

<b>Timeline of Westward Expansion</b>	
1783	To raise revenues, the newly formed U.S. government claims all of the Indian lands east of the Mississippi River (consisting of present-day Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee) to sell to settlers. The Chippewa, Delaware, Kickapoo, Miami, Ottawa, Potawatomi, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations and some Iroquois warriors join together to oppose the invasion of U.S. settlers into their territory.
1785	The Ordinance of 1785 establishes a pattern for surveying and dividing all territories westward from the point where the Ohio River leaves the state of Pennsylvania.
1787	The Northwest Ordinance, also known as the Ordinance of 1787, provides for the orderly creation of future states, establishes a system of laws in the territories, forbids slavery, and guarantees certain civil rights.
May 1803	The United States purchases from France more than 800,000 square miles of land west of the Mississippi River for \$15 million. The <b>Louisiana Purchase</b> doubles the size of the United States. This territory today makes up the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and parts of Colorado, Minnesota, and Wyoming.
1804	<b>Meriwether Lewis, William Clark</b> , and their entourage set out from St. Louis, Missouri to determine whether the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean are linked by a river system. Finding no such water connection, they pioneer an overland route across the Rocky Mountains.
September 23, 1806	<b>The Lewis and Clark</b> expedition returns to St. Louis after nearly twenty-eight months of exploration. The expedition had been given up for lost, and its return is celebrated throughout the country.
1812	The War of 1812 begins. In a war that is often called the Second War for Independence, Americans seek to finally eliminate the British presence in the Old Northwest and to end British attacks on American ships carrying goods to France.
October 5, 1813	The Battle of the Thames takes place along the banks of the Thames River north of Lake Erie in present-day Ontario, Canada. Indian leader Tecumseh hungers for a final showdown that will once and for all drive the Americans from Indian lands. The British troops fighting alongside Tecumseh retreat after a powerful charge by mounted U.S. soldiers. Surrounded and out-manned, Tecumseh and his men fight on in bloody, hand-to-hand combat. Many Native Americans are killed, including Tecumseh.
1814	The Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812. The British agree that all the territory south of the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico belongs to the United States. The British also agree not to give any help to their Indian allies in this territory.
1817	Work begins on the 363-mile-long <b>Erie Canal</b> , which will link Rome, New York, and Buffalo, New York.
1820	The U.S. Congress approves the Missouri Compromise, which outlaws slavery within the Louisiana Purchase territory north of 36°30' latitude. Missouri enters the Union as a slave state, while Maine enters as a free state.
1820's	<b>Trappers and traders</b> made the first forays into the Far West during the 1820s. Fur trappers in California and Oregon traded cattle hides with eastern merchants for manufactured goods. The Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Utah saw the rise of the beaver trapping industry. The British Hudson's Bay Company established a similar pattern of trade. Farther South, the Santa Fe Trail linked St. Louis and Santa Fe, establishing strong economic connections between the regions surrounding the endpoints of the trail. After the Panic of 1819, merchants saddled with unsold goods loaded up wagons and traveled to Santa Fe where they traded for mules and New Mexican silver. Mexico benefited from this trade, as many goods made their way to the Mexican interior, and encouraged interaction with American traders. As a result, the Mexican silver peso soon became the standard medium of exchange in Missouri.
1821	Mexico gains its independence from Spain and opens its borders with the United States.

1821	William Becknell leads a small caravan from Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe, in present-day New Mexico, becoming the first American to travel on what is known as the <b>Santa Fe Trail</b> . Southwestern travelers more often than not used the Santa Fe Trail to move westward. The trail linked St. Louis and Santa Fe, leading to the establishment of strong economic connections between the regions surrounding the endpoints of the trail.
1823	By this time over 20,000 Indians had converted and were living in the <b>missions of California</b> . The mission was the main tool in Spanish and Mexican colonization of the Far West. Missions were established all along the California coast and into the interior of Texas and New Mexico. The Franciscan missionaries tried to convert the region's Indians, and built towns around their missions.
1823	William Ashley begins the annual rendezvous for American fur trappers in the Rocky Mountains. <b>Trappers</b> gather at the annual mountain man Rendezvous to sell their pelts and gather a year's worth of supplies.
1825	James Ohio Pattie leaves Santa Fe in what is now New Mexico and travels into present-day Arizona on what becomes the <b>Gila Trail</b> .
1825	<b>Erie Canal</b> was completed in 1825, connecting Buffalo, New York, on the Great Lakes, with Albany, on the Hudson River. The Erie Canal made cost effective shipping possible via waterways from New York City to the West by way of the Great Lakes. The North and Northwest were soon crisscrossed by an extensive canal system which greatly improved domestic transportation and trade.
1830	Indian Removal Act granted President Andrew Jackson funds and authority to remove the Indians by force if necessary. He pursued a determined effort to coerce the Indians off their tribal lands.
1834	Congress establishes <b>Indian Territory</b> , which covers parts of the present-day states of Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas, far smaller than the "all lands west of the Mississippi" that whites had once promised.
1836	On April 21, 1836 Mexican president Antonio López de Santa Anna and a large army lay siege to a band of Texans holed up at the <b>Alamo Mission</b> . After a ten-day battle, every American man is killed. "Remember the Alamo" becomes the battle cry of Texans who fight back against Santa Anna and win independence for the Republic of Texas on May 14, 1836.
1836	The Spanish mission system in California collapses. Native Americans leave the missions to find that the land has been changed forever. Animals and crops introduced to the area by the Spanish make it virtually impossible for California Indians to live off the land in the way they had before the Spanish came.
1836	American inventor Samuel Colt patents the revolver or repeating pistol
1836	Narcissa Prentiss Whitman and Eliza Spalding, two Protestant missionaries, become the first white women to cross the Rocky Mountains when they travel westward with their husbands.
1840	California Road was established and was a wagon trail to California
1841	Homestead Act let you buy 160 acres for a small price
1843	The <b>Oregon Trail</b> is opened from Idaho to the Grande Ronde Valley in Oregon. The Great Migration, the name given to the first major exodus of emigrants westward, draws one thousand settlers onto the Oregon Trail. Perhaps the most well known of the overland trails to the Far West, the Oregon trail led many settlers to Oregon's Willamette Valley and was representative of the hardships of overland travel.
1844-45	The U.S. Congress passes laws to build <b>military posts</b> to protect settlers moving from the East to California and Oregon. These forts cause conflict with Indian tribes along the route.
1845	Manifest Destiny- Journalist John L. O'Sullivan coined the phrase "Manifest Destiny". He wrote of "our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of our continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty." Manifest Destiny referred to the belief of many Americans that it was the nation's destiny and duty to

	expand and conquer the West in the name of God, nature, civilization, and progress.
1845	Mormon leader Brigham Young leads his followers from Nauvoo, Illinois, more than 1,000 miles to the Salt Lake valley in present-day Utah. By the end of 1848, five thousand Mormon settlers have traveled to Salt Lake City.
1846	Trade along the Santa Fe Trail reaches an estimated \$1,000,000 from a traffic flow of 363 wagons and 750 men; by 1860 trade tops \$3,500,000.
1846	The Donner Party, a group of eighty-one men, women, and children, sets off on the Oregon Trail, heading toward California. Unable to cross the snow-covered mountains, members of the Donner Party eat dead members of their party in order to survive the long winter. Of the original party only forty-two survive
November 1847	Members of the Whitman mission in Washington territory are massacred by Cayuse Indians, who believe the missionaries have started a devastating measles epidemic.
January 24, 1848	James Marshall discovers <b>gold</b> at Sutter's Mill in California, thus beginning the California Gold Rush.
1849	An estimated thirty-two thousand people take the overland routes to California in 1849, most in pursuit of gold.
1856	The first of the Mormon handcart companies (settlers carrying their belongings in carts they push by hand)leave Iowa City in June, arriving in Salt Lake City four months later.
1858	John Butterfield's Overland Mail Company opens for service September 16. The company transports mail from St. Louis to Tipton, Missouri, by train and then transfers it to stagecoaches for the trip to San Francisco, California.
1859	Miners flock to Nevada to exploit the so-called Comstock Lode of gold and silver and later that year to Colorado when gold is discovered near Pike's Peak.
April 3, 1860	The <b>Pony Express</b> opens, providing the first rapid overland mail service to the Pacific coast.
April 30, 1860	A force of one thousand warriors led by Navajo chiefs Manuelito and Barboncito attacks Fort Defiance in present-day eastern Arizona, killing a number of soldiers before being driven from the fort. No longer able to overlook isolated Indian raids, the army is determined to destroy the Navajo.
October 24, 1861	Telegraphers send the first message from San Francisco to Washington.
1861-72	The Apache Wars begin in southern Arizona in 1861 when Apache chief Cochise escapes from an army post in Arizona with hostages. In 1871 Cochise opposes efforts to relocate his people to a reservation in New Mexico. In 1872 he finally agrees not to attack the U.S. Army in exchange for reservation land in eastern Arizona.
1862-64	Little Crow's Uprising. The Santee Sioux, led by Little Crow, revolt against corrupt Indian agents in Minnesota who refuse to provide Indians with food they had been promised. The Sioux attack Minnesota settlements and the uprising quickly spreads to the eastern Dakotas. The uprising is defeated and 303 Sioux are sentenced to be hanged. President Abraham Lincoln overturns most of the execution orders, but 38 Indians are hanged, the largest mass execution in American history. Little Crow and his followers escape to Canada.
1862	Congress passed the <a href="#">Pacific Railway Act</a> establishing that the <a href="#">Union Pacific Railroad Company</a> was to build west from Omaha, Nebraska and the Central Pacific <b>Railroad</b> Company was to build east from Sacramento, California. It also provided for a telegraph line to be built adjacent to the railroad.
1862	<b>Homestead Act</b> divided 2.5 million acres into sections or homesteads of 160 acres. People could now just claim 160 acres of land. The only requirement on their part was that they paid a small administration charge and built a house and lived on the land for at least 5 years. Nearly 470,000 homesteaders apply for homesteads in the next eighteen years.
1863	John Bozeman blazes the <b>Bozeman Trail</b> after learning of a gold strike in present-day

	southwestern Montana.
1863	he Nez Percé of Oregon and Idaho are forced to sign the Thief Treaty. The treaty forces the Indians to vacate lands wanted by whites, who had discovered gold on the land in 1860. The treaty reduces the Nez Percé land to one-tenth its former size.
November 29, 1864	Colonel John M. Chivington leads a force from Colorado in an unprovoked attack on a Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho camp at Sand Creek, killing an estimated five hundred men, women, and children. The Sand Creek Massacre is one of the first Indian battles to attract significant attention in the east.
1864	The "Long Walk" of the Navajo begins. Forces led by Kit Carson trap a huge number of Navajo in Canyon de Chelly in present-day Arizona, a steep-sided canyon in which the Navajo had traditionally taken refuge. The Navajo are marched southeast to Bosque Redondo, with many dying along the way.
1866	The first of the great <b>cattle</b> drives begins in Texas. <b>Cowboys</b> round up cattle and drive them northward to rail lines that reach into Kansas. In the years to come some eight million longhorn cattle travel the trails north to Kansas from ranches across Texas and throughout the Great Plains.
1867	Joseph McCoy, an Illinois livestock dealer, founds the town of Abilene, Kansas, as a gathering point for <b>cattle</b> drives from Texas. Rail lines stretching eastward from Abilene deliver cattle to eastern markets.
August 12, 1868	U.S. military authorities force Navajo chiefs to sign a treaty agreeing to live on reservations and cease opposition to whites. The treaty establishes a 3.5 million-acre reservation within the Navajo nation's old domains (a small portion of the original Navajo territory).
1869	The two <b>railroads</b> meet at Promontory Summit near Ogden, Utah and drive the golden spike to symbolize that the country is now connected from coast to coast by rail.
1869	Brigadier General Ely S. Parker, a Seneca tribal leader and close friend of President Ulysses S. Grant, is appointed commissioner of Indian Affairs. It is the first time an Indian holds this post.
1870	Wodziwob, a Paiute Indian living on the California/Nevada border, is credited with beginning the Ghost Dance religion, which promises Indians that they will return to the life they had before European contact. The Ghost Dance movement lasts about two years in California, but it continues to exist in other areas for more than twenty years.
1870	The U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of McKay v. Campbell, decides that Indians are not U.S. citizens since their allegiance is to their tribe, not to the United States. Because of this ruling Indians are denied protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.
1871	The famous cattle town of Dodge City, Kansas, is founded. Within a year the settlement boasts a general store, three dance halls, and six saloons, and soon becomes a gathering place for <b>cowboys</b> fresh off the range.
1871	The U.S. Congress stops the practice of making treaties with Indians. Congress allows "agreements," which do not recognize tribes as independent nations. At the end of the treaty era, American Indian tribes still control one-tenth of the forty-eight states, or about one-fourth of the land between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. By the early 1900s much of this land is owned by the U.S. government.
1873	Timber Culture Act was passed. Under the terms of this act people could have 160 acres of land free provided that at least 40 acres of it was planted with trees. Anyone could lay claim to the land even foreign immigrants.
1874	An expedition led by Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer discovers gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, sacred land for the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes. In violation of the Fort Laramie Treaty, gold miners flood the Black Hills. Soon Indian and U.S. Army forces are fighting over this land.
1875	U.S. president Ulysses Grant vetoes a bill that would protect the <b>buffalo</b> from extinction.

June 25, 1876	At the Battle of Little Bighorn forces led by General George Armstrong Custer are defeated by combined Native American forces. The Indians' victory is their last major triumph against the whites.
1877	After the Battle of Little Bighorn, all of the Nez Percé Indians are ordered to report to reservations. Chief Joseph of the Nez Percé leads a band of his people on a long, torturous journey to elude army forces, but they are eventually captured just 40 miles from the Canadian border.
1877	Desert Land Act allowed you to buy 640 acres of land.
1880	Cattle drives up the <b>Chisholm Trail</b> reach their peak.
July 18, 1883	Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opens in Omaha, Nebraska. With riding, target shooting, and showmanship in an open-air spectacle, the show becomes an American favorite for the next twenty years.
1883-84	The Fence Cutter's War begins when a drought in Texas makes good grazing land scarce. Small ranchers and homesteaders pressure lawmakers to ban the fencing of public lands. When they receive no assistance, they band together in small groups with names like the Owls, Javelinas, or Blue Devils and, under the cover of night, tear down the offending fences.
1885	The <b>cowboy</b> era ends. Increased settlement of Kansas leads to the closing of the cattle towns, and expanding railroad lines mean that ranchers no longer have to drive cattle to railheads. Huge blizzards that strike the plains in 1886 and 1887 kill off cattle by the thousands, proving that cattle can't be left to fend for themselves. Finally, farmers claim increasing amounts of western land, and ranchers are forced to purchase and fence land for their cattle. Men who were once cowboys now become mere farmhands—but the legend of the cowboy lives on.
September 4, 1886	U.S. troops capture Apache chief Geronimo after four years of warfare with his band on the Mexican border.
April 22, 1889	In the Oklahoma Land Rush some fifty thousand settlers claim lands just opened to settlement, thus ending the Indian's claim to this territory.
1889-90	The second Ghost Dance movement arises among Indians living on the Northern Plains, encouraging them to believe that they would return to the days before contact with whites had ruined their culture. The Ghost Dance religion spreads to many tribes throughout the West. The Bureau of Indian Affairs outlaws the Ghost Dance, and the army cracks down on participants.
December 29, 1890	The Battle of Wounded Knee ends the last major Indian resistance to white settlement in America. Nearly 500 well-armed troopers of the U.S. 7th Cavalry massacre an estimated 300 (out of 350) Sioux men, women, and children in a South Dakota encampment. The Army takes only 35 casualties.
1890	The Superintendent of the Census for 1890 declares that there is no longer a frontier in America. The census report's conclusion about the closing of the frontier encourages President Theodore Roosevelt to begin setting aside public lands as national parks.
1890-1900	At the end of the nineteenth century, most non-Indians believe that Native Americans as a group will not survive much longer. The term "Vanishing Americans" comes to be applied to Native Americans. This idea is used to justify continued taking of Native lands and moving the people to places far away. From an estimated population of 15,000,000 in the year 1500, the American Indian population declines to a low point of 237,196 in the 1900 U.S. Census.

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