

AP United States History

Post-Civil War

- The Motivation to Move West
 - Economic opportunity from events like the gold rush
 - Racial equality not obtained from the south
 - Religious freedom
 - Congress motivates with legislation
 - Homestead acts provide cheap land for farmers in exchange for them working the land
- Mining in the West
 - Rumors of gold brought many to areas like Nevada
 - Though not exactly lawless, not much was enforced in these towns
 - Actually not much gold but rather tin, copper, and silver
- Ranching in the West (Texas, Cowboys)
 - Most (2/3) of cowboys were actually African-American or Mexican
- Exodusters
 - An 1879 group modeled after the Israelites journey to the promised land (Exodus + dust)
 - 20% became successful African American farmers in the great plains
- Women on the Plains
 - First received the right to vote in 1887
 - First place in the US that women got the right to vote was in Kansas
 - Wyoming because the first state to give women the right to vote statewide
 - They refused to become a state in the union without this being true