Turn of the Century: Study Guide

transcontinental railroad:

homestead:

Exodusters:

supply:

demand:

railhead:

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| **Texas Cattle** |
| - brought to North America by the Spanish  - cattle could live far from water and shelter, eating nothing but grass  - Vaqueros, Mexican cowhands, taught methods of herding cattle to other cowhands and ranchers in the Southeast |
| **Supply and Demand** |
| - market: is a situation in which people buy and sell goods  - in good market, producers find buyers, and consumers buy goods  - demand in Southwest U.S. was low because there was a great deal of cattle  - demand in north and eastern part of U.S. was high because they wanted beef and leather  - since cattle were in high demand, ranchers could sell for a higher price in the north and east |
| **Supply and Demand/Cattle Drives** |
| - since demand was high in north and eastern part of U.S., ranchers had to move cattle to railheads  - from railheads, cattle could be transported by train to other parts of the U.S.  - moving cattle over the land great distances were know has cattle drives  - traveled 1,000 of miles on trails where water and grass were available  - Chisholm Trail and Great Western Trail were two of the most popular trails used during cattle drives  - trails led up to the railheads in the Great Plains |

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| **Life on the Drives** |
| - 12 men watched over approximately 3,000 cattle  - road horseback for 10 to 14 hours a day  - stampedes or when cattle run as a group, many startled due to loud noises  - slept on the ground, pulling watch at night from predators and thieves |

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| **End of Drives** |
| - cattle drives ended after about 20 years  1. barbed wire: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  - new settlers put up fences and blocked trails that crossed great plains.  2. more railroads were built closer to ranches, no need to move cattle over great distances  3. too many cattle grazed the ranges (grass fields) and were competing with sheepherders, not enough food for all the cattle and sheep |

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| **Transcontinental Railroad** |
| - Railroads were built by former soldiers and freed African Americans.  - Chinese built the railroad from west coast  - Chinese dealt with prejudice due to their ethnic background  - prejudice is a negative opinion that can lead to unjust treatment  Effects of the Railroad:  1. railroads made it easier to move people and goods across the country  2. businesses and farmers on the west coast and Great Plains could ship goods to other markets |

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| **Settling the Great Plains** |
| - Homestead – is a settler’s home and land  - Homestead Act encouraged people to move to the Great Plains  1. offered 160 acres of land to U.S. citizens or wanted to become citizens  2. paid small amount of money and live on land for 5 years and it was theirs  Exodusters – freed African-Americans that settled the Great Plains during after the Reconstruction |

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| **Hardships on the Great Plains** |
| - harsh climate made life difficult  1. long cold winters  2. violent storms during Spring  3. hot dry summers with droughts  - due to dry conditions, farmers had to watch for prairie fires  - ground made of sod – grass-covered dirt held together by a thick mass of roots  - homes created from sod due to the lack of trees (sodhouses)  - dry conditions made it difficult to grow crops  - had to carry water great distances or dug deep wells for water |

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| **War on the Great Plains** |
| - As settlers moved west, Native American were forced onto reservations by the government  - reservations – land that the government set aside for American Indians  - U.S. government hoped Native Americans would become farmers, but many fought back  - At Sand Creek many Plains Indians were massacred (killed) even after they surrendered  - At the Battle of Little Bighorn, the Lakota and Cheyenne tribe protected their land from Colonel Cluster’s soldiers. Won battle and killed all the U.S. soldiers  - Native Americans began following a new religion called Ghost Dancing  - Ghost Dancing was a vision of hope that their previous way of life would return.  - U.S. considered Ghost Dancing a threat and began killing Ghost Dancers  - Many began to flee to the Badlands of South Dakota. U.S. Soldiers caught up to them and tried to return them to the reservation. A gun accidentally went off and the soldiers began killing all the Native Americans, including woman and children.  - Buffalo also were killed and almost became extinct |

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| **Government Policy** |
| - Native Americans were forced to assimilate to the customs of settlers  - Assimilate – changing a group’s culture and tradition so that it blends with a larger group.  - Forced to change religion, Ghost Dancing was illegal  - Native American children sent to school, had to speak English and were not allowed to wear their traditional clothing.  - Many forced to farm as their way of life, when they were used to hunting |