Key:
Events/ terms to do with Indians
Events terms to do with first settlers
Events/ terms to do with Mormon's

American West Knowledge organiser – Key topic 1 Early settlement of the west 1835-1862

Key events

1824 – Jed Smith discovers South Pass – 1st trail through Rockies
1827 – Book of Mormon
1830 – Indian removal act
1837 – American hit with economic depression, banks and businesses collapsed.
1837 – Mormons driven out of Kirtland
1838 – Mormons forced out of Missouri
1844 – Joseph Smith announces running for president
1844 – Joseph Smith claims god told him men could have more than 1 wife
27th June 1845 – Joseph Smith Murdered in jail
1846 – Oregon is bought by USA
1846 – Mormons set off for Salt lake City
1846 – Donner party leaves independence, Missouri
1848 – California joins USA after USA defeats Mexico
1848 – Salt Lake area joins USA
1849 – Gold rush in California.
1849 – perpetual Emigrating fund set up
1851 – Indian appropriations act
1851 - Fort Laramie treaty
1857 – troops sent to replace Brigham Young
1858 – Gold discovered in Rocky mountains
1858 – overland coaches begin to run
1861- Fort Wise

Key concepts

Polygamy – more than one wife
Visions – the belief that Indians could gain wisdom, advice through things like sweat lodges.
Dances – contact spirits – ask for help/ say thanks
Land – Indians belief they came from the earth, which they return to when they die – therefore life is a circle. Indians had sacred land e.g. black hills of Dakota – often burial areas.
Counting Coup – touch an enemy without killing was braver than killing = war not about death.
Manifest Destiny – idea that God wanted Americans to take whole of north America.
Mormons – Christian group, created by joseph Smith – believed in polygamy and that they should convert people to their religion
Self sufficient – Brigham Young's plan to make Salt Lake valley and Mormon's make everything they needed to live.
Genocide – the ideas that many American's planned to destroy the Indians.

Key terms

Great American Desert = The great plains which are located in the middle of the USA. Extreme climate – hot summers, cold winters.
Horses – Brought to the USA by the Spanish in 1600s. Allowed Indians to move on plains and hunt buffalo better.
Nomadic – people that do not live in one place – Indians followed the buffalo
Buffalo – Large cow like animals – hunted for meat, skin, weapons. Allowed Indians to live on plains
Tipi – the home Indians lived in – quick to put up take down, warm in winter, cold in summer, cone shape so safe from wind.
Chief – not elected, became chief due to wisdom, healing power/ skills as a warrior.
Councils – made decisions for the tribe – they would listen to medicine men, elders, the chief.
Scalping – taking the scalp of a person a warrior has beaten to prevent fighting again in the afterlife.
Pioneer – explorers
Oregon trail – name for the series of trails that cut across the mountains in America
Mountain men – 1st people who went west – selling fur- returned east with stories of the green land in west.
Donner Party – group that got lost and stuck in mountains in winter – to not starve they ate the dead.
Gentiles – What the Mormons called people who were not Mormon's.
Kirtland – 1st place Mormons move
Missouri – 2nd place Mormons move
Nauvoo – 3rd place Mormons move
Salt Lake City – Mormon's move to the harsh area 1846-1847 – not yet owned by USA
Brigham Young – 2nd leader of Mormon's – moves and leads them successfully in Salt lake
Perpetual Emigrating fund - set up to help Mormons move to Salt lake from abroad.
Gold rush – Discovery of gold leads to thousands moving west
Forty niners – 1st people to come searching for gold in 1849 in California
Indian removal act -made permanent Indian frontier on the plains – moved all Indians here and sold off land to whites.
Indian Appropriations Act - created reservations to protect Indians from new white settlers – really to protect whites. Smaller land again.
Fort Laramie treaty – agreement between Indians and government that Indians would not attack settlers using Oregon trail – in exchange would receive money from government and be given a hunting area.
Prospectors – people looking for gold mines.
Bullion – raw gold e.g.. Not coins

Key:
Events/ terms to do with Indians
Events terms to do with living on the plains
Events/ terms to do with cattle industry
Events to do with the law and order

American West Knowledge organiser – Key topic 2 Development and settlement of the west 1862-1876

Key events

1862 – Homestead act
- Pacific railroad act
- Little crow's war
-Rocky mountain gold rush
1864 – Sand Creek massacre
1864-67 – Cheyenne Wars
1865 – American Civil War
1866-68 – Red Clouds war
1867 - Cattle drives to railroad towns begin (Abilene)
1868 – Fort Laramie treaty (2nd)
1869 – transcontinental railroad completed
1870 – Government buying 50-60000 cattle for Indian reservations
1871 – Indian appropriations act (2nd)
1873 – Timber Culture act
1874 – Joseph Glidden invented barbed wire
1875 – Destruction of southern buffalo completed

Key concepts

Homestead – a farm run by a family
Subsistence – farming enough to only feed family
Claim jumping – stealing a persons gold claim they had discovered
Bank robbery – e.g. Jesse James
Highway and stage coach robbery – more people = movement of mail/ money
Shootings – 1866-1900 – 20,000 people shot –e.g. Wild bill Hickok
Open range – cattle left to survive on plains/ over big areas
Ranch – created areas of land for cattle rather than driving them to railroad
Cowboy – men who worked with cattle on cattle drives
Branding – mark to identify who cattle belonged to
Reservation – area of land Indians moved to – bad for farming, often did not receive promised money
Presidents grants peace policy - aim to confine Indians to reservations, put white agents there to help run them, put army near each reservation.

Key terms

Civil war – War between North and South Americans
Homestead act – gave people 160 acres free land if lived and farmed it for 5 years
Southern Homestead act – designed to give freed slaves in south land - failed
Timber Culture act – settlers a further 160 acres if planted 40 acres with trees
Desert Land act – Settlers could buy cheaply an additional 640 acres in areas with little rain
Pacific railroad act – plan for railroad by different companies in different parts of the USA. Gave companies 6,400 acres of land along the track for each mile built.
Sod house – a house made out of earth due to lack of wood
Plagues of grasshoppers – destroyed crops
Windmills – pump water from underground
Dry farming – ploughing straight after rain to keep moisture in ground
Turkey red wheat – survived better than corn on the plains
Sod buster – invented by John Deere – strong plough
Barbed wire – solution to lack of fencing as no wood.
Abilene – cow town – much lawlessness there as cowboys etc
Wild Bill Hickok – gunfighter and later Marshall of Abilene – gambled, drank
John Wesley Hardin – gunfighter
US Marshalls – appointed by president – covered vast areas
Sheriffs – elected by people of a county for 2 years
Texas rangers – own law enforcement – small army
Pinkerton – private detective agency
Vigilantes – community groups that took justice into own hands
Texas Longhorns – cattle that survive on plains/ big areas/ poor climates
Texas fever – disease which killed cattle
Cattle drives – moving cattle from Texas to towns by the railroads
Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving – created one of 1st cattle trails to railroad
Joseph McCoy – created 1st cow town Abilene
Little crows war – war after Santee Sioux began to starve on reservation
Cheyenne Wars – caused by discovery of gold in Colorado in 1859
Sand creek massacre – 150 Indians killed – 3 tribes retaliated.
Medicine lodge treaty – Indians moved to new territory or be killed
Red Clouds war – gold discovered in rocky mountains breaking peace treaty
Fort Laramie 1868 – government left forts in Sioux lands, created great Sioux reservation