

Unit 3: Continued Settlement on the Plains 1876- 1895

- 1) The Exoduster Movement 1879
- 2) The Oklahoma Land Rush 1893

Learning Objective:

To understand the different groups and motivations of people continuing to settle on the Plains from 1876 onwards.

No for Kansas!

Brethren, Friends, & Fellow Citizens:

I feel thankful to inform you that the

REAL ESTATE
AND

Homestead Association,

Will Leave Here the

15th of April, 1878,

In pursuit of Homes in the Southwestern
Lands of America, at Transportation
Rates, cheaper than ever
was known before.

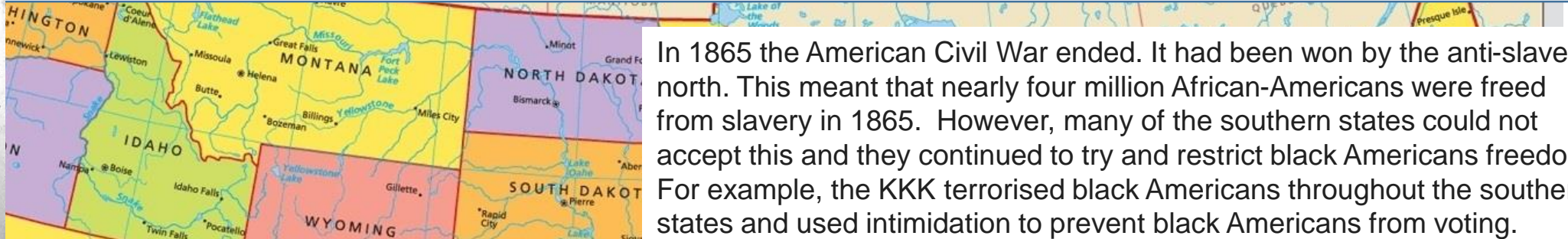
For full information inquire of
Benj. Singleton, better known as old Pap,
NO. 5 NORTH FRONT STREET.

Beware of Speculators and Adventurers, as it is a dangerous thing
to fall in their hands.

Nashville, Tenn., March 18, 1878.

One of the many posters calling on southern blacks to leave for Kansas.

Unit 3: The Continued Settlement of the Plains: The Exoduster Movement:



In 1865 the American Civil War ended. It had been won by the anti-slavery north. This meant that nearly four million African-Americans were freed from slavery in 1865. However, many of the southern states could not accept this and they continued to try and restrict black Americans freedom. For example, the KKK terrorised black Americans throughout the southern states and used intimidation to prevent black Americans from voting.

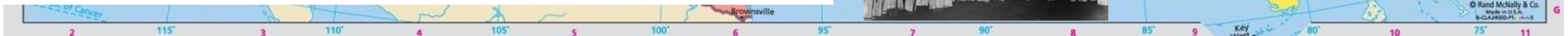


Life for black Americans therefore remained difficult in the southern states and some black Americans decided to move west to file homestead claims. Many began to move to Kansas, which had always been a free state. Benjamin Singleton, a former slave, pioneered this move by advertising Kansas to black Americans still living in the south.

In 1879, a rumour spread that the US government was giving away free land for ex-slaves in Kansas. This further encouraged thousands of black Americans to move to Kansas. By the end of the year, over 40,000 had begun the journey to Kansas. This became known as the Exoduster movement as it was an exodus to the dusty West.



All Colored People
THAT WANT TO
GO TO KANSAS,
On September 5th, 1877,
Can do so for \$5.00



Exoduster Movement: Fact file

- Who were the Exodusters?
- Where were they leaving and where were they heading?
- When?
- Why (do some extra info on the KKK for this question)?
- Numbers involved?
- Why that particular destination?
- Key Individuals?

Use the information from the previous slide to help you complete the fact file.

Additional information for KKK available from textbook or google

Was the move to Kansas a Positive one for the Black Americans?

For many black Americans, the move west to Kansas was disappointing. By 1880, over 43,000 black Americans had settled in Kansas but much of the good farmland was already taken.

Many Exodusters were left with difficult farming land and struggled to survive. Furthermore, many had believed the rumour that the land would be free and struggled to afford the fee to file a homestead claim.

Many Exodusters had also become ill on the journey to Kansas, as they had travelled through areas infected with yellow fever.

The Kansas government attempted to assist the migrants by giving them a small amount of state funding to help them begin their life in Kansas. However, white American settlers were less supportive. They believed it was wrong of the government to help the migrants and wanted to see them returned to the south.

News of the difficulties of life in Kansas spread back to the south and by the 1880's the amount of new migrants began to decline.

1) Why were these migrants called Exodusters?

2) Why was their experience of a new life not positive despite now being free of slavery?

The Oklahoma Land Rush 1893

Indian Territory was a large area of land that had been reserved specifically for the Indians who had been forced out of the Eastern states in 1834 live west of the Mississippi. (The Trail of Tears). Different tribes from the Eastern states got different sections.

Also in this Indian Territory was a section that was not assigned to a specific tribe that white settlers had been attempting to settle on since the beginning of the 1880's. However, these white settlers were usually stopped by the US army which shows that the government were capable of protecting Indian land if they wished.

However, by 1889 the US government decided to allow white settlers onto this section of land to file homestead claims due to the 1887 Dawes Act that had been passed by this point. The territory was divided into 160 acre sections. At noon on the 22 April 1889, white settlers gathered around the boundary waiting for a signal to declare the territory was open. When a gun sounded, thousands rushed across the boundary eager to gain the best land. This event became known as the first Oklahoma Land Rush. There were many more. In 1893 there were seven land rushes and, by the end of the year, Oklahoma had a population of 60,000 and by 1907 it had become a state with no Indian territory at all.

The land rush is significant as it is another example of the US government giving away Indian land because of pressure from white settlers.

[Film Clip - Home and Away - the Oklahoma Land Rush](#)

Oklahoma and Indian Territories



The white area was the unassigned area homesteaders were allowed to 'rush' for.

Question:
What is the pattern of events that the Oklahoma Land Rush illustrates that has happened repeatedly since the 1850s?

Task:

- Use page 78 to complete a flow diagram showing the key stages in the Oklahoma Land Rush 1889-1893

