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| **American West Part 1** | **North American Geography** | **Attitudes to the Plains** | **Manifest Destiny** | **Why go West** |
| **Expansion: opportunities and challenges** | **Plains Climate:** freezing (-20◦C) in winter, scorching in summer, strong winds all year.**Plains Resources:** lack of water, land that could be ploughed & trees. | **White Attitudes:** Initially seen as useless desert & uninhabitable as not suitable for farming. Pioneers & Miners did not settle on Plains. As the land in the East became overcrowded this view changed after the Civil War.**Indian Attitudes:** saw the Plains as a place of plenty that provided everything they needed.  | This idea that expansion of White Settlers should occupy the whole of America was coined by John L Sullivan in 1845. **The belief that it was God’s will for the whites to settle the new lands bringing with them their ideas of Christianity, freedom & Democracy justified taking lands off those who already lived there.**Whites believed that they would use the land more wisely than those who lived there already who they viewed as slow, lazy or in the case of the Indians, savages. | **Mormons** | **Pioneers** |
| **Push Factors:**Hatred & jealousy of non-Gentiles – driven out of Kirtland & Missouri1837 Bank CollapseMurder of Joseph Smith 1845Brigham Young decides Mormons won’t be accepted | **Push Factors:**1837 economic depression and unemploymentDisease and overcrowdingReligious or social persecutionTaxationPoor climate |
| **Attitudes to Land** | **Pull Factors:**Salt Lake isolatedWater & fertile land to farmUtah in MexicoCould practice polygamyMormons could live close together with own beliefs | **Pull Factors:**A new startTall tales and newspaper reportsFertile cheap landGovernment encouragementGold and silverManifest Destiny |
| **Whites**: Believed in settling and owning land. Land could be bought and sold.**Indians**: Believed that you could not own land. They saw the entire Plains was their home. They were nomadic, following the buffalo as it migrated.  |
| **Timeline** | **The Journey West: Pioneers** | **The Journey West: Mormons** | **Mormons & Salt Lake** | **Miners & the Gold Rush** |
| 1492 Christopher Columbus lands in the West Indies1600s Spanish bring the horse to North America1783 American War of Independence1820s Mountain Men trap beaver in the Rockies1830 Permanent Indian Frontier1838 ‘Trail of Tears’ completed – all Indians moved west of the Mississippi1840 Oregon Trail opened1845 Manifest Destiny first used1845 Joseph Smith Murdered1846 Brigham Young leads Mormons to the Great Salt Lake 1846-8 Mexico-America War1846 Oregon Treaty- US gains Oregon1848 Gold discovered in California1849 Gold Rush1849 Bureau of Indian Affairs moves from War Department to Department of the Interior1851 Indian Appropriations Act sets up first Reservations to protect the Indians | Mountain Men crossed the Rockies in the 1820/30s in search of beaver fur. Helped by Indians they found the trails the pioneers would follow in the 1840s.**1.** **Plains**: 1000km journey across the grassland which storms turned to mud.**2.** **Rockies**: steep climb through mountains & Sioux lands, water poor.**3.** **Fort** **Hall**: travellers rested & repaired.4. **Blue** **Mountains**: narrow ledges and ravines. Rivers impossible to cross. **5.** **Utah** **Desert**: Very little water and extremely hot.**6.** **Sierra** **Nevada**: Early snowfall was a major hazard. Wagons had to be winched and hoisted over mountains. (4 = Oregon, 5 & 6 lead to California).Estimated that 11,500 Americans went to Oregon 1840-8 and 2,500 to California. | **16,000 to get West including children** | **Success at Salt Lake** | News of Gold spread quickly. 2/3s of Oregon men joined the Gold Rush.By 1849 miners were arriving by sea from the US and across the world.1848 California’s population 15,0001852 California’s population 250,000First miners used pick and shovel and a washing pan which left the heavy gold at the bottom. Later ‘cradles’ panned more quickly and in larger quantities.Mining towns were lawless with disputes over claims and racial tension. |
| **Preparations:** bought oxen, seeds, food & equipment. Built wagons.Advanced party built rest camps. | **Land:** Mormon Church allocated **land** according to **need**. City was **planned** with more land for families than singles. |
| **Organisation:** Wagons trains with 100 wagons would stop at rest camps on the way to repair wagons. | **Farming:** Irrigation ditches & timetable for when to take water. Working together they could feed themselves. |
| **Winter Quarters:** 1846 winter harsh. Food & fuel supplies ran low, disease spread. 700 died. | **Deseret:** Young wanted to found a Mormon state when US won Utah from Mexico. Compromise – Young governor of Utah Territory. |
| **Spring:** Pioneer Band sent out to clear the way for the wagons to follow.Brigham Young was successful in taking over 15,000 Mormons to Utah. | **Perpetual Emigration Fund:** loaned money so more could come from Europe & US. Became self-sufficient. |
| **Plains Indians’ Way of Life** |
| **Tipis** | **Social Structure** | **Family Life** | **Warfare** |
| Made from buffalo skins sewn together and supported by wooden poles. Women made it, owned it, put it up and moved it.It could be taken down and packed for transport in ten minutes. Ideal home for nomads. Travois were sleds made from tipi poles with the tipi cover stretched across to carry belongings.In the summer the tipi bottom could be rolled up to let air in. In winter it could be banked with earth to keep the tipi warm. The shape of the tipi meant it was able to resist the strong winds.Tipis were circular in keeping with Indian beliefs. | To survive the members of an Indian band had to co-operate and work closely together. They had to be well organised. Throughout the year the band would have to move across the Great Plains. From time to time bands would meet up to camp and hunt together. Once a year, and sometimes more often, the bands would meet together as a nation. Cooperation was key to survival & tribal life. Chiefs got power due to their skill as hunters, warriors or medicine men. | Men – responsible for hunting, looking after the horses and protecting the band. They were judged by their skills as hunters, warriors and horsemen.Women – responsible for the tipi, for preparing food and fetching water, and for making clothing and other items. They were judged by their skill at crafts and as home-makers. Women were highly valued as the bearers of children. | Tribal Warfare and raiding for animals and captives was a part of life and the usual way for men to gain prestige. “Counting coup” meant riding up to an enemy and merely touching him with a special stick, then getting away. 1835-45 Sioux lost 88 men to war, Ojibwa 129. Native Americans did not think of themselves as part of a Native American nation but as members of a particular tribe. Rival tribes therefore could be strangers and enemies to each other as much as to the white settlers. Warfare took place in the summer after the hunt over hunting grounds, horses & living space. Warriors would scalp dead enemies to ensure they did not need to fight them again in the afterlife. |
| **Savage Practices?** | **Religion & Beliefs** | **Hunting & Buffalo** | **Permanent Indian Frontier** | **Indian Appropriations Act 1851** |
| **Polygamy** – more than one wife due to less men than women. **Exposure** – leaving the old & sick to die so that the Band might move on and survive.**Councils** – the Chief did not have the power to make others do as he said. Decisions were made at Council where elders, medicine men and chiefs would debate.Bands did not have to agree with the council’s decision. | Believed in Wakan Tanka, the Great Spirit. He created the world and everything that lives. They believed all things had spirits and that spirits could influence their lives.  Land could not be owned or bought. High places were sacred, as they were closer to the spirit world. The Black Hills was particularly scared to them, as this was the place where their nation began. Circle of life. They came from the land and would return when they died. | **Buffalo Dances:**  before setting out to hunt the Buffalo Dance would last many days. They called on Wakan Tanka (the Great Spirit) to call the herd closer to them. They believed it would bring them luck & a successful hunt.**Buffalo Hunt:** **Horses** enabled Indians to hunt efficiently. The hunt was organised by **Warrior Societies** such as the **Kit Foxes** of the Sioux. Warrior societies ensured not too many animals were killed.2 – 3 successful hunts a year were enough to feed, clothe and shelter a band.**Uses of the Buffalo:** every part of the animal was used tongue for hairbrush, hooves for ceremonial bells, hide for tipis and clothes. | In 1830, the US government the Indian Removal Act forced all Indians living in the East to walk the ‘Trail of Tears’ to the Plains.Seeing the Plains as useless, the Government set up the Permanent Frontier with all land to the West of the line to be called Indian Territory and given to the Indians.The Indians were no longer seen as separate nations but people under control of the US government.**SEPARATION POLICY** | By the 1850s, more whites were crossing the Plains & settling on the eastern edge of Indian Territory.Bureau of Indian Affairs focusses on ‘civilising’ the Indians by confining them to RESERVATIONS and setting up schools.Indian Appropriations Act sets up legally recognised reservations to protect Indians from western expansion.**CONCENTRATION POLICY** |