



SETTLING THE GREAT PLAINS

Chapter 2 Section 1
USH Honors

LEARNING TARGETS:

Students will be able to

- Explain the rapid settlement of the Great Plains due to homesteading.
- Describe how early settlers survived on the plains and transformed them into profitable farmland.



END OF LESSON ACTIVITY:

- Describe how mining and ranching transformed the West. Cite specific examples/evidence to support your answer.***

Points Earned:	Explanation:
4	Students can identify at least 4 major ways that mining and ranching transformed the West.
3	Students can identify at least 3 major ways that mining and ranching transformed the West.
2	Students can identify at least 2 major ways that mining and ranching transformed the West.
1	Students can identify at least 1 way that mining and ranching transformed the West.
0	Students cannot identify the major ways in which mining and ranching transformed the West.



GROWTH OF THE MINING INDUSTRY

AMERICA: THE STORY OF US THE GOLD RUSH





CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

The movement of vast numbers of people to California after gold was discovered in 1848. These people became known as Forty-Niners (because they arrived in 1849)!

BOOMTOWNS:



What encourages the settling of the West?

MINING

- Minerals were in demand – the nation was changing from farming to industry
- Railroads increased to connect mines and factories

The Rise of Boomtowns

- Henry Comstock – prospector staked a claim in Virginia City, Nevada (1859)
- Sold his claim for a small amount (a few thousand dollars)
- The Comstock Lode = the blue-grey clay was actually SILVER!!!
- This was a millions of dollars find!
- People flooded Virginia City!
- Population boomed to over 30,000 in a few months.
- 1864: Nevada becomes the 36th US State.

A NEW AND MAGNIFICENT CLIPPER FOR SAN FRANCISCO

MERCHANTS' EXPRESS LINE OF CLIPPER SHIPS!

Loading none but First-Class Vessels and Regularly Dispatching the greatest number.
THE SPLENDID NEW OUT-AND-OUT CLIPPER SHIP



CALIFORNIA

California Gold Rush
advertisement



San Francisco, 1851

WHAT WAS A BOOMTOWN LIKE?

Boomtowns can be rowdy!

- Prospectors fought over claims
- Thieves were a constant threat

Who enforced “law and order” in Boomtowns? Vigilance Committees

- Self-appointed volunteers
- Exacted punishment as a committee
- Most people obeyed the laws

What would happen when the mines ran dry?

- Some towns became “ghost” towns
- Some towns survived

MINING AND STATEHOOD

What states were popular destinations in the mining boom?

- Colorado, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Arizona, Nevada and California

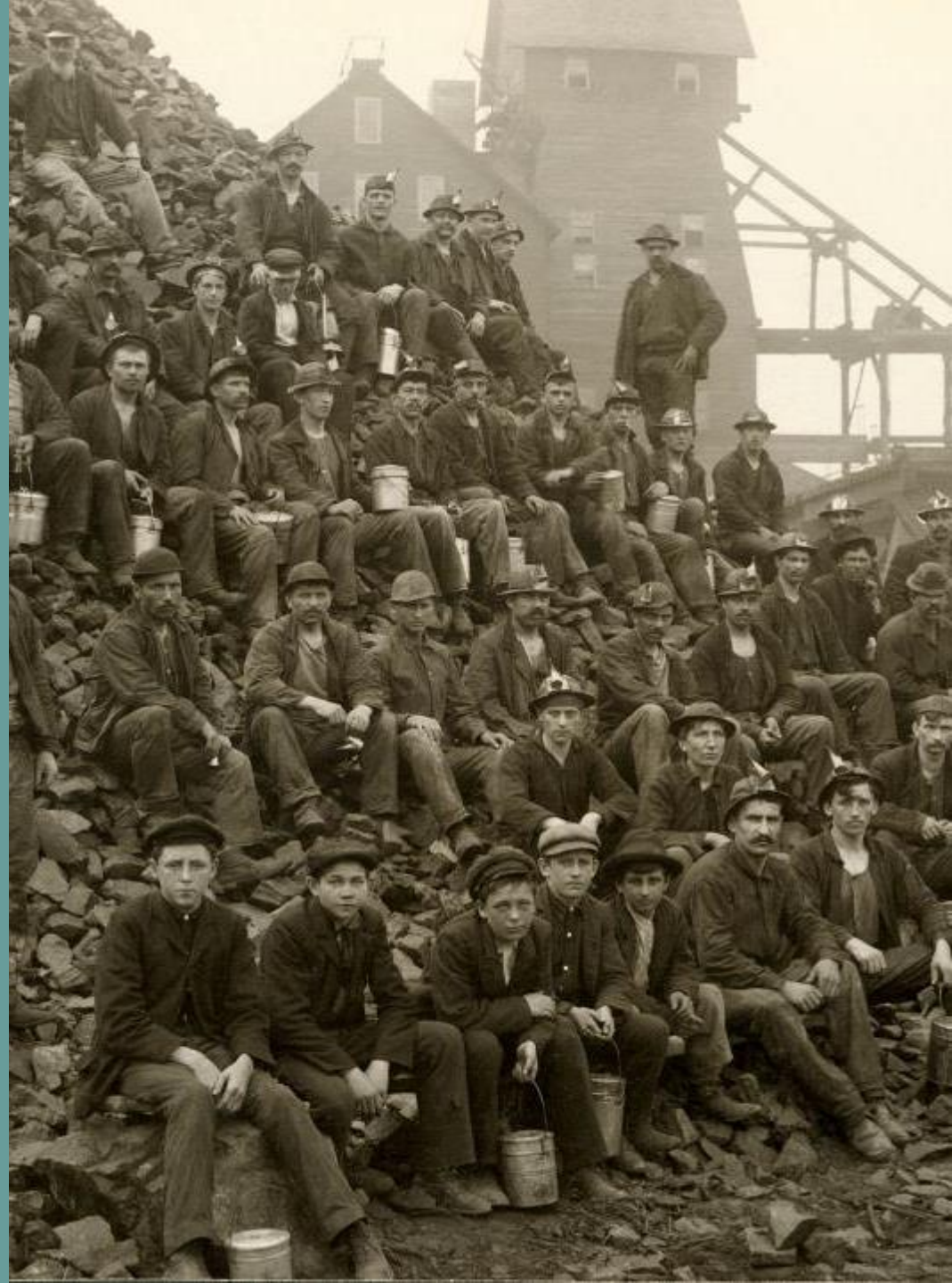
Colorado: Gold Rush & Lead

- Gold rush starts in Colorado at Pike's Peak.
- "Pike's Peak or Bust" = miners arrived from all over (increasing the population)
- Miners in these regions would pan for gold – most went "bust"
- Gold in Colorado was mostly underground (and difficult to get)
- Lead deposits, found at Leadville, Colorado, begin the railroad boom through the Rocky Mountains.

MINING TECHNOLOGY

How are minerals extracted?


- **Placer Mines**: shallow mines where prospectors get surface deposits of ore
 - Picks, shovels and pans are used in placer mining.
- **Sluice Mines**: diverts the river current and uses the panning method
- **Hydraulic Mines**: remove earth and process this for minerals
 - These mines use high pressure water to cut into hills and mountains.





RANCHING AND CATTLE DRIVES





Public lands north of Texas, typically including western Kansas, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming and other western states which served as huge pasture lands for herds.

OPEN RANGE



THE LONG DRIVE BEGINS

Who else arrived in the WEST?

- Cattle ranchers: Texas Longhorn (a breed of cattle descended from Spanish cattle)
- Longhorn cattle thrive even in a harsh climate

How did the Civil War change the West?

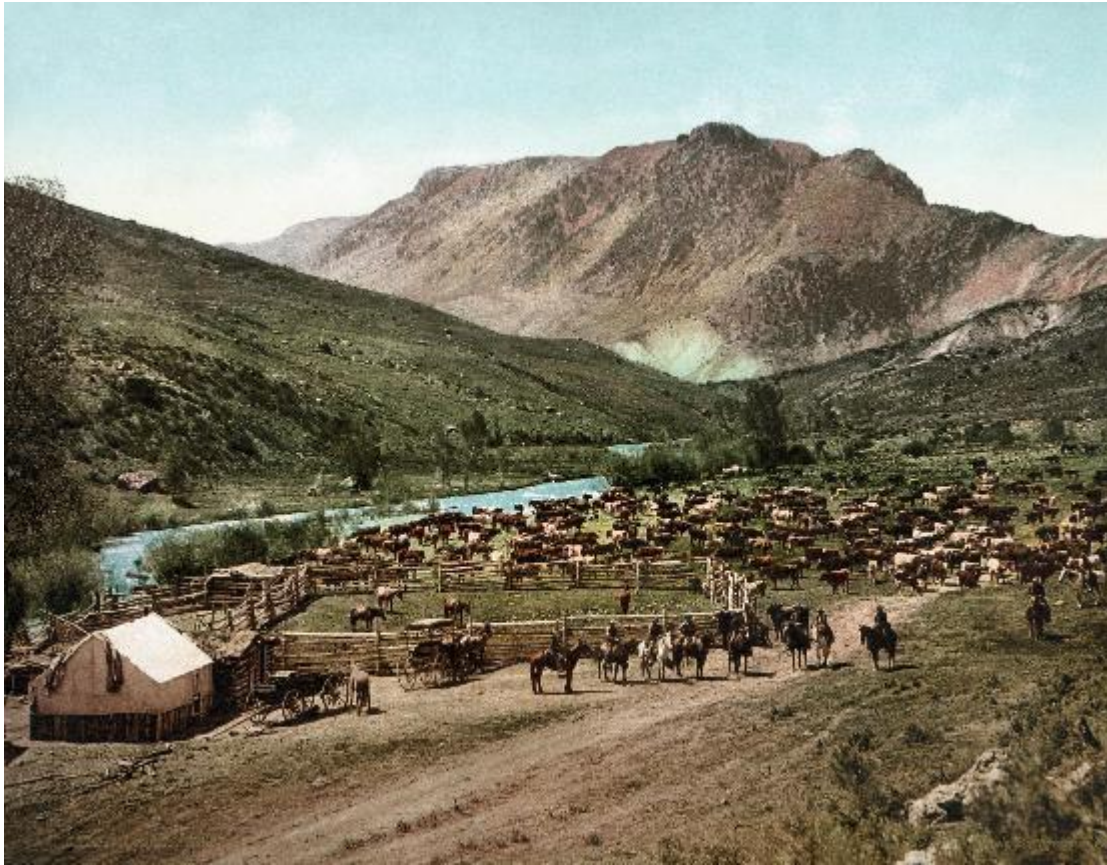
Railroads

- Before the Civil War, railroads were scarce in the West.
- Ranchers would not be able to get their cattle to markets in the East
- To feed the massive armies of the Union and the Confederacy, ranchers needed to raise LOTS of beef cattle.
- As railroads move westward, ranchers could settle on vast lands and raise larger herds.

How did the ranchers get the cattle to market?

Long Drives

- Ranchers would move the cattle to a rail hub to sell to markets in the East
- Sedalia, Missouri and Abilene Kansas were popular rail stations.



THE END OF THE OPEN RANGE

What caused the end to the Open Range?

- Sheep herding and farming began to impact cattle lands
- Fencing of open lands prevented ranchers from freely feeding cattle and moving them across vast territory.

What invention supported the end of the Open Range?

- Barbed wire: fencing that would block the cattle trails

What else impacted ranching?

- Prices dropped after the Civil War ended
- Extreme weather conditions (especially harsh winters) impacted the plains

NEW SETTLERS ARRIVE IN THE WEST





CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

How did the expansion into the Southwest change the people?

- The Spanish mission system (collapsed in the early 1800s)
- Haciendas: elite landholdings with large amounts of land encouraged ranching.
- Gold was found in California in 1849 (just after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo)
- California's population grew significantly

What about the status of the people who already lived in this region?

- Many Hispanic families lost status – replaced by those moving into the state
- English ranchers and Hispanic peoples often clashed over lands and rights.

SHORT RESPONSE:

- ***Describe how mining and ranching transformed the West. Cite specific examples/evidence to support your answer.***

Points Earned:	Explanation:
4	Students can identify at least 4 major ways that mining and ranching transformed the West.
3	Students can identify at least 3 major ways that mining and ranching transformed the West.
2	Students can identify at least 2 major ways that mining and ranching transformed the West.
1	Students can identify at least 1 way that mining and ranching transformed the West.
0	Students cannot identify the major ways in which mining and ranching transformed the West.