

Knowledge test: American West

1. Give one feature of the climate of the Great Plains.
2. What did the Plains Indians believe about the ownership of land?
3. Why did the Plains Indians scalp their enemies?
4. Give one feature of the tipi design and explain why it was designed this way.
5. What term describes the white American belief that they had the duty to settle the whole of the American continent?
6. Name one 'push' factor that drove early settlers west.
7. What was the name of the main trail that settlers used to migrate west in the 1840s?
8. What happened in 1837 that led to Mormon unpopularity in Kirtland, Ohio?
9. Give another reason why the Mormons were unpopular in the 1830s and 1840s.
10. What were the Winter Quarters?
11. In what year did the California Gold Rush take place?
12. What were the terms of the Homestead Act?
13. When was the transcontinental railroad completed?
14. What event took place between 1861-65?
15. Who was Joseph Glidden?
16. In which state was the cattle trade based in the 1850s and 60s?

17. Who was named the Cattle King as he was the first to ranch successfully on the Plains, setting up his ranch in Wyoming in 1867?
18. Give a reason for the decline of the cattle industry in the late 1880s.
19. By the end of 1879, roughly how many black Exodusters had begun the migration to Kansas?
20. How many people are estimated to have taken part in the largest Oklahoma land rush in 1893?
21. Name the two Sioux chiefs who were leaders during the Great Sioux War.
22. In what year was the Battle of the Little Bighorn?
23. How did Custer disobey orders in the lead up to the battle?
24. When Custer split his men to attack the Sioux camp, what were the names of the two men who led the other two groups?
25. What was the surname of the three brothers (one of whom was the Town Marshall) who took part in the OK Corral shootout in 1881?
26. What name is given to those who tried to take the law into their own hands to try and improve law and order?
27. What does WSGA stand for?
28. Who held up the Invaders in the Johnson County War, giving the town of Buffalo time to prepare for the attack?
29. In what year was the Dawes Act passed?
30. Name the holy man who began the Ghost Dance movement.

AMERICAN WEST KNOWLEDGE TEST- ANSWERS

1. Give one feature of the climate of the Great Plains.
Strong winds, extremes of temperature etc.
2. What did the Plains Indians believe about the ownership of land?
Land could not be owned by an individual or nation
3. Why did the Plains Indians scalp their enemies?
They believed it would protect them in the afterlife
4. Give one feature of the tipi design and explain why it was designed this way.
Flaps at top to let out smoke so fire could be lit inside, bottom could be rolled up to let in cool air in summer, circular shape to protect against strong winds and because circles were sacred to the Indians, Faced east so door opened to rising sun,
5. What term describes the white American belief that they had the duty to settle the whole of the American continent?
Manifest destiny
6. Name one 'push' factor that drove early settlers west.
'Overcrowding' of eastern cities, economic crisis, younger sons seeking land
7. What was the name of the main trail that settlers used to migrate west in the 1840s? **Oregon Trail**
8. What happened in 1837 that led to Mormon unpopularity in Kirtland, Ohio? **Mormon bank collapsed**
9. Give another reason why the Mormons were unpopular in the 1830s and 1840s. **Polygamy, Joseph Smith running for President, friendliness with Indians, jealousy of success**
10. What were the Winter Quarters? **Where the Mormons set up camp on the edge of the Mississippi to see out the winter before crossing the Plains.**
11. In what year did the California Gold Rush take place? **1849**
12. What were the terms of the Homestead Act? **160 acres to each head of household free except for a \$10 entry fee if lived on for 5 years.**
13. When was the transcontinental railroad completed? **1869**
14. What event took place between 1861-65? **American Civil War**
15. Who was Joseph Glidden? **Invented barbed wire.**

16. In which state was the cattle trade based in the 1850s and 60s? **Texas**
17. Who was named the Cattle King as he was the first to ranch successfully on the Plains, setting up his ranch in Wyoming in 1867? **John Iliff**
18. Give a reason for the decline of the cattle industry in the late 1880s. **Harsh winter 1886-7, overgrazing, drought, conflict with homesteaders**
19. By the end of 1879, roughly how many black Exodusters had begun the migration to Kansas? **40,000**
20. How many people are estimated to have taken part in the largest Oklahoma land rush in 1893? **100,000**
21. Name the two Sioux chiefs who were leaders during the Great Sioux War. **Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull**
22. In what year was the Battle of the Little Bighorn? **1876**
23. How did Custer disobey orders in the leadup to the battle? **He went across rather than around the Wolf Mountains, he was told to wait but did not.**
24. When Custer split his men to attack the Sioux camp, what were the names of the two men who led the other two groups? **Reno and Benteen**
25. What was the surname of the three brothers (one of whom was the Town Marshall) who took part in the OK Corral shootout in 1881? **Earp**
26. What name is given to those who tried to take the law into their own hands to try and improve law and order? **Vigilantes**
27. What does WSGA stand for? **Wyoming Stock Growers Association**
28. Who held up the Invaders in the Johnson County War, giving the town of Buffalo time to prepare for the attack? **Nate Champion (and Nick Ray)**
29. In what year was the Dawes Act passed? **1887**
30. Name the holy man who began the Ghost Dance movement. **Wovoka**