The Mostly Wild West (according to Louis L’Amour at least)
Questions

1. What national issues emerged in the process of closing the western frontier?

2. Why does the West hold such an important place in the American identity?

3. In what ways is the West romanticized in American culture?
Key Tensions

- Native Americans
- Buffalo Hunters
- Railroads
- U. S. Gov’t
- Cattlemen
- Sheep Herders
- Ranchers
- Farmers
Key Tensions

- Ethnic Minorities
- Nativists
- Environmentalists
- Big Bus. Interests [mining, timber]
- Local Govt. Officials
- Farmers
- Buffalo Hunters
- Lawlessness of the Frontier
- “Civilizing” Forces
- [The “Romance” of the West]
The Railroad Builders
“The Big Four” Railroad Magnates

Charles Crocker

Collis Huntington

Mark Hopkins

Leland Stanford
Promontory Point, UT
(May 10, 1869)
The
Cowboys
The Bronc Buster
by Frederick Remington
Black Cowboys
The
GUNSLINGERS
Colt .45 Revolver

God didn’t make men equal. Colonel Colt did!
Legendary Gunslingers & Train Robbers

PROCLAMATION
OF THE
GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI!
REWARDS
FOR THE ARREST OF
Express and Train Robbers.

STATE OF MISSOURI,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

FRANK JAMES' and JESSE W. JAMES,
and such other persons as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing proclamation.

THOS. T. CRITTENDEN.

BILLY THE KID.
$500 REWARD.

I will pay $500 reward to any person or persons who will capture William Bonny, alias The Kid, and deliver him to any sheriff of New Mexico. Satisfactory proofs of identity will be required.

LEW. WALLACE,
Governor of New Mexico.

Jesse James
Billy the Kid
Dodge City Peace Commission, 1890

W.H. Harris  Luke Short  Bat Masterson

Charles Basset  Wyatt Earp  L. McLean  Neal Brown
The MINERS
Prospecting

GOLD
PROSPECTORS HANDBOOK

HOW TO
PAN GOLD

PROSPECT
STREAMS

GOLD
IN LODE

RETORTS

GEOLOGY

SAMPLING
TECHNIQUES

TOOLS AND
HOW TO
USE THEM

SLUICES

PORTABLE
DREDGES

GLOSSARY

OTHER
VALUABLE
MINERALS
Mining Centers: 1900

- Chief manufacturing cities
- Copper mining
- Iron and steel mills
- Iron ore
- Coal mining
- Silver and gold mining

Map showing mining centers in 1900 across the United States.
Anaconda Copper Mining Co. (MT)
Mining ("Boom") Towns—Now Ghost Towns

Bodie, CA
Gold Rush
Park City, Utah - The railroad and miners
The Cattlemen & The Sheep herders
The Cattle Trails
Land Use: 1880s

The map illustrates the land use patterns in the United States during the 1880s. It depicts different types of agricultural activities across the country. The map uses various symbols to indicate predominant crop types, grazing areas, and other agricultural activities such as dairying, sheep farming, and hog farming.
New Agricultural Technology

Steel Plow [“Sod Buster”]

“Prairie Fan” Water Pump
Barbed Wire

Joseph Glidden

Glidden Steel Barb Wire
Manufactured by I. L. Ellwood & Co.
De Kake, Ill.
The Range Wars

Sheep Herders → Land & Grazing → Cattle Ranchers
Minority Groups in the West
Regional Population Distribution by Race: 1900

- **American Indians (N = 240,280)**: 80.6% in the West, 15.3% in the South, 4.1% in the North.
- **Chinese and Japanese birth or parentage (N = 114,777)**: 80.7% in the West, 3.0% in the South, 16.4% in the North.
- **Whites of native parentage (N = 40,988,005)**: 49.1% in the South, 35.4% in the West, 15.5% in the North.
Black Exoduster Homesteaders

All Colored People
That want to
Go to Kansas,
On September 5th, 1877,
Can do so for $5.00

IMMIGRATION.

Whereas, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky., knowing that there is an
opportunity to acquire choice lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves
for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

It RESOLVED, That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:

1. Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of
   $1.00, and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in install-
   ments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

2. RESOLVED, That this Colony has agreed to consolidate itself with the Nicodemus
   Solomon Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the va-
   lues now in their midst, which costs $5.00.

3. RESOLVED, That this Colony shall consist of seven officers—President, Vice-Presi-
   dency, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees. President—M. M. Bell; Vice-President
   Talbott; Secretary—W. J. Niles; Treasurer—Daniel Clarke; Trustees—Jerry
   Williams, and Abner Webster.

4. RESOLVED, That this Colony shall have from one to two hundred militia, more or
   less, as the case may require, to keep peace and order, and any member failing to pay in
   full, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not
   be recognized or protected by the Colony.
The Buffalo Soldiers on the Great Plains
The Buffalo Soldiers & the Indian Wars

The Buffalo Soldiers and the Indian Wars of the West:
- Lands where black soldiers fought and served during the Indian Wars
- The South—major source of black troops in the Indian Wars
- Soldiers policed Oklahoma before the Land Rush
- Forts that housed black troops during the Indian Wars
- Major battles
The “Chinese Question”

- California’s Workingman’s Party
- Denis Kearney “The Chinese Must Go”
- Massacre at Rock Springs
• Exclusion Act (1882) - Oriental Exclusion Act - Chinese Exclusion Act
## African American & Chinese Populations: 1880-1900

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State or Territory</th>
<th>Blacks 1880</th>
<th>Blacks 1900</th>
<th>Chinese 1880</th>
<th>Chinese 1900</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Ter.</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>1,846</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>1,419</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>6,018</td>
<td>11,045</td>
<td>75,132</td>
<td>45,753</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
<td>2,435</td>
<td>8,570</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>599</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>3,379</td>
<td>1,467</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
<td>43,107</td>
<td>52,003</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>1,523</td>
<td>1,765</td>
<td>1,739</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>6,269</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>5,416</td>
<td>1,352</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Mexico Ter.</td>
<td>1,015</td>
<td>1,610</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>341</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Indian Ter.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>56,684*</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>1,105</td>
<td>9,510</td>
<td>10,397</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>393,384</td>
<td>620,722</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>836</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>572</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>2,514</td>
<td>3,186</td>
<td>3,629</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA—not available.
*Combined total for Indian and Oklahoma territories.
The Farmers
Frontier Settlements: 1870-1890

- Settled by 1870
- Settled by 1880
- Settled by 1890

Boundaries of states admitted between 1870 and 1890
Homesteads From Public Lands

![Graph showing the number of homesteads from public lands over time. The x-axis represents years from 1870 to 1940, and the y-axis represents acres. The graph peaks around 1910, indicating a high number of homesteads during this period. The text 'Frontier Line Ends' is indicated on the graph, suggesting a significant event in the history of homesteads.]
1887 Land Promotion Poster for the Dakota Territories
The Romantic Vision of Life in the West
The Realty—
A Pioneer’s
Sod House, SD
Rain Follows the Plow!
Frederick Jackson Turner

The Significance of the Frontier in American Society (1893)
Newlands Reclamation Act (1902)

Francis Newlands
The Plains Indians
Sioux teepees 1902
Destruction of the Buffalo Herds
A mountain of bison skulls, ca. 1870. By 1893 only a few hundred bison remained in North America. Today there are hundreds of thousands.
Treaty of Ft. Laramie (1851)

(Pike’s Peak) Colorado Gold Rush (1859)
ARTICLE 2. The aforesaid nations do hereby recognize the right of the United States Government to establish roads, military and other posts, within their respective territories.

ARTICLE 3. ...the United States bind themselves to protect the Indian nations against the commission of all depredations by the people of the said United States.

ARTICLE 4. The Indian nations do hereby agree to make restitution...any wrongs committed, by any band or individual of their people, on the people of the United States, whilst lawfully residing in or passing through their respective territories.
Colonel John Chivington

"the Cheyennes will have to be roundly whipped or completely wiped out before they will be quiet. I say that if any of them are caught in your vicinity, the only thing to do is kill them."

Sandy Creek Reservation, CO
Massacre

November 29, 1864
Capt. William J. Fetterman

80 soldiers killed
December 21, 1866
Treaty of Medicine Lodge Creek (1867)

- stipulations that minors should be provided with an "English education"

2nd Treaty of Ft. Laramie (1868)

- financial incentives for them to become farmers

Reservation Policy
Gold Found in the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory! 1874
Reservation Policy

Map Legend:

Lakota Nation:
Reserved by the 1868 Treaty for the unreserved use of the Lakota people

1876: Lakota reservation after the US refused to enforce the treaty boundaries

Lakota reservations after 100 years of court actions
The Battle of Little Big Horn
1876

Chief Sitting Bull

Gen. George Armstrong Custer
Chief Joseph
I will fight no more forever!

Nez Percé tribal retreat (1877)
Geronimo, Apache Chief
Susette La Flesche

Omaha Indian lecture tour on Native American issues in the 1870s
Dawes Severalty Act (1887): Assimilation Policy

Carlisle Indian School, PA
Arapahoe "Ghost Dance", 1890
Wounded Knee 1890

In the book, *From Fort Laramie to Wounded Knee*, Charles Allen described the Lakota tent camp after the Wounded Knee massacre:

> We rode past what but recently had been the site of a far-flung camp of white and brown army tents and the grimy old canvas of torn tepees; now marked only, here and there, by the bended willow frames and shattered poles of what so lately were shelters for the living. Near by was the debris-strewn grass where lay the lonely dead.

This photograph was taken five or six days after the tragedy while the bodies of the Lakota victims were being collected for burial. (Nebraska State Historical Society RG2845.ph. The photo has been digitally enhanced.)
Indian Reservations Today
The Myth & Legend of the West
The Traditional View of the West
William “Buffalo Bill” Cody’s Wild West Show

BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST
AND CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD.
“Buffalo Bill” Cody & Sitting Bull
Legendary Female Western Characters

Calamity Jane

Annie Oakley
The Fall of the Cowboy
Frederick Remington
What were the long-term effects of the westward experience?
Yellowstone National Park

First national park established in 1872.
National Parks

Map of National Parks in the United States, showing various parks and their establishment years.
Conservation Movement

John Muir

With President Theodore Roosevelt
Sierra Club

Founded in 1892