

# Chapter 3 Section 1

## Settling the West

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### Focus Questions 3-1

- Identify some of the factors that helped push farming to become a big part of the Great Plains.
  - Describe some of the difficulties farmers experienced in the Plains and how did they adapt to these problems?
  - Describe how Native Americans were affected by both farming and ranching.
  - Describe the goal of assimilation and its impact on Native Americans.
  - Identify the factors that pushed Native Americans to reject the reservations established by the government.
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# Settling the West- Ranching

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- ❑ Americans began building vast cattle ranches and farming homesteads on the Great Plains.
- ❑ They also began breeding cattle that could withstand the harsh climate of the Plains.
- ❑ Longhorn cattle, mix between Mexican cattle and Spanish cattle.



# Ranching cont..

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- ❑ Mexicans introduced cattle ranching in California, New Mexico and Texas.
- ❑ This industry grew in part because of open range.
- ❑ Open range gave ranchers large areas of land to graze their cattle for free. They were also unrestricted by private boundaries.



# Reasons for Ranching

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- ❑ Very little cost, open range.
  - ❑ Eastern cattle were low in numbers because they were slaughtered during the war to feed both Union and Confederate armies.
  - ❑ Increase in prices because of the demand.
  - ❑ New railroads that were constructed during the Civil War and extended west.
  - ❑ Demand from eastern states and southern states.
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# Reasons for Farming

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- ❑ New railroads encouraged farming in the Great Plains.
- ❑ Railroads sold land near the tracks at low prices and provided credit to prospective settlers.
- ❑ The government provided opportunities for homesteads for just \$10.00.



## Reasons for Farming cont...

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- ❑ Homesteaders could claim up to 160 acres of public land.
  - ❑ Received titled of the land after five years of living on the property.
  - ❑ The title was important because it secured property rights for settlers.
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# Problems for Farmers

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## Problems:

- Harsh temperatures, hot summers and blizzards during winters.
- Lack of trees and water.
- Swarms of grasshoppers that destroyed the crops.
- Prairie fires, created constant dangers.

## Solutions:

- Switched to crops that were better adapted to the climate.
  - New farming technology, such as threshers and reapers
  - Kept cost low by buying land at very low prices.
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# Impact of Farming and Ranching

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- ❑ Buffalo population had decreased tremendously.
- ❑ Natives were deprived of their hunting grounds.
- ❑ Natives were then forced to relocate.



RATH & WRIGHT'S BUFFALO HIDE YARD IN 1878. SHOWING 40,000 BUFFALO HIDES. DODGE CITY, KANSAS

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH

# Impact of Farming and Ranching

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- ❑ Natives respond by attacking wagons and travelers.
- ❑ Government responds by placing Indians on reservations.



# Assimilation

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- ❑ Means to absorbed or to become like Americans.
- ❑ Politicians believed that this policy would better the relationship between Natives and Americans.
- ❑ Reservation is split up into allotments so that Natives could become self-sufficient. (Dawes Act)



# Assimilation

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- ❑ Natives would become farmers, ranchers, and own property.
- ❑ This type of policy removed Natives from their traditions, culture, customs and beliefs.
- ❑ Assimilation ultimately failed.



# Rejection of Reservations

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- ❑ Authority was given to the army and not Natives.
- ❑ Natives faced poverty, despair, and corruption by both the military and American traders.
- ❑ Kept from performing Native rituals. (Ghost Dance, Wounded Knee)

