

# Chapter 18 – Americans Move West



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# Wars for the West

## The Big Idea

Native Americans and the U.S. government came into conflict over land in the West.

## Main Ideas

- As settlers moved to the Great Plains, they encountered the Plains Indians.
- The U.S. Army and Native Americans fought in the northern plains, the Southwest, and the Far West.
- Despite efforts to reform U.S. policy toward Native Americans, conflict continued.



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## **Main Idea 1:**

# **As settlers moved to the Great Plains, they encountered the Plains Indians.**

- The U.S. government negotiated treaties with Plains Indians in the mid-1800s to gain more western lands for settlers and miners.
- Plains Indians, including the Sioux, Pawnee, and Cheyenne, lived by hunting buffalo.



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## **Main Idea 1:**

# **As settlers moved to the Great Plains, they encountered the Plains Indians.**

- Buffalo were used for food, shelter, clothing, and utensils.
- Conflict grew with the Plains Indians as miners and settlers increased in number.



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Section Focus Transparency Activity 7-1

People of the Plains

★ How do the uses of the bison illustrate the Native American belief in the conservation of natural resources?

1.

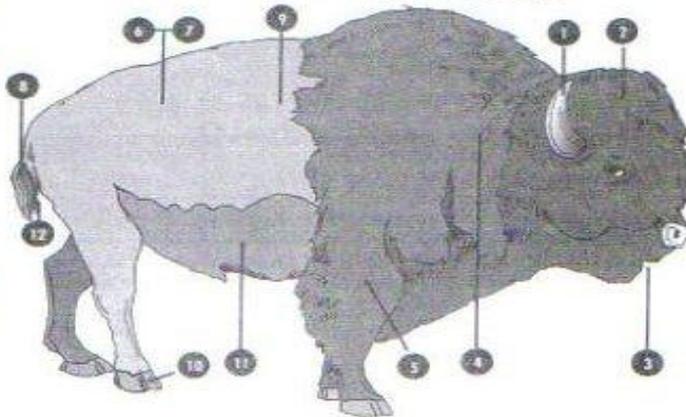
2.

3.

★ Why was the bison an important resource for the Native Americans who lived on the Plains?

★ Why do you think the extinction of the bison helped force the Plains People onto reservations?

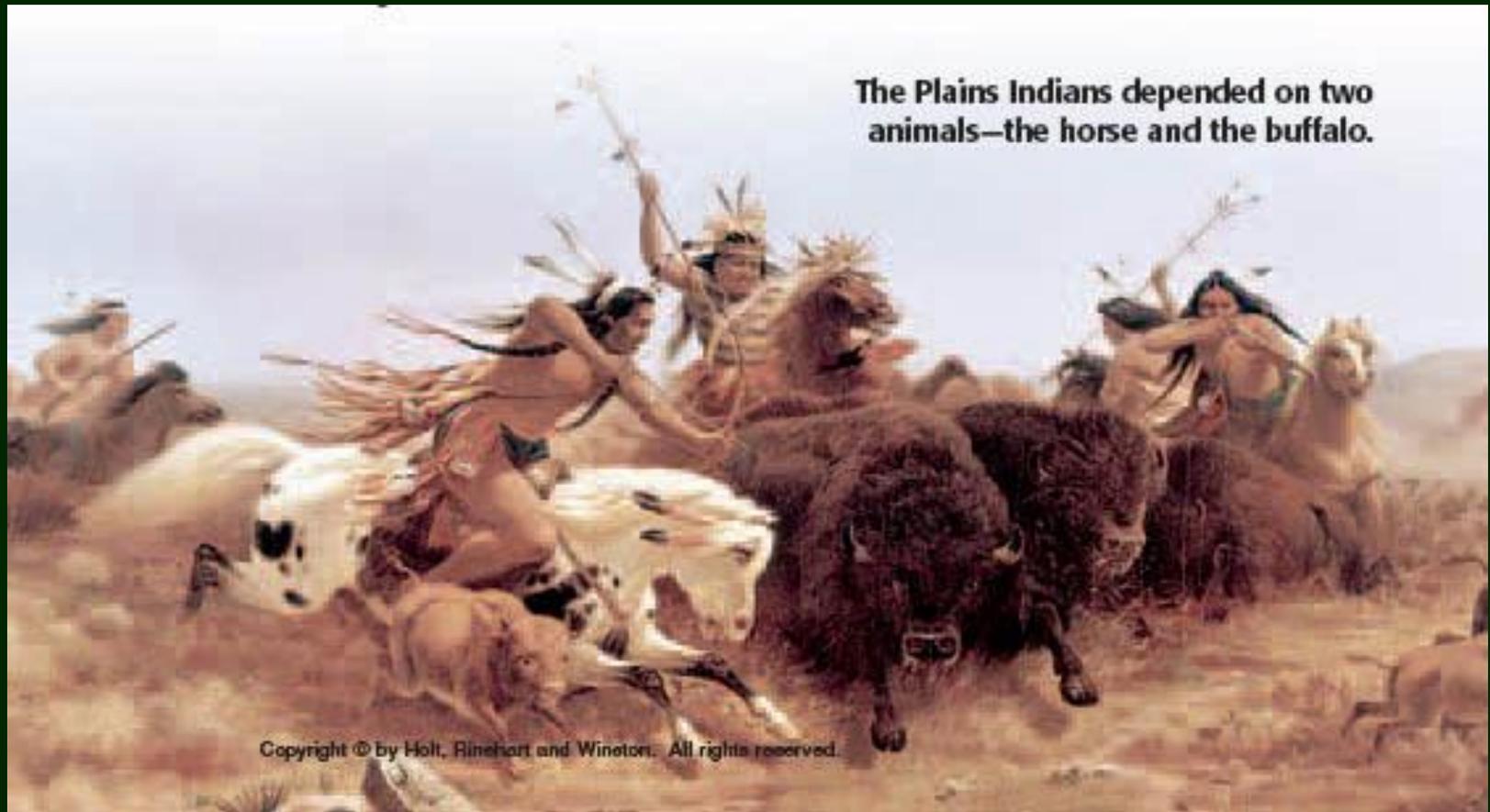
Uses of American Bison by the Plains People



- 1. **HORNS:** cups, spoons, ladles, headdresses
- 2. **SKULL:** ceremonies, prayer
- 3. **TONGUE:** meat, hairbrushes
- 4. **HAIR:** headdresses, pillows, rope, halters, bridles
- 5. **BONES:** knives, arrowheads, awls, dice, splints
- 6. **HIDE (tanned):** moccasins, bedding (with hair), clothing, bags, tepee linings
- 7. **HIDE (raw):** food pouches, headdresses, clothing, glue, rattles
- 8. **TAIL:** flyswatters, tepee decoration
- 9. **MUSCLES AND SINEW:** bows, thread
- 10. **HOOVES:** rattles, glue
- 11. **PAUNCH:** cooking pots, water container
- 12. **DUNG:** fuel, signals

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The Plains Indians depended on two animals—the horse and the buffalo.



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# Struggle to Keep Land

The **Treaty of Fort Laramie** recognized Native American claims to the Great Plains. It allowed the United States to build forts and travel across Native American lands.



The U.S. government negotiated new treaties after gold was discovered in Colorado, sending Native Americans to live on **reservations**, areas of federal land set aside for them.



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## Struggle to Keep Land

The movement of pioneers and miners across the Great Plains and through Native American hunting grounds led to conflict with the Sioux, led by **Crazy Horse**.

Group of Sioux ambushed and killed 81 cavalry troops.



Most southern Plains Indians agreed to go to reservations under the 1867 **Treaty of Medicine Lodge**, but the Comanche continued to fight until 1875.

U.S. Army cut access to food and water forced Comanche surrender.



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# Struggle to Keep Land

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## Main Idea 2:

# The U.S. Army and Native Americans fought in the northern plains, the Southwest, and the Far West.

- When Native Americans resisted confinement on reservations U.S. troops forced them to go.
  - Included African American cavalry called **buffalo soldiers**.



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**Main Idea 2:**  
**The U.S. Army and Native Americans fought  
in the northern plains, the Southwest,  
and the Far West.**

- Most Native Americans had stopped fighting by the 1880s, except the Apache, led by **Geronimo**, who fought until 1886.



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# Fighting on the Plains

## Northern Plains

- Battles with the Sioux throughout the 1800s.
- In 1876 **George Armstrong Custer's** troops were defeated by Sioux forces led by Crazy Horse and **Sitting Bull** at the **Battle of Little Bighorn**, the Sioux's last major victory.
- U.S. troops killed about 150 Sioux in the **Massacre at Wounded Knee** in 1890.



# Fighting on the Plains

## Southwest

- Navajo refused to settle on reservations.
- U.S. troops raided Navajo fields, homes, and livestock.
- Out of food and shelter, the Navajo surrendered.
- Navajo were forced on a 300-mile march, known as the **Long Walk**, to a reservation and countless died.



# Fighting on the Plains

## Far West

- Initially, the United States promised to let the Nez Percé keep their Oregon land.
- Later, the government demanded land.
- Fighting broke out.
- U.S. troops forced the Nez Percé to a reservation in what is now Oklahoma where many died.



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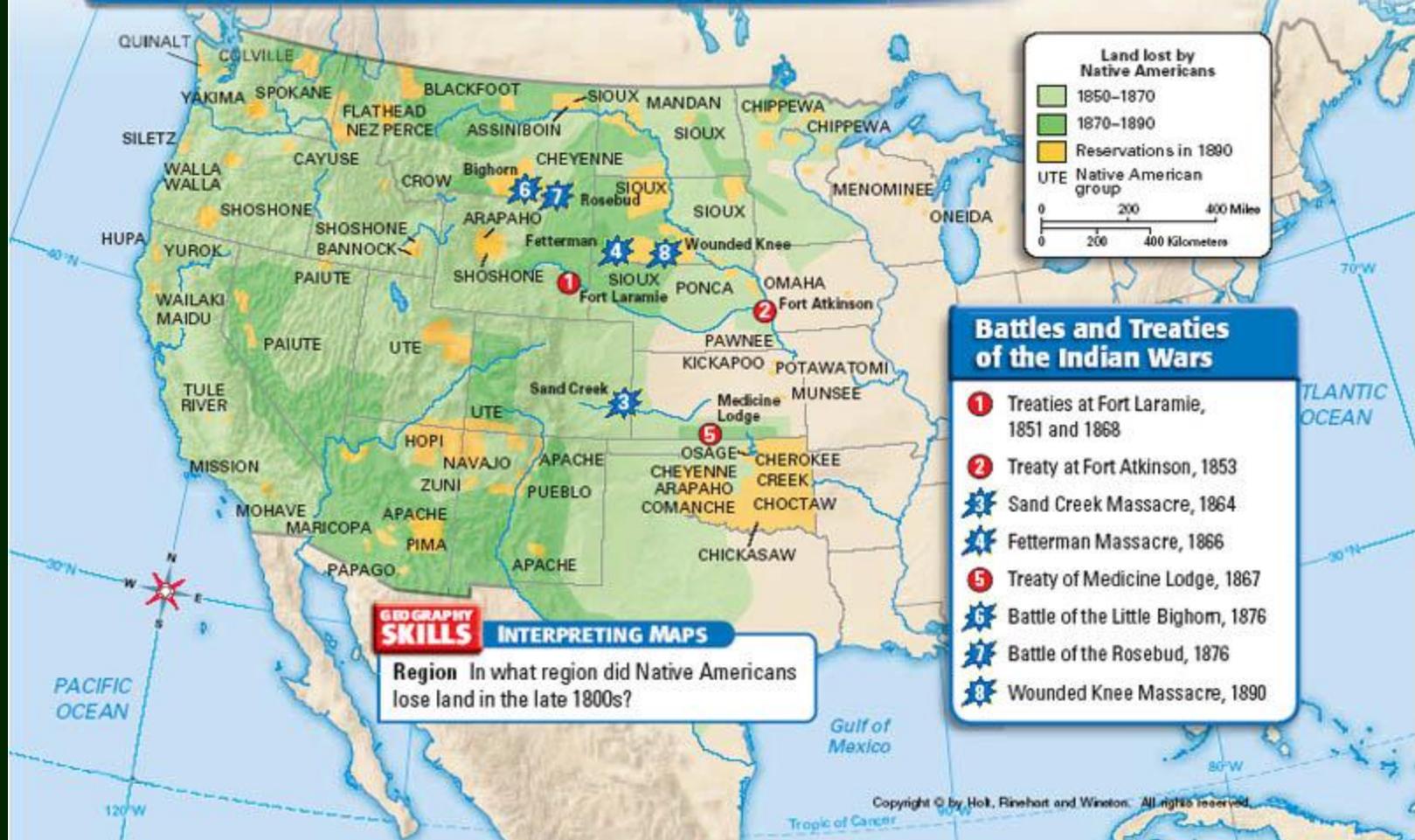


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## Native American Land Loss in the West, 1850-1890



## Main Idea 3: Despite efforts to reform U.S. policy toward Native Americans, conflict continued.

- **Ghost Dance** movement
  - Predicted the arrival of paradise for Native Americans
  - Misunderstood by U.S. officials, who feared it would lead to rebellion
  - Gradually died out after the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890
- **Sarah Winnemucca**, a Paiute, lectured on problems of the reservation system and called for reform in the 1870s.



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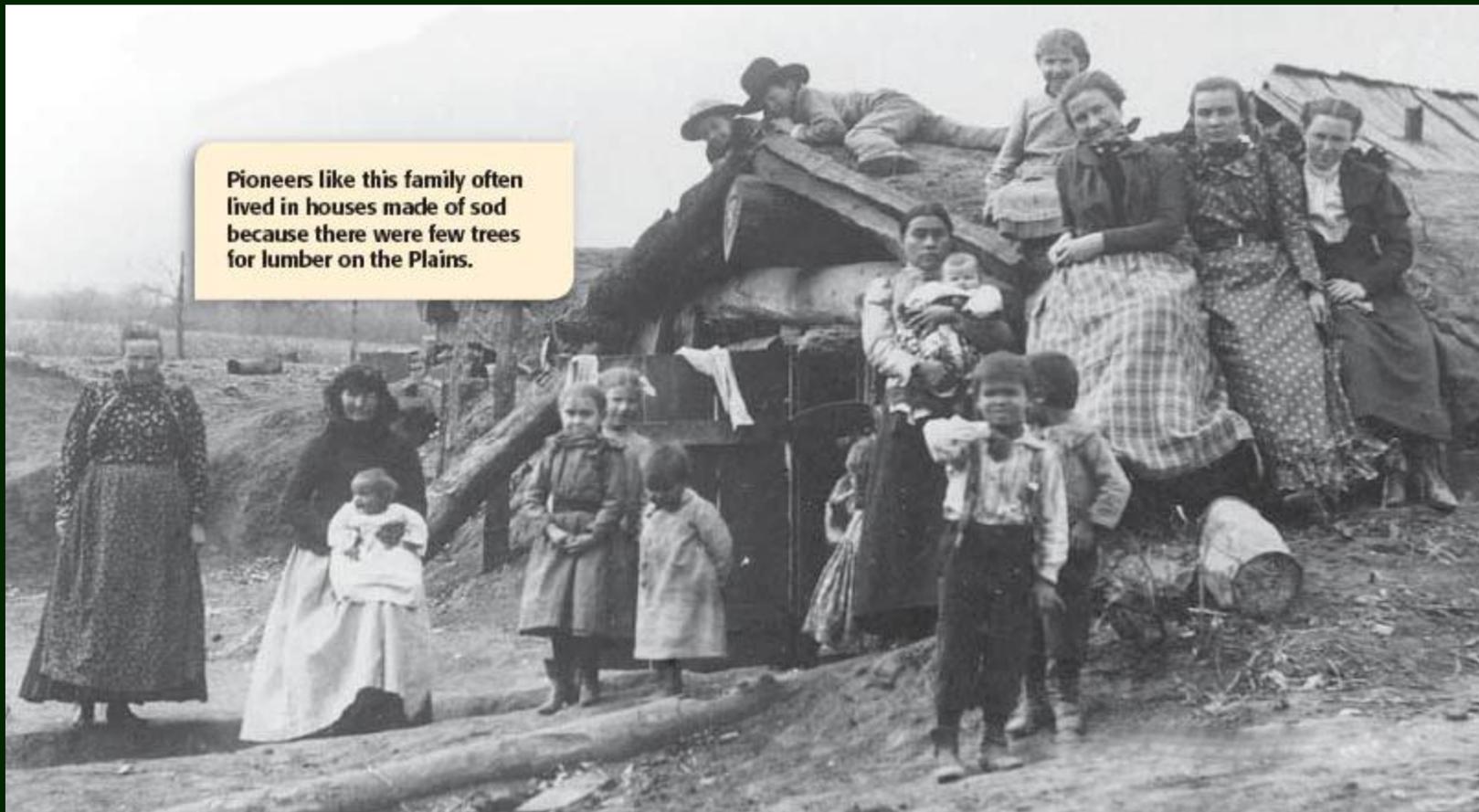


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Pioneers like this family often lived in houses made of sod because there were few trees for lumber on the Plains.



## **Main Idea 3: Despite efforts to reform U.S. policy toward Native Americans, conflict continued.**

- **Dawes General Allotment Act** of 1887
  - Made land ownership among Native Americans private
  - Tried to lessen traditional influences of Native American society so as to encourage them to adopt the ways of white people
  - Ended up taking about two-thirds of Native American land



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### Migration 1850



### Migration 1890



## Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

### The American West

QUICK FACTS



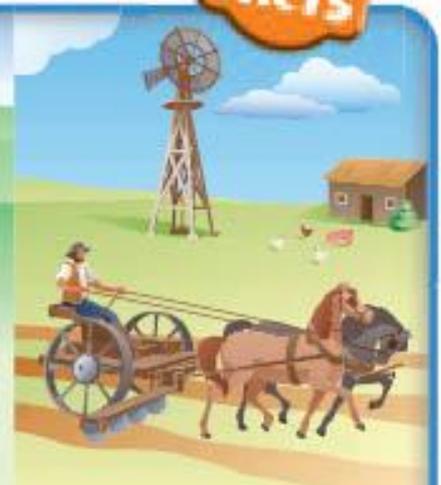
As settlers moved to the West, they came into conflict with American Indians. The U.S. government defeated Indian resistance and moved many tribes to reservations.



The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 opened the West to more settlement. Gold and silver strikes also drew people hoping to get rich.

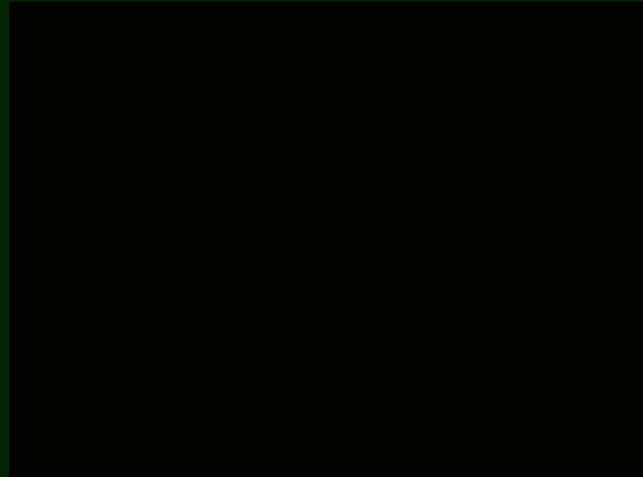


The railroads helped make the rise of the Cattle Kingdom possible. Cowboys drove huge herds of cattle from ranches to railway stations to be shipped to the East.



Farmers settled the Great Plains in large numbers. They overcame many hardships to make the Plains the breadbasket of America.





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