

Change and Conflict in the American West

What opportunities and conflicts emerged as Americans moved westward?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Chisholm Trail	Homestead Act
transcontinental railroad	Exoduster
Dawes Act	Populist Party

PREVIEW

As you listen to “Home on the Range,” follow along with the lyrics to the right. Then answer these questions in your notebook:

1. What interesting things do you hear in this piece of music?
2. What mood or emotions does the melody or lyrics evoke?
3. What region of the country do you think this song is referring to? How can you tell?
4. Do you think the settlement of this region had a more positive effect or a more negative effect on the person or people who wrote this song? How can you tell?
5. Do you think the settlement of this region had the same effect on all the different groups of people who lived there? Why or why not?

Home on the Range

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Chorus

Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

How often at night when the heavens are bright,
With the light of the glittering stars,
I stood there amazed and I asked as I gazed,
Does their glory exceed that of ours.

Chorus

READING NOTES

Prepare your notebook for the activity by cutting the eight faces from Notebook Handout. Tape two faces on each of four pages in your notebook. Add speech bubbles to each face, as shown below.

Follow the projected directions to complete the activity. At each station, write your notes in the speech bubbles for that group. Write every statement in first person, such as “I have an easy time finding work out west.”

The form is enclosed in a large rectangular border. It contains two identical sets of notes. The top set is for **Miners**, featuring a central illustration of a man wearing a hard hat with a headlamp. To his left is a speech bubble labeled "Negative Impact (challenges and hardships)" and to his right is a speech bubble labeled "Positive Impact (opportunities)". The bottom set is for **Ranchers and Cowboys**, featuring a central illustration of a man wearing a wide-brimmed hat. To his left is a speech bubble labeled "Negative Impact (challenges and hardships)" and to his right is a speech bubble labeled "Positive Impact (opportunities)".

PROCESSING

Write your own song about the impact of the settlement of the West on different groups of people. Use the melody to “Home on the Range” or another melody you like. Your song should include

- a repeating chorus that addresses the Essential Question: *What opportunities and conflicts emerged as Americans moved westward?*
- at least four verses. Each verse should include the name of one of the groups from the lesson—miners, ranchers and cowboys, railroad owners, railroad workers, American Indians, settlers, African Americans, or populists—and describe at least one important effect the settlement of the West had on that group.