and the Plains Indians
- The Fort Laramie Treaty (1851) involved promises being made to the Indigenous Indians and the settlers
- Law and order was difficult to enforce in the early towns and settlements
- A lack of government help meant local communities took it upon themselves to tackle lawlessness

Year 11 – History – KT2: The American West 1835-1895 – Development of the Plains 1862 – 1876

Key word	Definition
Homestead Act 1861	Allowed people to claim 160 acres of land if lived & farmed there for 5 years.
Pacific Railroad Act 1861	Central Pacific Railroad built a train line from East, while the Union Pacific Railroad would build a from the West.
Windmills	Used the wind to pump water from underground to water crops.
Dry Farming	Farmers ploughed their land straight after it rained to trap the water in the soil.
Cattle Industry	The buying and selling of cows.
Ranching	Cows grazing on a range where cowboys would work to look after them.
Open Range	Originally cattle would graze and live on unfenced land/ranches.
Cattle Drives	Moving of cattle from Texas in the South to cow towns/railroads in the North. Cowboys would lead the cattle drives.
Grant's Peace Policy 1868	USA stopped policy of extermination against the Plains Indians. Instead, he swapped to a non-violent policy.
Indian Appropriations Act 1871	Cancelled former treaties with Indigenous Indians & US Government. Plain Indians would be treated as an individuals.
Red Cloud's War	When gold was discovered in the Rocky Mountains, Indigenous Indians attacked settlers who entered their lands to get it.
Sand Creek Massacre	The US army attacked Black Kettle's camp killing 150 men, women and children despite the camp showing a white flag.
Little Crows War	1861-62 Sioux starving on reservations killed settlers and soldiers.

The development of settlement in the West

- The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 and encouraged more people to move West
- The Pacific Railroad Act of 1862 allowed companies to start building railroads on the Plains to connect the East and West
- The new wave of settlers started to benefit from new methods of farming the Plains such as barbed wire, sulky ploughs and steel blades
- The Timber Culture Act was passed in 1873 and allowed homesteaders to purchase an extra 160 acres of land if they promised to plant trees on a quarter of it
- The large amounts of settlers and building of the railways led to an increase in lawlessness
- New towns build near the railroads were called Hell on Wheels

Ranching and the cattle industry

- 1862-1876 saw the rapid growth of the cattle industry
- Ranching became common on the Plains
- Goodnight, Illiff and McCoy came up with new ways to meet the demand for beef in the East and West
- Abilene was the first cow town to be created
- Cowboys drove the cattle to the railroads; this was called the long drive
- Homesteaders started to claim public land which caused tensions with the cowboys and ranchers

Changes in the way of life of Indigenous peoples of the Plains

- White settler's invasion of the Plains Indians land put pressure on the Indians
- As the number of cattle increased, the number of buffalo decreased as they ate the same food - grass
- Corrupt management of reservation food supplies caused desperation and conflict
- The Indian Appropriation Act came into place in 1871 and meant Indians were no longer treated as citizens of the USA and it was easy to take their land
- Government policy focused on moving the Indians to the reservations
- 3 major conflicts broke out due to the poor treatment of the Indians – Little Crows War (1862), The Sand Creek Massacre (1864) and Red Clouds War (1866-68)

Key word	Definition
The Great Die Up	The horrible winter of 1886-7 was icy cold causing thousands of Cattle to die
Exoduster movement	The mass movement of African Americans to states like Kansas in 1879
Indians Appropriation Act	Saw two million acres of fertile Plain Indian land opened for settlement in the West by Homesteaders. It prompted a huge surge of settlers to the area.
Dawes Act 1887	Allowed shared reservation lands to be split up into individual plots of land. (160 acres). Plain Indians could each receive one plot. Remaining land was then put up for sale.
Johnsons County War	Conflict between settlers and powerful cattle ranchers in Wyoming in 1892. 1889 saw Jim Averill and Ella Watson killed by local cattle barons after they complained about the cattle barons grabbing land. No-one was prosecuted for the crimes and killings escalated leaving some small rancher holders dead. Cattle Barons responded by organising an invasion of Johnson County in 1892. The local governor knew about it and even provided extra guns for the invasion. Johnson County fought back and the President had to order US military in to resolve the conflict. Despite the public condemning them for their actions the Cattle Barons were never found guilty of any crimes.
Indian agents	Government officials in charge of a reservation. Some Plains Indians joined them to help keep the order on reservations.
Ghost dance	A special dance that would allow White people to disappear and for dead Buffalo and Plains Indians to return.
Wounded knee	US Cavalry shot at Indigenous Indians at Wounded Knee killing 146 including elderly, women, children and babies as well as adult males. The massacre was seen as the last battle in the Plain Indian wars.
Vigilante	Someone who takes it upon themselves to deal with law enforcement without legal authority.
Oklahoma Land Rush 1889	US government opened up the middle section of Oklahoma for white settlers to claim land.

Year 11 – History – KT3: The American West 1835-1895 – Conflict and Conquests 1876-1879

Changes in farming, the cattle industry and settlement

- Changes in farming solved most of the early problems the homesteaders faced
- New methods included dry farming, barbed wire and wind pumps
- The end of the 'open range' meant new, smaller ranches, fenced with barbed wire
- The Exoduster movement bought black American settlers to the Plains
- The Oklahoma Land Rush opened up land to settlers from previously protected Indian territory

Conflict and tension

- Conflicts over land continued to cause problems of law and order
- This was especially common between cattle ranchers and other land users as well as outlaws such as Billy the Kid
- In most parts of the West the government had more power to deal with crime and disorder
- The Johnson County War was a range war that made vigilante justice more common – many members of the public were unhappy about this
- The shock caused by the defeat at Little Bighorn meant the government were determined to prevent Indian resistance ever again

Indigenous peoples of the Plains: the destruction of their ways of life

- The destruction of the buffalo led to Indians staying off the white Americans land
- Reservation life was extremely tough, and some believed it would mean the end of the Indigenous Indians
- The Dawes Act of 1887 failed to encourage Indigenous Indians to become American citizens and homesteaders
- By 1890, Indigenous Indians had lost over half the land they originally owned in 1887