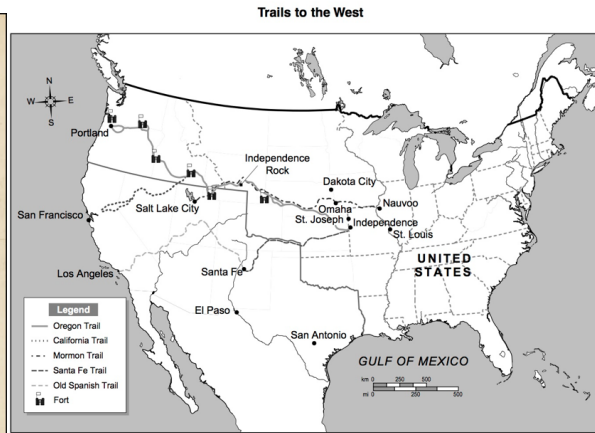


Settling the Western Frontier



“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.)

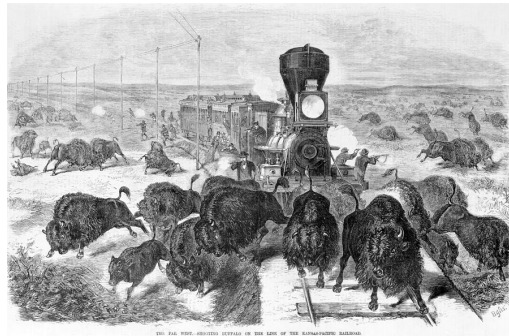
much wildlife: jackrabbits, prairie dogs,
wolves, coyotes, etc.

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



RATH & WRIGHT'S BUFFALO HIDE YARD IN 1878. SHOWING 40,000 BUFFALO HIDES. DODGE CITY, KANSAS
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY
FRANK A. PHOTOGRAPHY

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



THE GREAT BUFFALO KILLING IN THE PATH OF THE RAILROADS

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 tipis 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

