

# Key dates and events

## The Early Settlement of the West 1835 - 1862

**1824** Bureau of Indian Affairs  
set up

**1830** Indian Removal Act passed

**1836** Oregon Trail opened

**1837** Economic Depression

**1837** The Mormons left Kirtland

**1844** Smith's revelation on  
Polygamy

**1845** Manifest destiny

**1846-7** Mormon Migration

**1849** California Gold rush

**1851** Indians Appropriation  
Act

**1851** Fort Laramie Treaty

**1854** Kansas-Nebraska Act

**1857** Mormon War

**1858** Colorado Gold Rush

**1861** American Civil War  
Starts

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How many can you name?

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# American West

Paper 2 = 20% of GCSE

## Topic 1

The Early Settlement of the West

1835 - 1862

# Telling the story

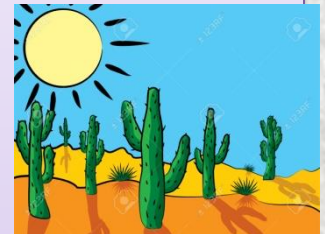
**Today = 3 stories**

1. The story of the Indians and how they were able to survive on the Plains
2. The story of the Early Settlement of the West
3. The story of the Mormons and the reasons they went west

# Story 1

Write a narrative account analysing why the  
**Indians were able to survive on the Plains**

- For thousands of years the American Indians lived on the Great Plains.
- **Despite** the fact that the land was dry, barren and desert like the Indians were able to adapt their lives to suit these conditions.
- **The first factor** that allowed them to live successfully was their nomadic lifestyle
- **Because** the Indians constantly moved across the land they were able to survive the harsh conditions
- **This was due to** their ability to hunt the buffalo



# Story 1

Write a narrative account analysing why the Indians were able to survive on the Plains

- The Buffalo was key to the Indians survival as it provided them with all the necessities for life.
- **Due to** the lack of resources the buffalo became the main source of food with the flesh eaten and organs like the tongue and heart also being eaten as a delicacy
- **In turn** the Dung was used as a fuel to warm the Indians on the cold nights
- **Additionally** the Tanned hide of the buffalo provided the Indians with shelter.



# Story 1

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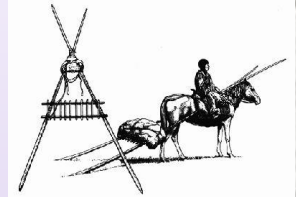
- **As a result** of the Tipi being made from buffalo skin, it allowed the Indians to overcome the lack of wood in a way that suited their lives.
- **As** the buffalo skin could easily be removed in hot days but when pegged down it provided excellent insulation for the cold nights and winters.
- **In addition to this** the Tipi could be easily packed away into the travois and moved when the resources in the area ran out.



# Story 1

Write a narrative account analysing why the Indians were able to survive on the Plains

- The Travois could then be connected to the horse **enabling** easy transportation.



- The horses had an additional function of **aiding** in hunting and warfare which was a key part of life on the plains as it allowed the Indians more speed and stamina.

- **Therefore** the horse became a symbol of status and wealth amongst the Plains Indians as well as aiding their survival





## Story 2

Write a narrative account analysing why the **early settlers began to move west** from 1836 to 1861

- Before 1836 the West of America was seen as Indian land, land that the white Americans did not want due to it being unfit for habitation. This all began to change in the period 1836 to 1861
- Look at the timeline on the next page – which events would be used to show this?

## Story 2

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## Story 2

Write a narrative account analysing why the **early settlers began to move west** from 1836 to 1861

- The Mountain Men were the first group to explore the West as they moved through the Rocky Mountains in search of beavers which could be sold for their pelts
- The Mountain men were **a catalyst** for the movement West by the White Americans **as** they told stories about the riches of California and Oregon as the lands of plenty where the sun always shone and kinds of fruit including grapes, oranges and figs could be grown.
- These stories spread the message of the West.



## Story 2

Write a narrative account analysing why the **early settlers began to move west** from 1836 to 1861

- Those who wished to go based on the Mountain men's stories were **enabled due to** the opening of the Oregon trail 1836 **which made** the journey easier it gave the early settlers guidance on the 3000km journey to the West.
- **The Oregon trail soon became** more popular as the Economic Depression of 1837 created poverty in the East and wages dropped by 40% and unemployment rose.
- The Oregon trail **offered the opportunity** to escape this and to seek new opportunities in the West.



## Story 2

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- **This movement West increased** when Gold was discovered in Sutter's Mill in the foothills the Sierra Nevada in California in 1848.
- News of this discovery spread like wildfire in newspapers across America and beyond.
- **Consequently** by 1849 miners were arriving from around the world in the hopes of striking it rich.
- **As a result of this** the population of California rose from 15,000 in 1848 to 250,000 in 1852.
- **Due to** the high numbers of travellers using the Oregon Trail the government needed to take action as attacks by Indians were becoming a problem.



## Story 2

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- **This led to** the signing of the Fort Laramie Treaty in 1851 which allowed the US to build Roads and forts on Indian land and ensured that the settlers had protection from attacks, **this in turn increased** the numbers going West
- **Especially after** the second discovery of Gold, this time in the Rocky Mountains, Colorado in 1858. In just 3 years roughly 100,000 miners rushed West looking to get rich quick. Many of these miners then stayed on in the West.
- **By** 1860, Central City had a population of 60,000 people and Denver and Golden were substantial towns serving the mines.



## Story 3

Write a narrative account analysing why **Mormons moved West** in the years 1837 to 1847

- In 1847 the Mormons – a religious group lead first by Joseph Smith and later by Brigham Young moved from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City along the Mormon Trail.
- They did this largely because of persecution in the West which was caused for a number of reasons or because of a number of key events
- Look at the timeline on the next page – which events would be used to explain this?

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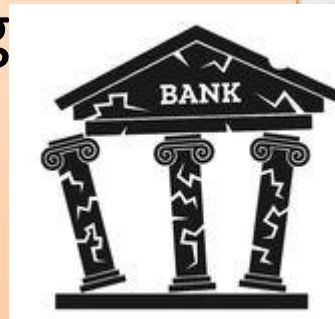
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## Story 3

Write a narrative account analysing why **Mormons moved West** in the years 1837 to 1847

- In 1827 Joseph Smith wrote the book on Mormon and began the Mormon religion.
- He moved his followers to Kirtland in 1831 and told them to begin building God's kingdom in America.
- **However** things quickly started to go wrong
- In 1837 the Economic depression hit America, **this caused** the Mormon Banks to collapse in Kirtland
- **This resulted in** hatred for the Mormons in Kirtland as many gentiles lost all of their savings **causing** them to move to Missouri in 1837.



## Story 3

Write a narrative account analysing why **Mormons moved West** in the years 1837 to 1847

- Missouri however was a slave owning state and the Mormon were against slavery as they believed all people were equal.
- Dislike of slavery **increased the problems the Mormons faced**. The local settlers rioted and the governor had to use the Army to restore order.
- The Mormons were again blamed and **so** were forced to leave Missouri in 1838.
- **Due to this** they travelled to Nauvoo where they were allowed to build their own independent city state. By this point their numbers had grown to 35,000



# Story 3

Write a narrative account analysing why **Mormons moved West** in the years 1837 to 1847

- **As** the news of polygamy spread the gentiles were shocked as they believed it was sin.
- **The final straw** came in 1844 when Smith announced he was running for president.
- Smith was arrested and in 1845 a mob attacked the jail and Smith was shot and killed
- **This enabled** Brigham Young to take over as the new leader of the Mormons.
- As the problems worsened Young realised that the only way to overcome them was to find a place no-one wanted
- **This led to** decision to move to Salt Lake Valley, an isolated and barren area.



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# Homework

## Telling the story

Choose one of the questions below

1. Write a narrative account analysing why the American Indians and Settlers came into conflict in the years 1836 to 1861
2. Write a narrative account analysing why the Mormons and the US government came into conflict in the year 1836 to 1857
3. Write a narrative account analysing why settlers began to move to the Great Plains in the years 1837 to 1861