

Chapter 1 America 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation

1.1 Attitudes to the West

REVISED

The West was a vast area which was difficult to settle

- The area to the west of the Mississippi river was often called 'the West'.
- On the west coast of America was fertile farming land.
- However, the area beyond the Mississippi was a vast grassland called the **Great Plains**.
- The weather on the Plains was extreme, with cold winters and hot summers. There were also frequently very strong winds.
- The Plains was also very dry and there was a lack of wood that could be used for building.

American attitudes to the Great Plains changed in the 1840s

- Because of these conditions, the Great Plains was dismissed by most Americans as the **Great American Desert**.
- However, some Americans did travel to the West.

California	Texas	Rocky Mountains
There was trade between the United States and California (which was owned by Mexico).	Other Americans settled in Texas which was also a Mexican state.	In the 1820s and 1830s the Plains were crossed by Mountain Men who travelled to the Rocky Mountains to catch beavers and sell their fur in the East.

- In 1845 the United States took over Texas, causing the Mexican-American War.
- When the USA won this war in 1848 it gained a huge area of land including California and the land which would become Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico.
- This led to a developing interest in settling the West.

The idea of Manifest Destiny became increasingly popular

- The opening of the Oregon Trail (a route across the Plains and Rocky Mountains leading to Oregon) led to more Americans settling in the West.
- Some Americans began to accept the idea that the United States should occupy the whole continent from coast to coast.
- For many, this was also a religious idea. They believed that it was God's will that they spread Christianity and democracy.
- This idea came to be known as **Manifest Destiny**. It was first used by a journalist called John L. Sullivan.
- Some Americans also believed this was right due to the view that the Native Americans who occupied the Plains were savages.
- Many even considered it right for the USA to go to war to control the West. A war with Britain was narrowly avoided and a treaty gave the USA control of Oregon in 1846.

Key point

Attitudes to the West changed from the 1840s, as Americans increasingly saw it as their Manifest Destiny to control the continent from coast to coast.

TIP

The key terms in **purple** are defined in the glossary at the end of each chapter.

Make sure that you can spell the key terms, know what they mean and aim to use them in your written work.

Test yourself

- 1 Why was living on the Plains difficult?
- 2 Why did attitudes to the West change in the 1840s?
- 3 What was Manifest Destiny?

Key events

Complete the flow chart below to show the key events in the changing attitudes to the Plains amongst Americans. The first box has been done for you.



Develop the explanation

Complete the table to explain why each of these reasons led to Americans supporting the idea of Manifest Destiny.

Reasons	Explanations
The Oregon Trail meant more Americans settled in the West.	With more Americans in the West, people began to see it as part of America. The people who had moved there wanted the US government to take control.
Mexico controlled areas in the West. Some Americans viewed Mexicans as lazy and uncultured.	
The USA won a war against Mexico in 1848 and gained control of much of the West.	
The Great Plains was occupied by Plains Indians. Many Americans viewed them as savages.	
Most Americans were Christians.	

Practice question

Describe two reasons why the belief in Manifest Destiny became popular.

[4 marks]

1.2 Early settlers in the West

REVISED

Pioneer farmers began to move west in the 1840s

- The opening of the Oregon Trail and the Mountain Men meant that stories reached the East of **fertile** (easy to farm) land in the West.
- There was an economic **depression** (an economic crisis which leads to a fall in the value of goods) in 1837. This led to unemployment and the loss of savings.
- Many families looked to move west across the Plains for the promise of free land and to escape the economic effects of the depression.
- This journey was incredibly tough and covered around 1,000 miles, taking around four months.
- Many died from accidents, starvation when trapped in the mountains, or the spread of disease.

Key point

Religious and economic reasons encouraged a number of settlers to move west in the 1840s, but they still faced huge difficulties in making the journey.

The Mormons faced persecution in the East

- The Mormons were a religious group founded by Joseph Smith. They believed they were God's chosen people.
- Opposition and persecution drove them steadily further west.

Ohio	Missouri	Nauvoo
In Kirtland, Ohio, the Mormons set up important businesses and a successful mill, bank and printing press. However, in the 1837 depression the bank collapsed. Many blamed the Mormons for the loss of their money.	The Mormons were then forced to Missouri. Here they were attacked for their anti-slavery beliefs	In Nauvoo, their leader Joseph Smith announced the Mormon belief in polygamy (that Mormon men should have many wives). Many Americans thought this was blasphemy (offensive to God). Joseph Smith was shot by a mob. Brigham Young became the new leader of the Mormons.

Joseph Smith led the Mormons to the Great Salt Lake

- In 1846, **Brigham Young** led 16,000 Mormons west to the isolated area around the Great Salt Lake.
- This area was under the control of Mexico until 1848, which meant that American laws did not apply.
- The Mormon journey was well-organised: they set up **Winter Quarters** to allow them to shelter over the winter.
- They also had rest and repair camps along the way and they crossed in wagon trains of 100 wagons.
- To make a success of the dry and barren area around Salt Lake, the Mormons developed an **irrigation** system to water crops.
- They also established a **Perpetual Emigrating Fund** to encourage Mormons to migrate from Europe to Utah.
- By the time Young died, there were 140,000 Mormons in Utah.

TIP

The examiners want you to use relevant and detailed knowledge in your answers. In your revision, you should try to remember a specific piece of information associated with each general idea.

The discovery of gold in California in 1948 encouraged thousands to move west

- News of the discovery was published in a newspaper and spread rapidly. Many local people rushed to the area hoping to get rich by finding gold.
- By 1849, miners were coming from all over the world. By 1852, the population of California had increased from 15,000 to 250,000. This movement was called the **Gold Rush**.
- It soon became clear that there were not enough good **claims** (mining areas) to make everyone rich, leading to serious tensions in the mining towns.
- There were no organised forces of law and order to prevent violence.
- Racial tensions also boiled over, particularly against Chinese miners who were discriminated against by high taxes. There was also serious violence against Mexicans.
- By 1852, the California Gold Rush was over.

Test yourself

- 1 Why did Pioneer farmers move west?
- 2 Why did the Mormons move to the Great Salt Lake?
- 3 What was the Gold Rush?

Develop the detail

Complete the table to explain how each of the following helped the Mormons to travel or settle in the West successfully.

Generalised statement	With developed detail
Winter quarters were built on the eastern edge of the Plains.	Winter was the most dangerous time to travel, so by waiting out the winter the Mormons could make sure their journey across the Plains took place in summer.
Wagon trains of 100 were used to cross the Plains.	
Repair stations were built in advance.	
Irrigation ditches were created to channel mountain water to the Salt Lake area.	
A fund was established to pay for other settlers to move to Salt Lake.	

Eliminate irrelevance

Describe two reasons why the Mormons moved to the Great Salt Lake. (4 marks)

The answer below contains material which is not necessary for a question like this. Cross out any material which you think might be irrelevant to the question.

The Mormons were originally founded by Joseph Smith who claimed to have discovered golden tablets containing religious revelations. The Mormons were initially based in New York, where they gained a number of followers. In Kirtland the Mormons set up a successful bank, but after the economic depression of 1837 (a depression is an economic event where the value of goods falls and this leads to unemployment and lower production) they faced opposition from people who had lost their money and were forced to move. In Nauvoo the Mormon belief in polygamy was announced and this was seen as blasphemous by many white Americans. Joseph Smith was eventually killed by a mob.

1.3 The Plains Indians' way of life

REVISED

Native American life was well suited to the Plains

- Native Americans living on the Plains were also known as **Plains Indians**. Most Plains Indians were **nomadic** (they moved from place to place) and followed buffalo herds.
- Most Native American bands lived in **tipis** (cone-shaped tents made from buffalo skins).
- The shape of tipis deflected the strong winds on the Plains.
- They could also be adjusted to the extreme temperatures of the Plains using ears at the top and by rolling up the bottom or banking it with earth.
- Tipis were made using only 10 wooden poles covered with buffalo skin. This dealt with the lack of resources on the Plains.
- They could be packed up to move in only 10 minutes and loaded on a **travois** for transportation.
- Women owned the tipi and were responsible for it.

Key point

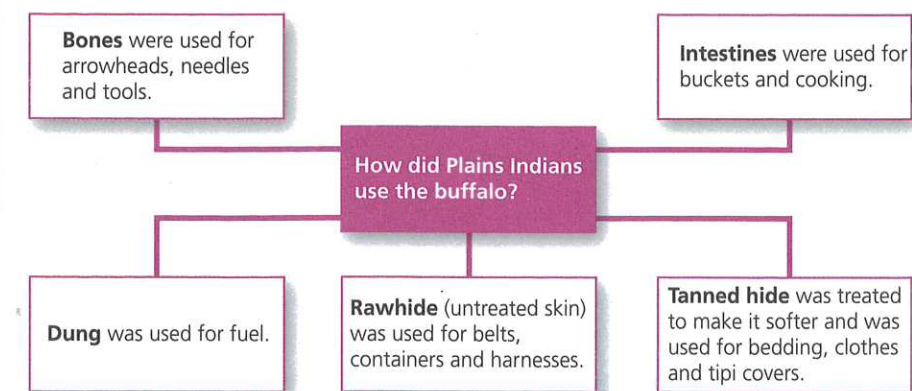
Plains Indians relied on the buffalo and their lifestyle was adapted to help them survive on the Plains.

Plains Indians were divided into tribes and bands

- Native Americans were divided into tribes, such as the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Pawnee and Sioux.
- Small groups, called **bands**, lived and hunted together. Each band had a chief and a council. The council would make most important decisions.
- These bands would usually contain between 10 and 50 families.
- The role of men focused on hunting and protecting the band. All men were part of a warrior society.
- The role of women focused on preparing food, making clothing and having responsibility for the tipi.

Native American survival depended on the buffalo

- Perhaps as many as 50 million buffalo lived on the Plains in the early 1800s.
- Native Americans would perform a buffalo dance before the hunt to bring them luck.
- They would use every part of the buffalo:



- Horses were also vital to Native American life. The wealth of individuals and bands were often measured in the number of horses they owned.

TIP

The highest mark question in your period study exam will be an essay question structured like this Practice Question. The secret of writing a good essay is good planning. Here is a plan:

- Introduction: Set the context. Why was survival on the Plains a challenge for the Plains Indians
- Paragraph 1: Explain how they used the buffalo
- Paragraph 2: Explain how they used the tipi
- Conclusion: Link the two reasons (if you can), and reach a supported judgement on which is more important.

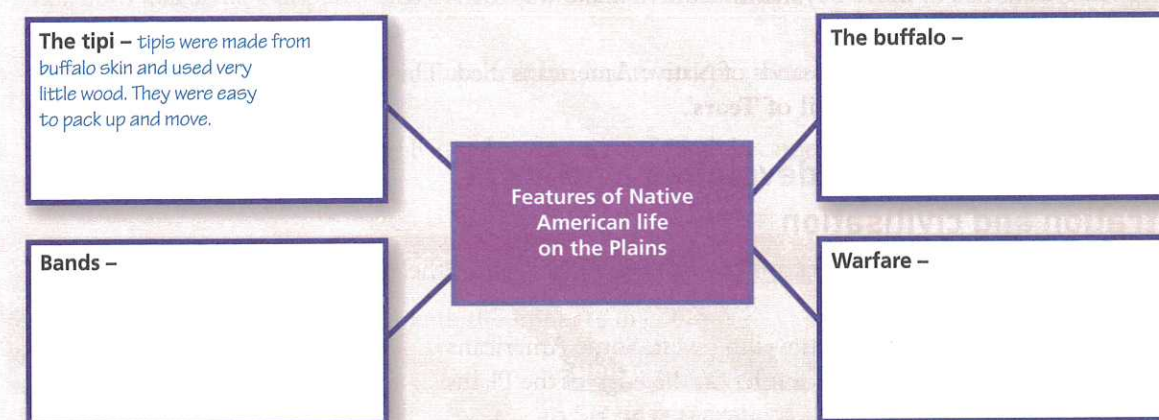
Indian warfare was often based on raids or non-lethal combat

- The Sioux were widely known as the most warlike tribe. Their traditional enemies were the Crow and Pawnee.
- Warfare was often conducted in small raids.
- After guns arrived on the Plains, Indians often fought by **counting coup** (trying to get close enough to an enemy to touch them).
- There were low casualties. Between 1835 and 1845 the Sioux were at war, but lost on average only four warriors a year.
- Native Americans often took **scalps** (the top of the head, which was cut off and dried) to prevent their enemies from attacking them in the afterlife. These were also displayed to show their bravery.



Topic summary

Complete the following mind map to summarise the features of Native American life on the Plains.



Develop the detail

Complete the table to explain how each of the following helped the Native Americans to survive on the Plains.

Generalised statement	With developed detail
Counting coup.	<i>This was a form of non-lethal combat so less Indian men were killed in warfare.</i>
Tipis were made from buffalo skin.	
Tipis could be packed up in 10 minutes.	
Horses.	
Native Americans lived in bands.	



Practice question

Which of the following was the more important reason why Plains Indians were able to survive on the Plains?

- The buffalo
- The tipi

[12 marks]



Test yourself

- Why was the tipi well suited to living on the Plains?
- How did Plains Indians use the buffalo?
- Why did wars between Indian bands cause few casualties?

1.4 Early American relations with the Plains Indians and the Mormons

REVISED

Native Americans were forced west beyond a Permanent Indian Frontier

- At first, the Native Americans were seen as separate nations that the USA would have to negotiate with.
- In 1824, a Bureau of Indian Affairs was set up. This was a government department to manage the relationship with Native Americans.
- Over time, the Native Americans came to be seen as a problem as they blocked the expansion of the USA westwards.
- There was also a conflict of cultures, as many Native American tribes believed that no one could own the land.
- In 1830, the **Indian Removal Act** created a **Permanent Indian Frontier**. All Native Americans had to move beyond this line to make way for American settlers.
- This was often done by force and thousands of Native Americans died. This movement became known as the '**Trail of Tears**'.

Key point

The US government tried to deal with the Plains Indians through a policy of concentration, but the continued movement of settlers west still caused conflict.

The American government developed a policy of concentration and civilisation

- In the 1840s, thousands of white Americans had started to travel across the Plains to get to the West.
- By the 1850s, even more people were travelling west. Some Americans settled beyond the Permanent Indian Frontier on the edge of the Plains.
- The US government encouraged this movement, but it also felt a duty to protect the Native Americans.
- The **Indian Appropriations Act** in 1851 set up **reservations** (areas of land which were limited to Native Americans and which settlers could not cross, but Native Americans also could not leave).
- Schools were also set up to 'civilise' Native Americans and spread American culture and Christianity.
- The **Fort Laramie Treaty** was also signed in 1851 between the government and the Plains Indian nations.
- Indian nations promised not to attack travelling settlers on the Oregon Trail and allowed some roads and forts to be built on their territory.
- In return they received payments from the government.

Concentration ultimately failed to prevent conflict with Native Americans

- Some Plains Indian nations (such as the Crow) never accepted the Fort Laramie Treaty.
- Some white Americans, known as **exterminators**, thought it would be better to get rid of the Plains Indians.
- Despite this, there was very little conflict before 1858.
- In 1854, settlers began to move onto Indian lands in Kansas and Nebraska, breaking the Fort Laramie Treaty.

- In 1858, gold was discovered in Colorado and around 100,000 settlers moved onto Indian lands to try to get rich in the **Colorado Gold Rush**.
- The government did nothing to stop these movements or enforce the treaty.

The US government also increasingly took control of the Mormon territory of Utah

- Opposition to the Mormons continued to grow as many settlers complained of them charging high prices for goods.
- Others were afraid that the Mormons and Indians were planning to join forces to attack white Americans. People criticised Utah for being a **theocracy** (a state which followed religious rules, rather than the laws of the USA).
- In 1857, a new non-Mormon governor was sent to Utah with troops. Brigham Young mobilised troops to stop their advance.
- During this **Mormon War** a group of over 100 settlers were murdered by Mormons following a dispute. This event was called the **Mountain Meadow Massacre**.
- The Mormons were pardoned (not punished) but had to accept a non-Mormon governor.
- Eventually in 1896, the Mormons banned polygamy and Utah became a US state.

Test yourself

- Why had attitudes to Plains Indians changed by the 1850s?
- What was the policy of concentration?
- Why did concentration fail to prevent conflict?

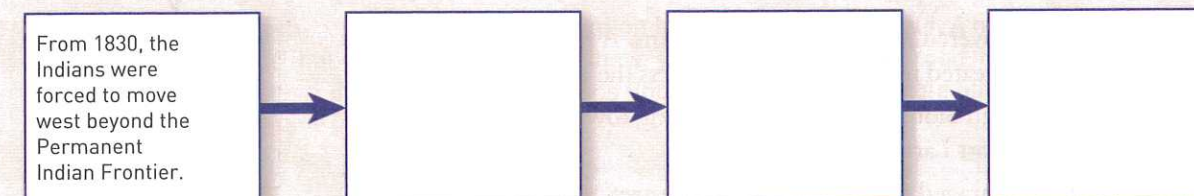
Match up the definitions

Match up the policies in column 1 with the impacts in column 2.

Policies	Impact
Indian Removal Act	Set up reservations
Trail of Tears	Set up a 'Permanent Indian Frontier'
Indian Appropriations Act	Gave government grants and allowed forts to be built
Fort Laramie Treaty	The violent movement of Indians west

Key events

Complete the flow chart to summarise the main events in the early relationship between the US government and the Native Americans.



Practice question

In what ways were the lives of Native Americans affected by the movement of Americans westwards? (8 marks)

TIP

The Practice Question is the kind you will meet as Question 5 in your exam. Don't think of it as an essay. There is no need for an introduction or a conclusion. The question asks 'In what ways ...' and you should focus on explaining the different ways clearly.

1.5 The Indian Wars

REVISED

The Cheyenne War broke out in 1863

- Due to the Colorado Gold Rush, from 1859, the number of miners, settlers and railway surveyors passing through Indian lands increased. Conflict developed with the Plains Indians.
- In 1861, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe began to attack settlers passing through their lands.
- By 1863 the Cheyenne were at war with white American **militia** (unofficial armed forces drawn from local men). Militia were used because regular soldiers were fighting in the Civil War which was going on at this time.
- Indians attacked ranches and small settlements on the Southern Plains.
- In 1864, some Cheyenne signed a treaty to end the fighting and moved onto a new reservation.
- However, fighting continued and in 1865 the fort at Julesburg was attacked by over 1,000 warriors from the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapahoe.
- The war ended in 1867, but many Cheyenne continued to fight and joined in Red Cloud's war.

The Sand Creek Massacre was an attack on a band of peaceful Indians

- The Colorado militia was one of the many militia which had been formed to fight against the Cheyenne.
- In 1864, a band of Cheyenne led by Black Kettle had agreed to peace talks and moved onto a reservation at Sand Creek.
- Black Kettle flew a US flag over his tipi as a symbol of peace.
- Colonel Chivington led 700 soldiers in an attack on the camp. Around 150 Indians were killed. Initially this was seen as a great victory for the militia.
- In a Congressional enquiry, it was revealed that most of the dead were women, children and the elderly. The soldiers also scalped the Indians.
- Although Chivington was never punished, the event became known as the Sand Creek Massacre.

War with the Sioux (Red Cloud's War) broke out in 1865

- In 1862, gold was discovered in the Rocky Mountains. A new trail, the **Bozeman trail**, was created to allow miners to access the area.
- This trail passed through Sioux lands and new mining towns were built. This again broke the Fort Laramie Treaty.
- The government encouraged miners to move to the area, as the country was short of money after four years of Civil War.
- In 1865, the Sioux began to attack travellers along the trail. The Sioux warrior **Red Cloud** led a force of many Sioux bands and even some allies from the Cheyenne and Arapahoe.
- The government tried to open peace talks, but continued to build forts along the trail. Red Cloud broke off negotiations and attacked the army.
- Although the Indians could not capture the US forts, they were able to lay siege to them (trap the soldiers inside) and attack parties that left the forts.
- The Indian forces also managed to prevent travellers from using the trail and even continued fighting throughout the winter.

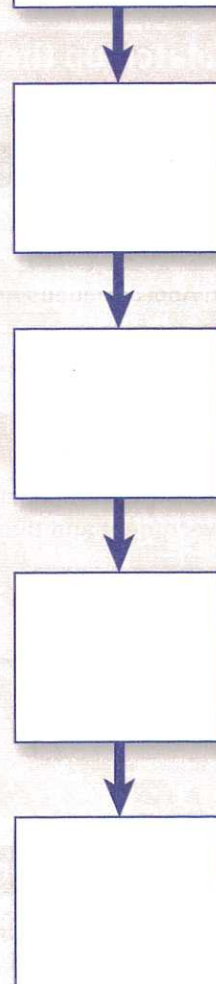
Key point

The discovery of gold led to war between the Indians and US government. Neither side could fully defeat the other, leading to further negotiation over land.

Key events

Complete the flow chart to summarise the key events of the Cheyenne War and Red Cloud's War.

In 1859 the Colorado gold rush led thousands of miners to move onto Cheyenne lands.



80 US soldiers were trapped and killed in the Fetterman Massacre

- Fort Phil Kearney was surrounded by Indian forces. The commander Colonel Carrington ordered his soldiers not to stray too far from the fort to avoid an ambush.
- In December 1866, a group of 80 men led by Captain William Fetterman rode out from the fort to protect a wood train.
- They were ordered not to ride past Lodge Trail Ridge, but Fetterman saw an opportunity to inflict a defeat on the Indians.
- His men were lured into a trap and ambushed. All of the men were killed and their bodies mutilated.
- Some historians blame Fetterman for falling into the Indian trap.

The war was ended by a Second Fort Laramie Treaty

- The government was not able to defeat the Indians led by Red Cloud and they were forced to negotiate.
- In 1868 the Second Fort Laramie Treaty was agreed.
- The US forces withdrew from the forts and the Great Sioux Reservation was created. No non-Indians were ever to be allowed to enter this area.
- The Sioux burned the forts and many moved onto the reservation.
- Red Cloud agreed to the Treaty, but some Sioux continued fighting under the leadership of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull.

Practice question

Study Interpretations A and B.

- 1 How do these two interpretations differ? (4 marks)
- 2 Why might these two interpretations differ? (4 marks)
- 3 Which of these interpretations do you find most convincing about the events at Sand Creek? (8 marks)

INTERPRETATION A *An editorial (leading article) from the Rocky Mountain News, a newspaper published in Colorado.*

The Indian camp was well supplied with defensive works. For half a mile along the creek there was an almost continuous chain of rifle-pits, and another similar line of works crowned the adjacent bluff. Pits had been dug at all the salient points for miles. After the battle twenty-three dead Indians were taken from one of these pits and twenty-seven from another.

Whether viewed as a march or as a battle, the exploit has few, if any, parallels. A march of 260 miles in but a fraction more than five days, with deep snow, scanty forage, and no road, is a remarkable feat, whilst the utter surprise of a large Indian village is unprecedented. In no single battle in North America, we believe, have so many Indians been slain.

INTERPRETATION B *From A Misplaced Massacre by historian Ari Kelman, who uses the testimony of George Bent (an eyewitness to the Sand Creek Massacre)*

Bent related that when the soldiers arrived at Sand Creek just before dawn, he had heard shouts warning of their approach. Startled, he dashed from his lodge and "saw that Black Kettle had a flag up on a long pole to show to the troops that the camp was friendly." Chivington's men ignored the signal and "opened fire from all sides." Bent then discovered "[hiding Indians] who had dug pits under the high banks of the creek." These makeshift holes in the sand were the trenches that Chivington later insisted proved that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes had prepared in advance for combat.

Test yourself

- 1 What were the causes of the Cheyenne War and the Sioux War?
- 2 What was the Sand Creek Massacre?
- 3 What was the Fetterman Massacre?
- 4 What was the Second Fort Laramie Treaty?

TIP

In your exam you have about 1 minute writing time per mark! So in these interpretation questions don't waste time on the first two lower-tariff questions. Save time for the 8-mark question.

1.6 The American Civil War

REVISED

Differences between the North and South were a long-term factor in the Civil War

- The climate in the South was well suited to crops such as cotton and tobacco. The South made a lot of money selling cotton to Britain and Europe.
- Much of this was grown on plantations worked by slaves. Around a quarter of the population of the South depended on slavery for their income.
- The Northern states were more industrialised. Slavery had disappeared in the North by 1804. Northerners were worried about competing with slave labour and there was a growing **abolition** movement to abolish slavery.
- The Anti-Slavery Society was set up in 1832 and called for an end to slavery and equal rights for freed slaves.
- There was also disagreement about trade, with the South favouring open trade and the North wanting their industries protected from competition.
- However, because there were equal numbers of Northern **free states** (states where slavery was banned) and Southern **slave states**, both sides had to compromise.

Key point

The issue of slavery and westward expansion led to a devastating war between North and South.

Westward expansion increased conflict between North and South

- As territories in the West were settled, they could eventually apply to become US states.
- The states joining the Union were balanced between slave and free states, but in 1819 Missouri was due to join as a slave state.
- The Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to join, but Maine was also created as a free state to maintain the balance. No new slave states were allowed in the North.
- With the increased expansion after 1848 the balance was upset. This led to the Compromise of 1850, which allowed California to join as a free state.
- It gave power to the states in the south-west to decide on whether to become free or slave states.
- When two new states (Kansas and Nebraska) were created in 1854 it was decided that these states could also vote on whether to become slave states.
- This led to the formation of the **Republican Party** which was a Northern party opposing slavery.
- It also led to chaos in Kansas where pro-slavery supporters poured in to vote for Kansas to become a slave state. Violence broke out between the two sides in a period referred to as **Bleeding Kansas**.

Fears of abolition led Southern states to leave the Union

- In 1859 a famous abolitionist called **John Brown** attacked a weapons store at **Harpers Ferry**.
- He was captured and hanged, but rumours spread that Brown had been planning to lead an armed slave rebellion.
- Many Southerners became afraid that the North intended to attack the South and end slavery.

- Then in 1860, **Abraham Lincoln** was elected as the first Republican President. He was a strong opponent of slavery.
- Although Lincoln claimed he had no intention of ending slavery in the South, a number of Southern states seceded (left the Union) in fear. These states formed the **Confederacy**.
- This led to the four year civil war between the Union and the Confederacy.

The American Civil War had a devastating impact on both North and South

- **Conscription** (forced recruitment into the army) was introduced in both the North and South. This caused a lot of anger because there were **exemptions** (ways to avoid conscription) for the rich.
- In 1863, the **Emancipation Proclamation** ended slavery in the United States. Many African-Americans joined the Union forces.
- By the end of the war in 1865, a number of industries in the North had been badly affected.
- There was also **inflation** (rising prices) at the same time as wages fell.
- However, the economic effects in the South were even worse.
- The railroad system was destroyed and the crucial cotton industry was badly disrupted.
- Inflation in the South became so bad it was classed as **hyperinflation**.



Test yourself

- 1 Why did Westward expansion cause conflict between North and South?
- 2 Why did Southern states leave the Union in 1860?
- 3 What were the effects of the war on the South?



Develop the explanation

Copy and complete the table below to explain how each of the following factors led to conflict between North and South

Factor	Developed explanation
Economic differences between North and South.	The North wanted to protect its industries, but the South wanted free trade for cotton exports.
The creation of new states.	
Kansas and Nebraska joining the Union.	
The founding of the Republican Party.	
John Brown's attack on Harpers Ferry.	
The election of Abraham Lincoln.	



Improve the paragraph

Which of the following was the most important reason for conflict between North and South?

- Slavery
- Westward expansion (12 marks)

The paragraph below is missing a key feature of a successful answer. Work out what is missing and rewrite the answer to improve it.

Slavery was an important reason for the development of conflict. The North did not want slavery and the South did. Some states that joined the union had slavery and some did not. This was fine as long as they were balanced, but when they weren't balanced this led to violence. People in the South got more and more worried and so eventually they left.

1.7 The aftermath of the American Civil War

REVISED

The status of former slaves and the Confederate states were the main issues after the war

- The period after the war is known as the **Reconstruction**. Before the war ended, Lincoln developed a plan to readmit the Southern states into the Union.
- Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 and replaced by President Andrew Johnson.
- Johnson wanted to allow all of the Southern states to rejoin the Union. Southerners had to swear an oath of allegiance to the Union and they would then have their property returned.
- The state governments in the South also had to agree to the new **Thirteenth Amendment** which formally ended slavery in the USA.
- They also had to agree to scrap loans made to the North during the war, which a number of states refused to do.
- The Southern states also passed **black codes**, which restricted the rights of freed slaves.

Key point

The Reconstruction period saw the Southern states readmitted to the Union, but failed to fully guarantee the rights of African-Americans.

Congress attempted to force a Radical Reconstruction on the South

- In 1866, the Republicans gained control of Congress.
- They attempted to use the law to force the Southern states to guarantee African-American rights in a period known as Radical Reconstruction.
- Johnson attempted to **veto** (block) the Civil Rights Act to make freed slaves citizens.
- However, Congress overrode this and passed the law as the **Fourteenth Amendment**.
- This was a crucial change as the federal (national) government was interfering with state control over civil rights.
- Congress then divided the South into five districts controlled by a military governor. They would force the Southern states to write new constitutions and approve the Amendment.
- Johnson opposed this and Congress tried but failed to **impeach** him (force him out of office).
- In 1869, the **Fifteenth Amendment** was passed which gave freed slaves the right to vote in elections.
- By 1870 all of the Southern states had rejoined the Union.

Reconstruction failed in some key areas

Successes

- Education was now available to over 600,000 black pupils in the South.
- Much of the infrastructure of the South had been repaired or rebuilt.
- A number of freed slaves moved north, or to farms in the south-west where they could earn higher wages. Thousands also moved to Kansas.

Failures

- Many freed slaves were forced into share cropping where they were prevented from being free because of debt.
- Literacy tests and property requirements were used to prevent African-Americans from voting.
- Americans from voting in the South.
- The Ku Klux Klan was formed in 1866 and used violence and intimidation to attempt to prevent African-Americans from voting.

- By 1877, Reconstruction had come to an end and the federal government was focused on other issues such as conflict with Plains Indians and the expansion westwards.
- There was hatred in the South of **carpetbaggers** (Northerners who came to the South during Reconstruction) and **scallywags** (poor Southern farmers who had supported the Union in the war).

Support or challenge?

In your exams you will often have to reach a judgement and support it with evidence. This task helps you practice. Read this statement:

Reconstruction successfully guaranteed the rights of African-Americans.

Below is evidence from this period. For each one, decide whether it supports or challenges the overall statement above.

Statement	Support	Challenge
The 15th Amendment guaranteed African-Americans the right to vote.		
Literacy tests were used to disqualify black voters.		
Thousands of African-Americans were able to attend schools.		
Black codes were introduced in Southern states.		
Many African-Americans became share croppers.		

Test yourself

- What was the Reconstruction?
- What were the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments?
- In what ways did Reconstruction fail?

TIP

When examining an interpretation always read the caption. It will include important information about who wrote it and when.

Practice question

Study Interpretations C and D.

- How do these interpretations differ? (4 marks)
- Why might these interpretations differ? (4 marks)
- Which interpretation do you find most convincing about the impact of Reconstruction? (12 marks)

INTERPRETATION C An extract from historian Albert B. Moore who in his 1972 article '100 years of Reconstruction' argues that Radical Reconstruction was too forcefully imposed on the South.

The political enfranchisement of four million Negroes . . . is the most startling fact about [Radical] Reconstruction. . . . There is nothing in the history of democracy comparable to it. To give the Negroes the ballot and office—ranging from constable to governor—and the right to sit in state legislatures and in Congress, while depriving their former masters of their political fights and the South of its trained leadership, is one of the most outstanding facts in the history of Reconstruction. . . . It was a stroke of fanatical vengeance and design.

INTERPRETATION D An extract from historian Eric Foner in his book *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution (1988)*.

In some areas, violence against blacks reached staggering proportions in the immediate aftermath of the war. In Louisiana, reported a visitor from North Carolina in 1865, "they govern . . . by the pistol and the rifle." "I saw white men whipping colored men just the same as they did before the war," testified ex-slave Henry Adams, who claimed that "over two thousand colored people" were murdered in 1865 in the area around Shreveport, Louisiana. In Texas, where the army and Freedmen's Bureau proved entirely unable to establish order, blacks, according to a Bureau official, "are frequently beaten unmercifully, and shot down like wild beasts, without any provocation."

1.8 The continued settlement of the West

REVISED

After the Civil War, thousands of homesteaders went west

- The homesteaders moved onto the Plains to set up small farms.
- There were a number of reasons why so many homesteaders moved west after the Civil War:

Key point

The promise of free land encouraged thousands of homesteaders to move west. They faced significant difficulties but many of these were eventually overcome.

Land	The Civil War	The railroad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government encouraged settlers onto the Plains with the offer of free land. • The Homestead Act (1862) gave families 160 acres of free land on the Plains to farm. • Extra land was available for homesteaders who planted trees or cultivated desert land. • Millions of acres of land were made available, most of it land which had once been settled by Plains Indians. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Americans had been uprooted by the war and sought a new start in the West. • Many demobilised soldiers (soldiers who had left the army) were now unemployed and so set up as farmers on the Plains. • Many freed slaves moved west to escape continuing racism in the South. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earliest homesteaders travelled by wagon, but in 1869 travel was made far easier by the opening of the transcontinental railroad across the Plains. • This also helped homesteaders obtain equipment and supplies to support their farms. • The railroad companies also sold off cheap land either side of the railroad.

Homesteaders faced a number of problems living and farming on the Plains

- The extremes of weather and the lack of building materials made shelter a serious problem for homesteaders.
- There was also a lack of water and the **sod houses** (houses made of mud bricks) could be dirty and disease-ridden.
- Farming on the Plains was also difficult. Many homesteaders could not afford the most fertile land, which was bought up by companies.
- The land was difficult to plough and traditional crops did not grow well in the dry soil.
- Crops could also be destroyed by extreme weather, wind, trampling by buffalo or by huge clouds of grasshoppers.

The homesteaders found some solutions to these problems

- Many homesteads failed, especially during the severe droughts of the 1870s.
- However, some homesteaders managed to build successful farms.
- One successful technique was **dry farming** where the land was ploughed after rain to trap moisture in the soil.
- The introduction of **hard winter wheat** by Russian immigrants also helped as it was more suited to the soil on the Plains.
- Some homesteaders used a machine called a **sod-buster** to break through tough roots and ease farming on the Plains.
- The opening of the railroad made it easier to transport machinery to the Plains and in 1874 the **wind pump** was invented which allowed water to be drawn from the ground.
- The invention of barbed wire in the same year also allowed land to be fenced off cheaply.

Test yourself

- 1 Why did homesteaders move west?
- 2 What problems did the homesteaders face?
- 3 How were these problems solved?

Match the problems and solutions

Match up the problems in the left column with the solutions in the right column.

Problems

- The ground was too dry to support crops.
- Crops could be trampled.
- There was a lack of wood.
- There was a lack of rainfall.
- The land on the Plains was tough to plough.

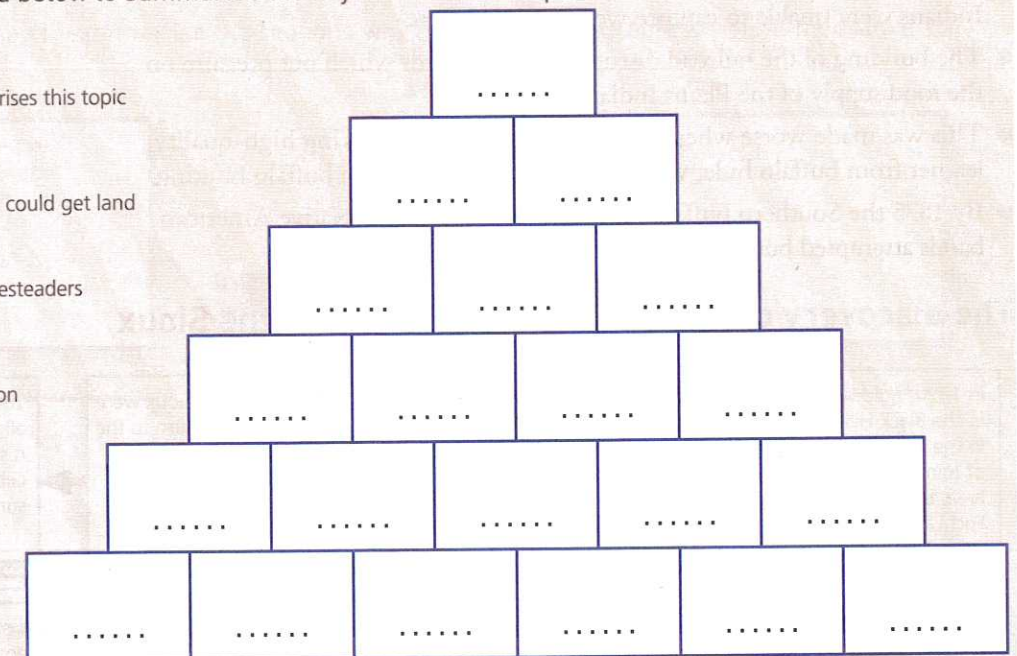
Solutions

- Sod-buster
- Barbed wire
- Dry farming
- Sod houses
- Wind pump

Summary pyramid

Complete the pyramid below to summarise the key details of the topic.

- **One** word which summarises this topic
- **Two** ways homesteaders could get land
- **Three** reasons why homesteaders moved west
- **Four** problems of living on the Plains
- **Five** solutions to homesteaders' problems
- **Six** words to describe the Homestead Act



Practice question

Which of the following was the most important reason why the homesteaders went west?

- The end of the Civil War
- The opening of the transcontinental railroad (12 marks)

TIP

The highest marks in the mark scheme are reserved for candidates who show 'complex thinking'. What this means varies according to the type of question. Complex thinking for this question would be showing that you can explain the different **nature** of the impact – how many people were affected by each development, and over what time scale.

1.9 The resolution of the 'Indian Problem'

REVISED

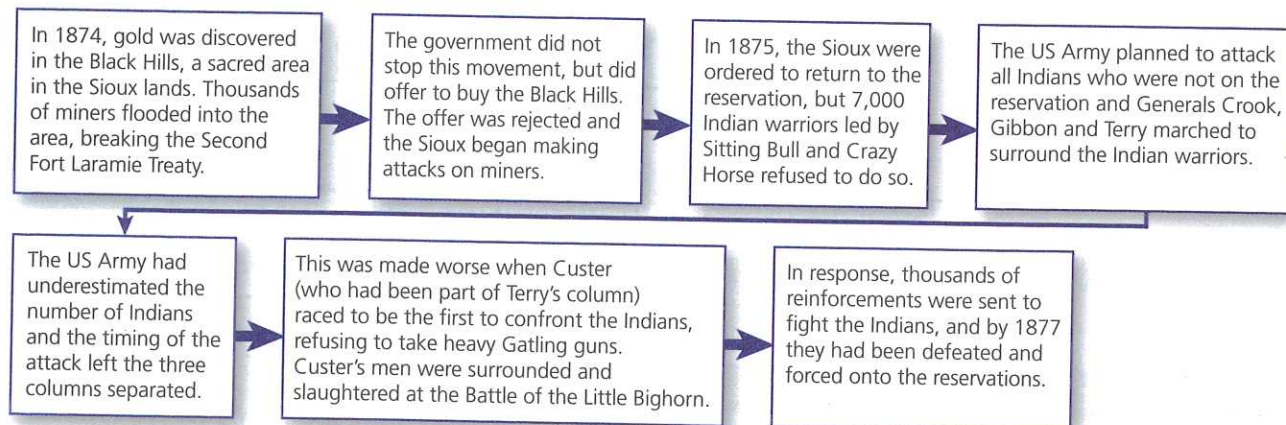
The end of the Civil War led to increased conflict with the Plains Indians

- The movement of thousands of homesteaders onto the Plains caused conflict with the Native Americans on the Plains.
- The US Army also had a number of well-trained troops available because of the end of the Civil War.
- Officers in the army began to develop new strategies such as **total war**. This involved fighting against the whole Indian population by destroying their food and shelter. This forced many Indians onto the reservations.
- The army also began to fight **winter campaigns** when it was much more difficult for Indian bands to move or retreat.
- The network of forts on the Plains also helped the army to resupply and the Indians were unable to capture well-defended forts.
- The building of the railroad disrupted buffalo herds which put pressure on the food supply of the Plains Indians.
- This was made worse when a method was found for making high-quality leather from buffalo hide, which led to a massive surge in buffalo hunting.
- By 1875 the Southern buffalo herd had been destroyed. Native American bands attempted but failed to drive hunters off the Plains.

Key point

Following the end of the Civil War, the US Army waged total war against the Native Americans and forced them onto reservations which destroyed their culture and lifestyle.

The discovery of gold led to all-out war with the Sioux



Reservations attempted to break Native American culture and fighting spirit

- The destruction of the buffalo continued and by 1883 the Northern herd had been destroyed.
- Reservations were split up into smaller areas of land, which prevented the Indians from following a nomadic lifestyle.
- Rations were soon distributed to families rather than chiefs to reduce their power over bands.
- In 1887, the **Dawes Act** broke up the reservations further into small individual plots of land. Indians were encouraged to become farmers.
- Native Americans were also banned from leaving the reservations to hunt or fight.
- Native American religious ceremonies were also banned and boarding schools attempted to eradicate Native American culture among children.



Test yourself

- 1 Why was there increased conflict following the end of the Civil War?
- 2 How did the reservations destroy Native American culture?
- 3 What was the Battle of Little Bighorn?
- 4 What was the Ghost Dance movement?

The Battle of Wounded Knee finally ended the resistance of Native Americans

- A new religious movement called the **Ghost Dance Movement** spread through the reservations from 1889.
- Many Indians believed that the dead would come back to life, the buffalo would be restored and the white Americans would disappear.
- The US government was threatened by this and the army was ordered to force all Indians back on to the reservations.
- In 1890 a band of Indians were moved to Wounded Knee where they were shot. 146 Indians were killed in the **Wounded Knee Massacre**.
- The removal of the final Indian bands from the Plains opened up millions of acres of land for Americans to settle.



Practice question

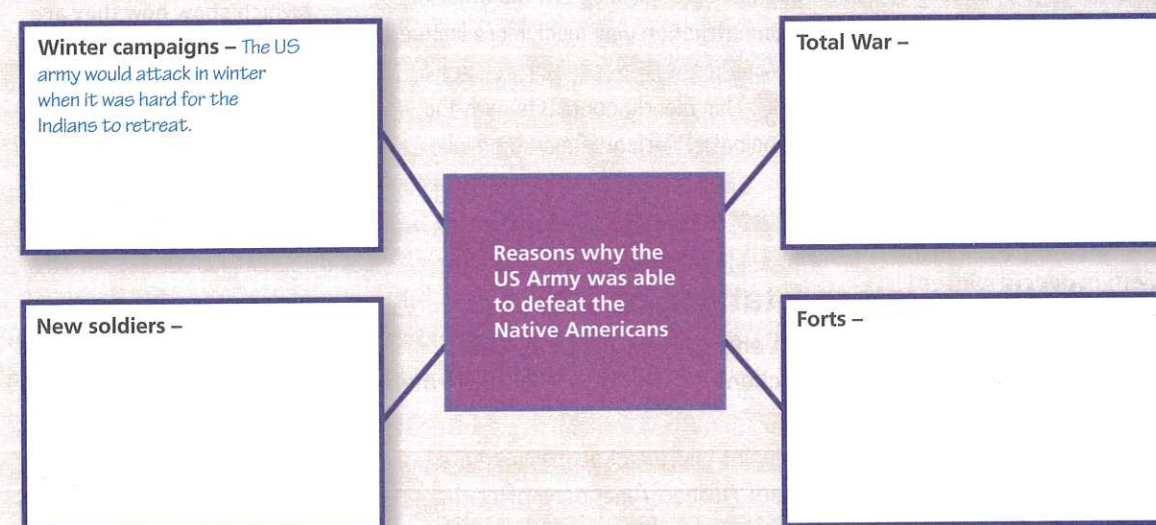
Describe two reasons why the US Army was able to force Native Americans onto the reservations.

(4 marks)



Topic summary

Complete the mind map to summarise the reasons why the US Army was able to defeat the Native Americans.



Develop the explanation

Explain how each of the following helped to destroy Native American culture and lifestyle.

Feature or action	Explanation
Boarding schools	Tried to eradicate Indian culture and raise Indian children to be Christian and follow American values.
The Dawes Act	
Destruction of the buffalo	
Ban on religious ceremonies	
Rations distributed to families	

Exam focus: America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation

Model answers

Here are model answers for each of the question types on the America Period Study. The annotations highlight what makes it a good answer.

These questions are based on Interpretations A and B on page 21.

Question 1: How do interpretations differ?

How does Interpretation A differ from Interpretation B about the impact of Reconstruction in the South?

(4 marks)

These interpretations differ in their view of the impact of Reconstruction in the South. Interpretation A suggests that the Reconstruction transformed the rights of African-Americans in the South by giving them political power, even stating that 'there is nothing in the history of democracy comparable to it'. On the other hand, Interpretation B suggests the impact of Reconstruction was much more limited, due to the rise of violence against African-Americans. It describes violence in some areas reaching 'staggering proportions'. This clearly contrasts with the sense given in Interpretation A of fully emancipated African-Americans who enjoyed full political rights.

The answer opens by clearly addressing the question. It gives a way in which the interpretations are different.

The answer then uses details from the interpretations which show how they are different.

Here the answer explains what is significant about these differences by explaining what the detail in each interpretation suggests.

Question 2: Why do interpretations differ?

Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about Reconstruction?

(4 marks)

These interpretations differ due to the viewpoint and focus of their authors. Although both consider the changing status of African-Americans after the Civil War, the author of Interpretation A also focuses on the impact on the rights of the former slaveowners, suggesting that they were 'deprived of their former rights'. The author of Interpretation A also takes a broad view of Reconstruction, focusing on the 'enfranchisement of four million', whereas the author of Interpretation B instead highlights individual accounts of violence carried out against African-Americans which makes the Reconstruction seem far less positive. The title of Foner's book calls Reconstruction an 'unfinished revolution' which suggests that his view is that Reconstruction failed to fully transform the rights of ex-slaves, and this argument is clearly reflected in this extract.

Here the answer clearly addresses the question in the first sentence. You should identify whether the nature, origin or purpose of the interpretations helps to explain the differences.

Here the answer identifies information about the provenance of the interpretation which helps to explain its view.

Here the answer explains in detail why the provenance of the interpretation would affect its view.

Question 3: How convincing are these interpretations?

Which interpretation do you find more convincing about Reconstruction?

(8 marks)

Interpretation A is convincing as it suggests that the Reconstruction marked a radical break with the former rights of African-Americans. The author suggests that four million African-Americans were 'enfranchised', which was the result of the Fifteenth Amendment which gave all Americans the right to vote regardless of race. This followed the ending of slavery in the Thirteenth Amendment and the granting of citizenship in the Fourteenth Amendment. Despite the hyperbole of the statement, there is even some truth in the claim that former slaveowners were 'deprived of their political rights', as during the Radical Reconstruction phase the South was placed under the control of military governors to ensure compliance with the amendments. However, despite this guarantee of the right to vote, the reality was very different for many African-Americans who were prevented from voting by black codes, literacy tests and property qualifications.

The answer opens by directly addressing the question and dealing with one of the interpretations given.

Here the answer identifies a detail in the interpretation and explains what it suggests.

Interpretation B rightly identifies violence as a problem for many African-Americans in the South following the Civil War, quoting one witness as suggesting that African-Americans were 'frequently beaten unmercifully'. The KKK was formed in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War and used violence and intimidation to prevent African-Americans from exercising their political rights. This was the reason why many African-Americans, such as the exodusters, left the South in the decades following the Civil War. However, the interpretation does ignore some of the genuine achievements of Reconstruction, such as the growth of public education for African-Americans in the South.

Specific own knowledge is used to evaluate the information in the interpretation.

Overall, Interpretation B is slightly more convincing in its view of what life was like for African-Americans who remained in the South, particularly the Deep South. Interpretation A addresses many of the changes made at federal level, but fails to appreciate the limited impact of these changes for many African-Americans.

The answer closes with an overall judgement about which interpretation is most convincing and explains this decision.

Question 4: Describe two ways

Describe two reasons why the belief in Manifest Destiny became popular.

(4 marks)

One reason the belief in Manifest Destiny became popular was due to the movement of Americans West. The opening of the Oregon Trail led to more Americans settling in Oregon and California and so these were increasingly seen as areas which the US had a right to claim. Another reason was the Mexican-American War, which led the US gaining control of much of the land in the West, leading to a desire to control the entire continent.

The answer starts by directly addressing the question and giving one relevant detail.

Here the answer adds a little explanation to show the relevance of the point given.

The answer also gives a second relevant detail.

Question 5: In what ways ... ?

In what ways were the lives of Native Americans affected by the development of reservations? (8 marks)

One effect of reservation policy on Native Americans was to develop a dependency on the government. After the Great Sioux War, the amount of land given over to reservations was limited, which made the reservations unsuitable as hunting grounds for buffalo herds which moved throughout the year. Native Americans were banned from leaving the reservations to hunt. As a result, they depended on rations distributed by the government in order to survive. To break other ties of loyalty, the rations were soon distributed to individual families rather than the chief, so that each family owed its loyalty to the government and its Indian Agents.

Another effect was to destroy Native American culture. Native American children on the reservation were often taken away to attend white boarding schools, with the aim of making them Christians and removing their culture. Important religious practices like the Sun Dance were also banned, and the Dawes Act broke up the reservations into small family plots of land, which forced the Native Americans to farm and damaged the cohesion of the bands. This destroyed their nomadic lifestyle, and the importance of the band in their culture, which undermined many of the other practices which Native Americans had followed for centuries.

Each paragraph opens with one clear point which addresses the question.

Specific own knowledge is used to develop this point.

The answer explains the relevance of this knowledge by linking back to the question at the end of the paragraph.

Question 6: Which reason?

Which of the following was the most important reason for conflict between North and South?

- Slavery
- Westward expansion

Explain your answer with reference to both reasons.

(12 marks)

Slavery was one important reason for the conflict between North and South. These arguments led to violence in 'Bleeding Kansas' as thousands of settlers moved into the territory in order to influence the vote over whether Kansas should be a slave or free state. This led to violent attacks like the one at Lawrence, which escalated to a conflict in which hundreds were killed. John Brown's attack at Harpers Ferry also convinced many in the South that Northern abolitionists wished to encourage a slave rebellion, and this, combined with the election of Lincoln in 1860, eventually sparked the Civil War. Even though Lincoln insisted he would not end slavery in the South, Southerners had become convinced that this was the aim of the Republican Party, and therefore a number of Southern states seceded.

However, many of these conflicts had their roots in westward expansion. The conflict over Kansas had actually been triggered by the proposed route of a new railroad to support the further expansion West, and which created the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska. The issue of new territories had been problematic since the accession of Missouri in 1820, and continued to cause problems. This came to a head in 1850 when the balance of free and slave states was broken, and although a temporary compromise was reached, it was not long until this led to conflict in Kansas.

Although slavery was the immediate trigger for the Civil War, it would never have become a national issue if it had not been for the westward expansion. By continually reigniting the debate between pro-slavery and free-soil groups, westward expansion was the reason why disputes over slavery erupted into violence and conflict.

Each paragraph addresses one of the reasons given in the question. It opens with a sentence showing which reason is being considered.

The answer uses specific own knowledge to show the role of this reason.

The answer then links back to the question and explains the importance of this reason.

The answer gives a judgement about which reason was most important. This judgement is supported. You can show how one reason had more of an impact than the other, or look at how the reasons might be linked.

Glossary: America, 1840–1895: Expansion and consolidation

Abolition Opposition to slavery.

Bands Small groups of Plains Indians who lived and hunted together.

Blasphemy Speaking about God or religious matters in a rude or disrespectful manner.

Bozeman Trail A new trail which was opened across Indian lands, causing conflict with white settlers.

Conscription Forced recruitment into the army.

Concentration The US policy of moving Native Americans onto reservations and limiting their travel.

Counting coup A non-lethal form of Indian warfare where fighters tried to touch each other with sticks.

Dawes Act A law which broke up the reservations into smaller areas of land.

Dry farming A farming method where the ground is ploughed just after rain to hold moisture.

Exterminators White Americans who believed that Native Americans should be removed from their land or killed.

Fifteenth Amendment A law which gave all Americans the right to vote, including ex-slaves.

Fort Laramie Treaty A treaty in 1851 which agreed Indian lands and gave government support if they agreed not to attack white settlers.

Fourteenth Amendment A law which gave ex-slaves citizenship.

Free state A state where slavery was banned.

Ghost Dance Movement A movement which promised that

the buffalo would return and white Americans would disappear from Indian lands. **Depression** An economic crisis which tends to lead to unemployment.

Gold Rush A rapid movement of people to any area where gold has been discovered, as in California in 1849.

Great American Desert A way Americans referred to the Great Plains in the 1820s.

Great Plains Region in central USA between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi river.

Hyperinflation When prices rise so quickly that money becomes effectively worthless.

Impeach To force a President out of office.

Indian Appropriations Act A law in 1851 which set up reservations.

Indian Removal Act A law passed in 1830 which set up a permanent frontier which Native Americans had to live beyond.

Irrigation Man-made water channels to water crops.

Manifest Destiny The idea that the US had a God-given right to take control of the whole continent of America.

Militia An unofficial group of soldiers drawn from local men.

Mountain Meadow Massacre An attack on white settlers by a group of Mormons which led to criticism of the Mormons.

Permanent Indian Frontier A boundary which marked out Indian land, created in 1830.

Perpetual Emigrating Fund A fund set up by the Mormons to pay for the travel of European migrants to join the settlement at Salt Lake.

Polygamy Having more than one husband or wife at the same time.

Reconstruction The efforts to bring the Southern states back into the Union after the Civil War.

Republican Party A US political party created in the 1850s. It was mostly anti-slavery.

Reservations Areas of land where Native Americans were forced to live. White settlers were not supposed to cross these areas.

Scalping Taking the skin from the top of the head of an enemy after defeating them in battle.

Share cropping A system of work where workers were kept in debt and forced to work without payment.

Sod house A mud-brick house built by homesteaders on the Plains.

Theocracy A state which follows religious rules.

Thirteenth Amendment A law which banned slavery in America.

Tipi A cone-shaped tent-like structure which many Plains Indians lived in.

Total War The US Army strategy to attack Native American homes and livestock, as well as fighting their warriors.

Travois A sled used for transporting the tipi.

Winter campaigns The US Army strategy of continuing to fight Plains Indians in the winter, when they were unable to move.