

# **SSUSH12: EVALUATE HOW WESTWARD EXPANSION IMPACTED THE PLAINS INDIANS AND FULFILLED MANIFEST DESTINY.**



Round Up Scene - 1887



***ELEMENT B: Evaluate how the growth of the western population and innovations in farming and ranching impacted Plains Indians.***

# Growth of Western Population

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

## MILLIONS OF ACRES

View on the Big Map, between Council and Omaha, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.



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A SECTIONAL MAP, showing exact location of our OWN LANDS is sold for 25 Cents, and of NEBRASKA LANDS for 30 Cents.

- ❑ The railroad companies contributed to the development of the West by selling low-cost parcels of their western land for farming.
- ❑ Settlers, lured by the Homestead Act of 1862, traveled west on the trains to farm the fertile soil.
  - Western farmers used the trains to ship their grain east and cattle ranchers shipped their steer to eastern butchers.
  - Both farmers and ranchers sold their goods to people who could not easily be reached without railroads.
  - The railroads earned money by transporting settlers west and goods east.
- ❑ As settlers began to populate the west in growing numbers, they brought with them new farming and ranching techniques.

# Innovations in Farming and Ranching

- ❑ Ranching in the West had been based on the open-range system prior to the 1880s.



Round Up Scene - 1887

- Cattle were branded with the symbol of their owner's ranch.
  - Property was not enclosed by costly fencing, which meant the branded cattle roamed freely.
  - Cowboys were hired by ranch owners each spring to go on extensive round-ups to collect the cattle belonging to that owner.
    - The round-up could cover hundreds of miles given the open-range. The cowboys would then “drive” the cattle to the closest railroad line, which could also be hundreds of miles away and take weeks or even months to complete.
    - The work of the cowboys was difficult and often lonely.
- ❑ During the late 1880s, the open-range system declined with the development of barbed wire fencing.
    - The new fencing material made it incredibly cheap and easy to enclose even the largest of ranches. The work of cowboys changed as cattle round-ups and drives took on new characteristics centered within the newly enclosed ranches.

# Impact on Plains Indians



- ❑ Plains Indians were impacted by the change in ranching. Many of the nomadic tribes became restricted in their ability to roam freely when land was roped off by barbed wire fencing.
- ❑ Conflict over land claims also escalated as ranchers began to claim larger tracts of land that were also inhabited by American Indians.
  - Farming in the West was also transformed after the Civil War as more settlers moved to the region.
  - Life was hard for the homesteaders who worked to make a life for their families.
    - New plows were introduced that could tackle the tough sod of the West.
- ❑ With the increased plowing and more scientific methods of farming, the West was a more desirable location for settlers to make a new start.
  - The increased plowing and farming coupled with drought led to environmental challenges that became significant issues in the early twentieth century.
  - American Indians in the region were impacted by the increased population and farming because once again their land was being claimed by White settlers.
    - The ability of Plains Indians to migrate with the buffalo herd was limited as more farmers sectioned off their land with barbed wire and changed the landscape with their farming methods.