

American West – Key Dates for Government Policies and Conflict with the Plains Indians

Test of Key information:

1. Behind which river were all the Indians living in the Eastern states of the USA relocated in 1830?

Mississippi

2. Which new law established the principle of reservations to relocate Indians in order to move them from land white settlers now wanted? In which year was this passed?

The Indians Appropriations Act 1851

3. Give one consequence of the 1851 Fort Laramie treaty.

Indians became less independent, more reliant on 'hand outs' from government

(There may be others)

4. Which conflict with an Indian tribe was triggered by corrupt reservation management and the fact the Indians were starving?

Little Crow's War

5. Which two conflicts with Indian tribes were caused by the discovery of gold on Indian Territory?

Sand Creek Massacre (Black Kettle)

Red Cloud's war

6. In which decade were all three of the above conflicts fought in?

1860s

7. Which President brought in a Peace policy to try and improve conditions on the reservations?

President Grant

8. In 1868 the 2nd Fort Laramie Treaty was agreed. Give two terms of this treaty.

Government agreed to close Bozeman Trail (the route the gold prospectors were using) and to create the Great Sioux reservation including the Black Hills

9. Which battle in 1876 saw Custer (a General in the US army) and his men wiped out when they attacked a tribe of Sioux Indians?

Battle of Little Big Horn

10. After 1876 the attitude of the government towards the Indians was 'assimilate or die'. What does this mean?

Become like us or face extinction/be wiped out

11. What did the Indians dancing the Ghost Dance in 1890 hope it would achieve?

All wrongs would be put right, the dead would rise, the buffalo would return and white settlers would be swept away

12. Describe briefly the events of the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Army sent in to the reservations after reports of the Ghost dance. A shot was fired, some Indians began to dance and the army opened fire, killing 250 Indian men, women and children in 10 minutes

Bonus Questions:

13. Define the idea of 'Manifest Destiny.'

The idea was God's will for white Americans to spread across the continent and their Christian duty to 'civilise' those who lived there

14. What was invented in 1874 that made it much easier and cheaper for Homesteaders to protect their crops and animals?

Barbed wire

15. Who sent up the Cowtown of Abilene?

Joseph McCoy