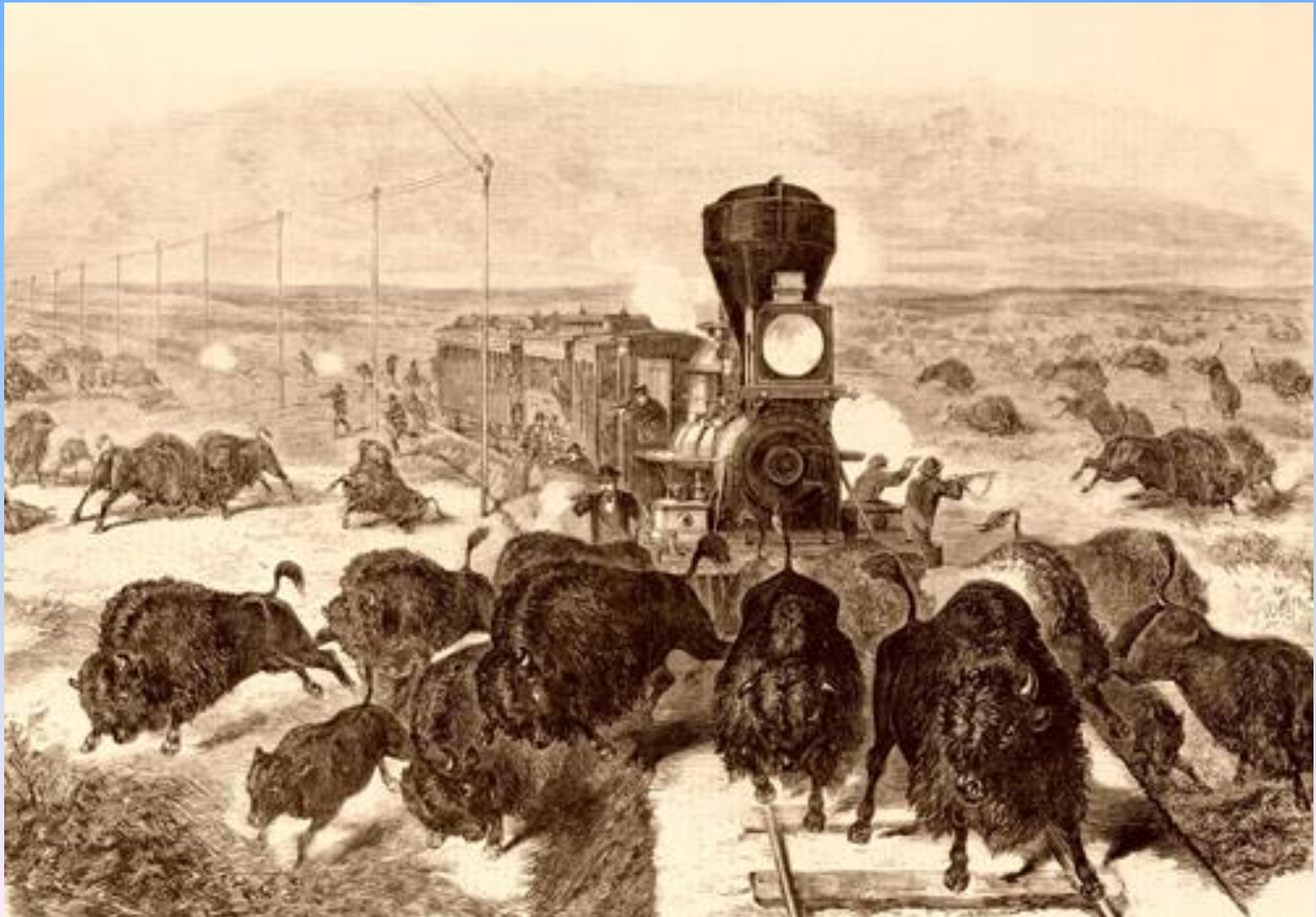


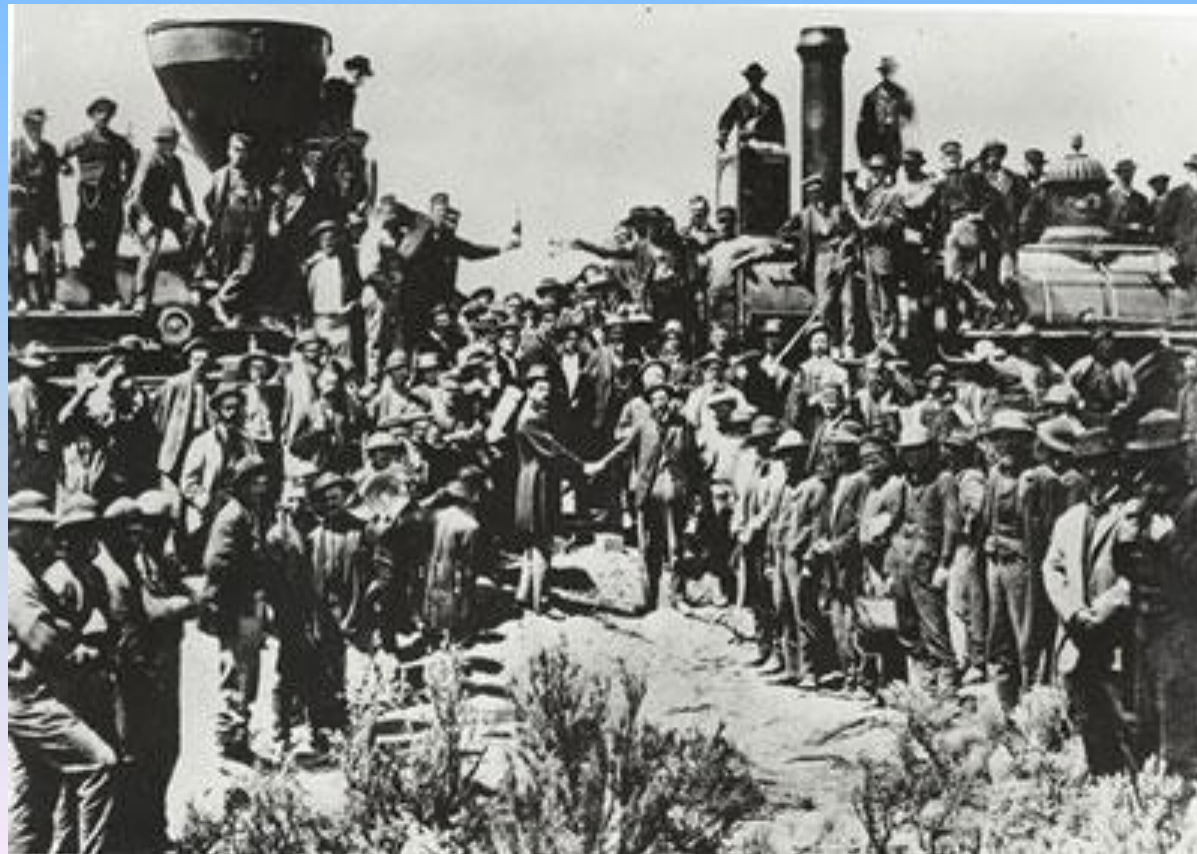
Westward Expansion, Plains Indians, and Manifest Destiny Fulfilled

A Presentation Based on the
Georgia Standards of Excellence
(GSE) Objectives for High School
History Students

SSUSH12 Evaluate how westward expansion impacted the Plains Indians and fulfilled Manifest Destiny.



SSUSH12a. Examine the construction of the transcontinental railroad including the use of immigrant labor.



Railroads, Steel, and the Organization Of Big Business.

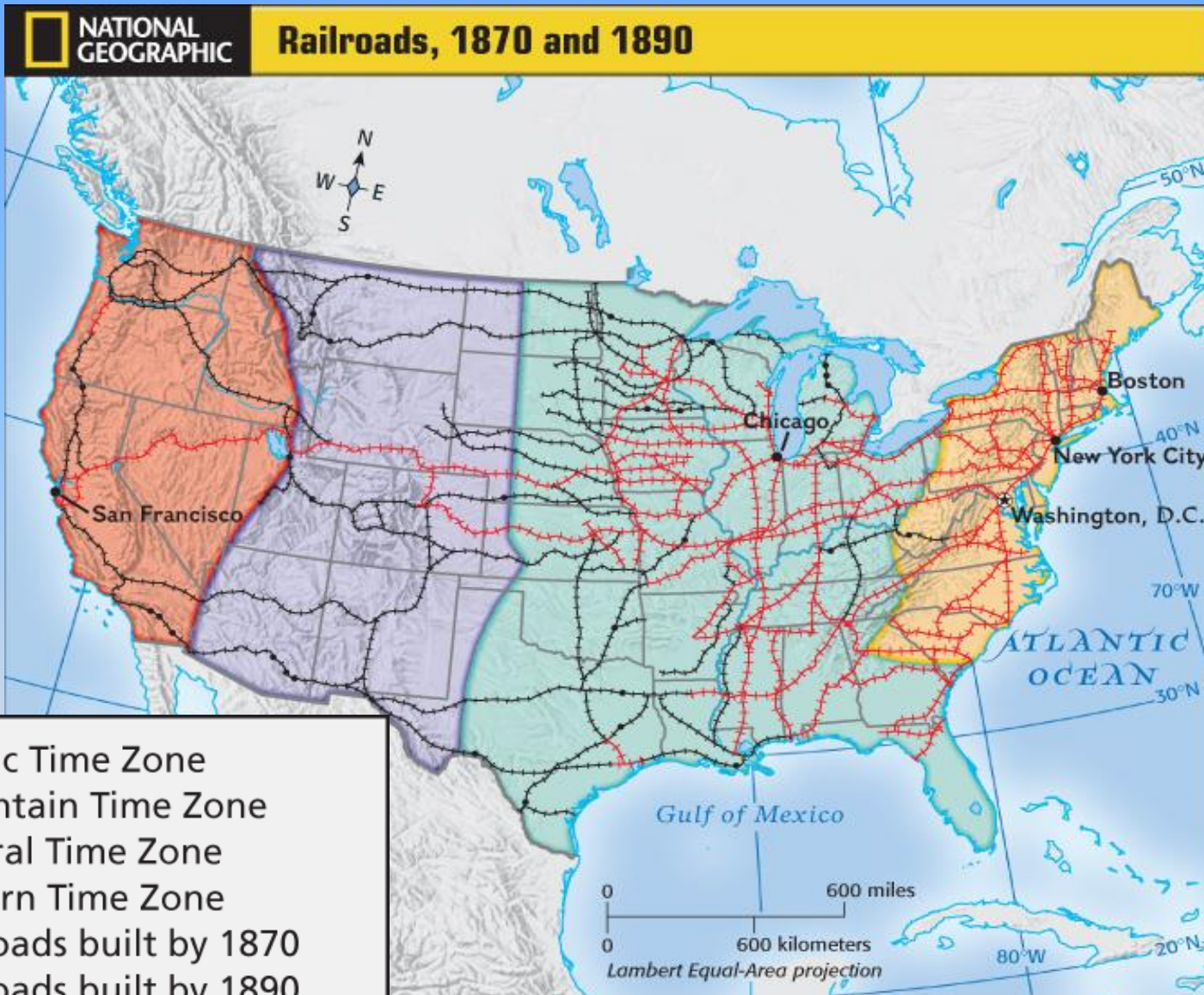
- The United States experienced a boom in railroad construction during the mid 19th century.
- Between 1865 (the end of the Civil War) and 1890, American railroad lines more than tripled in size.
- Railroads were seen as a way to **further settle the west** as well as **improve travel and communications** (e.g., improved mail service).
- The U.S. government promoted the growth of railroads by making **land grants** and providing **subsidies** to railroad companies.
- Railroads became powerful business interests and influenced the development of related industries, particularly in steel, iron, coal as well as in lumber, leather, and glass.

Railroads and Western Development

- During the Civil War, President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act of 1862, helping to create the Transcontinental Railroad.
- Completed by 1869, This railroad connected the east coast to the west coast, opening up settlement in the west and reducing travel time from as much as six months to just one week.
- Irish and German workers built much of the eastern portions of the railroad while western portions were built by Chinese laborers, many of whom specifically came to the U.S. to work on the railroad.



The Growth of Railroads



*Time zones and borders shown as of 1890

Railroads Spur Economic Growth and Western Settlement

The Transcontinental and other railroads helped spur economic growth by:

1. increasing the number of **markets** (places to sell products)
2. consuming enormous amounts of raw and finished materials to build and supply the railroad
3. increasing western settlement as the **railroads sold land** from government grants.

Railroads, Ranching and the Open Range

- Settlers were also lured westward by free land made available by the **Homestead Act of 1862**.
- In this era, ranchers grazed cattle on the **open-range** and **branded cattle** to identify ownership.
- Farmers used trains to ship grain east, and cattle ranchers would “**round-up**” cattle to march them on a “**long drive**” to railheads such as Abilene, Kansas for shipping to stockyards and meat processors in Chicago and Kansas City.

SSUSH 12b. Evaluate how the growth of the western population and innovations in farming and ranching impacted Plains Indians.

- As Americans moved westward in the 1860s to become ranchers, farmers and gold and silver miners, settlers encroached on American Indian hunting grounds and broke numerous treaties.
- The invention of **barbed wire** made it cheaper and easier to construct more fences and (along with falling demand and oversupply of beef) contributed to the end of the open-range.

Q: How did the closing of the open-range affect the nomadic Plains Indians?



Sample EOCT Question

Answer on loose-leaf paper:

- How did western settlement and the closing of the open-range affect the nomadic Plains Indians?
 - A. It encouraged them to settle down and farm the land.
 - B. It hindered them when hunting buffalo.
 - C. It encouraged them to sign peace treaties with the U.S. government
 - D. It did not matter to them because they made a fortune in the 1859 Colorado Gold Rush.

Review

- American Indians in the Great Plains were impacted by increased population and farming because once again their land was being claimed by White settlers seeking land or mining for gold or silver.
- The ability of Plains Indians to migrate with the buffalo herd was limited as more farmers and ranchers sectioned off their land with barbed wire fences and changed the landscape with their farming methods.

SSUSH12c. Explain the Plains Indians' resistance to western expansion of the United States and the consequences of their resistance.

Indian Reservations

- In 1867, an Indian peace commission proposed large reservations (plots of land the American Indians were forced to reside upon).
- These plans later failed because:
 - chiefs were pressured to sign without real agreement by Indian band members, and
 - there were no methods of enforcement.

1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie and The Battle of Little Big Horn

- In the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, the U.S. government acknowledged the Black Hills as part of a reservation exclusively for the Sioux people.
- In 1874, General George Armstrong Custer led a successful expedition looking for gold in the Black Hills.
- Settlers rushed in, thus violating the treaty, and they expected protection from the U.S. Army.
- The Army was ordered to move against wandering bands of Sioux hunting on the range in accordance with their treaty rights.
- In 1876, Custer's forces came upon an Indian camp at the Little Bighorn River. Custer and his soldiers were defeated, but the government confiscated the land in 1877.
- To this day, legal rights to the Black Hills is disputed between the U.S. and the Sioux people.

The Dawes Act (1887)

- The Dawes General Allotment Act (aka Dawes Severalty Act) of 1887 attempted **assimilation** (absorbing a group into another culture) by dividing Indian lands into lots of individual ownership.
- Individual **allotments** were given to heads of households (160 acres), single adults (80 acres) and children (40 acres) plus other land sold into a trust.
- Those who received land became U.S. citizens, and were subject to federal, state, & local laws and were required to retain ownership for 25 years.
- This plan failed chiefly because these nomadic American Indians had neither traditions nor desires to be farmers or ranchers.
- Within a short period of time, a majority of American Indians had lost or sold much of the allotted land.

Sitting Bull and the Lakota Sioux

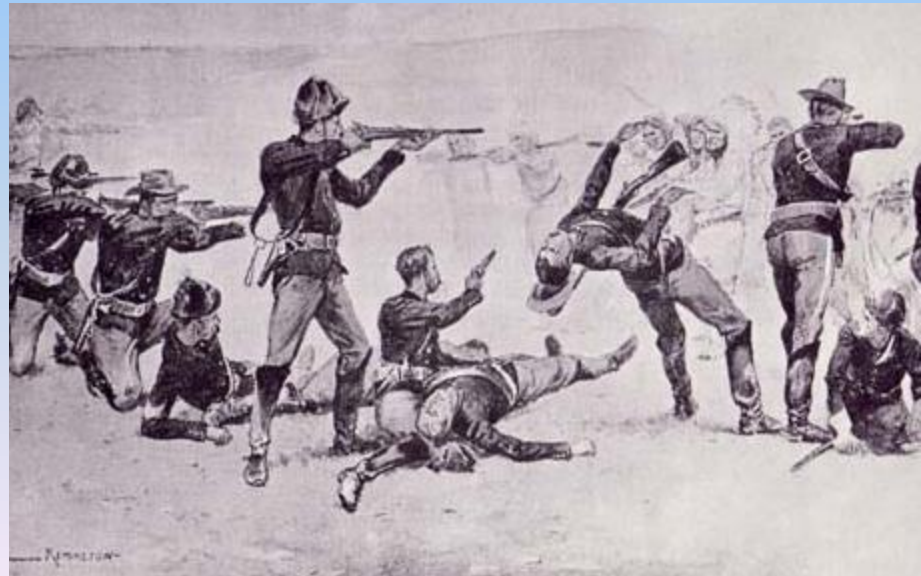
- By the late 1880s most western Indian tribes had been resettled onto reservations, chiefly through the Dawes Act of 1887.
- **Sitting Bull**, a Lakota Sioux Chief, who helped defeat Custer at the Little Big Horn, had moved onto a reservation and began to encourage the “Ghost Dance” which his followers believed would bring back the buffalo, and make the white settlers disappear.
- In 1890, Sitting Bull was ordered to stop this practice, but he refused and was killed while being arrested.



Sitting Bull

Wounded Knee

- Many of Sitting Bull's followers fled the reservation after his death and camped at Wounded Knee Creek with other Sioux.
- On December 29, 1890, the U.S. Cavalry, which was sent to escort the Sioux back to the reservation, attempted to disarm them when a fight broke out.



Wounded Knee

- In the massacre that followed, nearly 200 Sioux men, women and children were killed.
- Many of the injured froze to death.
- Wounded Knee was the last major resistance by American Indians to U.S. authority.
- It led many people to question the treatment of American Indians.



The End