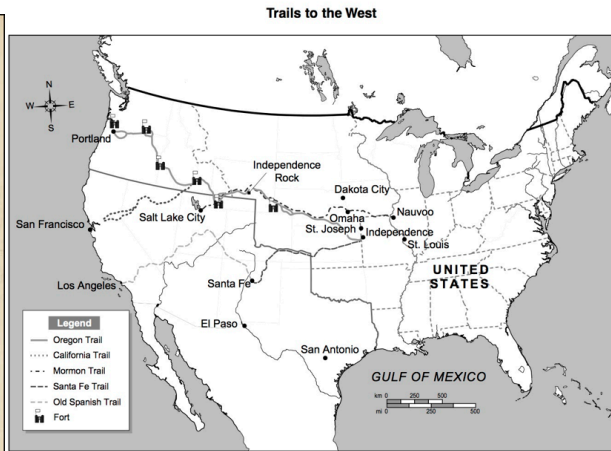


# Settling the Western Frontier



“The Great American Desert”  
so-named by Major Stephen H. Long when  
explored the area in 1820  
made people not want to settle here; would  
travel to CA by boat instead

many people did, in fact, travel west

# Transcontinental Railroad



much debate: northern v. southern route

the federal government loaned funds and gave land grants to the companies building the railroad

became a “race”

Union Pacific built west from Omaha

Central Pacific built east from Sacramento

employed thousands of Irish and Chinese immigrants

completed on May 10, 1869 at Promontory Point, UT at the “golden spike” ceremony

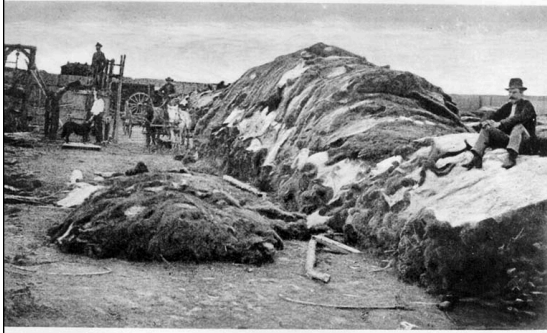
# Native Americans of the West

were nomadic nations in search of food  
(Sioux, Comanche, etc.)

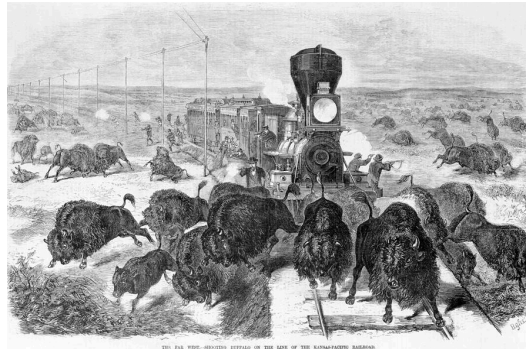
much wildlife: jackrabbits, prairie dogs,  
wolves, coyotes, etc.

ESPECIALLY bison (buffalo): roamed  
vast distances following them  
used their furs and skins (leather), bones  
for fertilizer

were horse nations  
Spanish missionaries had introduced the  
horse to them in the 1600s  
(had previously used dogs to carry items)  
the 1680 Pueblo revolt (*Pope's Rebellion*)  
scared the missionaries away  
they released their horses into the wild  
use of the horse made them much more  
effective hunters (buffalo) and fighters



RATH & WRIGHT'S BUFFALO HIDE YARD IN 1876, SHOWING 40,000 BUFFALO HIDES. DODGE CITY, KANSAS  
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH



THE PAI UTE, BEHIND BUFFALO IN THE WAY OF THE KANSAAS RAILROAD

westward-migrating Americans killed the buffalo at first for food  
then for profit, then to clear the area for railroads (for sport!)

# Native American Conflicts



Title: Looking southwest, Sand Creek or Chivington Massacre, 1864.  
Artist: O. Y. Rookstool

Women and children panic behind trees in the foreground, warriors and soldiers fight among tepees in the background.

**Sand Creek Massacre (1864)**  
Colonel J. M. Chivington's militia massacred some four hundred Indians who apparently thought they had been promised immunity  
*women were shot praying for mercy, children had their brains dashed out, and braves were tortured, scalped, and unspeakably mutilated*



**Little Bighorn (June, 1876)**  
(AKA Custer's Last Stand)

1874: miners flood into Sioux and Cheyenne lands in Dakotas

Sioux under Chiefs Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse attacked settlers

Gen. George Custer attacked at Little Bighorn River; he and all his troops killed  
short-lived victory; Sioux surrendered in 1881



# The Real West: Sitting Bull and the Great Sioux Nation

What was the importance of family in Sioux life?

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What did the Sioux think of the way immigrants treated their own children?

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What were the roles of men and women in Sioux life?

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What was the importance of war in Sioux culture?

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Why did the whites want the same land that the Sioux occupied?

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What was the importance of this land to the Sioux people?

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What happened at the Fetterman Massacre?

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Was the Peace Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868 upheld? Why or why not?

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