

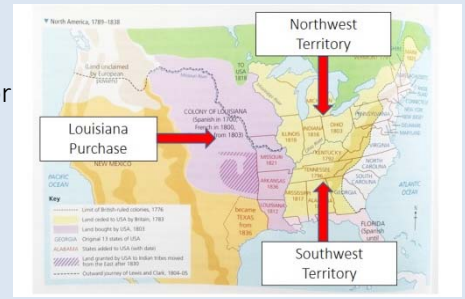
Making of the USA
Unit 1 (1789 t 1838) Core Knowledge

Background info



- The USA declared **independence** declared **1776**
- The USA officially began in **1789**. Its first president was **George Washington**
- There were originally **13 states** including New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia

The USA **grew massively** between 1789 and 1838, doubling the number of states to **26 by 1838**. There were three major expansions – the **Northwest Territory**, the **Southwest Territory** and the **Louisiana Purchase**.

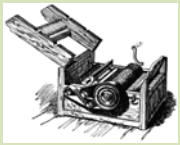


The USA grew because:

- Washington fought with **Indians** in the Northwest Territory and took their land
- **Thomas Jefferson** encouraged **new settlements** in the Northwest and Southwest
- The USA arranged the **Louisiana Purchase** from the French in **1803**
- Slaveholders wanted to expand their businesses

Slave plantations in the **Deep South** were crucial for the US economy

- By 1820 **cotton** made up to **42% of all exports**
- Between 1815 and 1819 around **100,000 slaves** were sold
- Northern factories then turned this cotton into products making more money



By 1820 slavery was growing due to:

- The invention of the **cotton gin** in **1793** sped up production
- Many presidents were slaveholders (e.g. Andrew Jackson) and were resistant to abolishing it
- New cotton growing lands opened up as the US grew

BUT this huge growth of slavery (there were **2 million slaves by 1838**) caused huge **tension**:

- In the North some thought slavery was morally wrong
- People worried that slave states in the south had too much power.

This led to the **Missouri Compromise of 1820**.
For every new state added to the USA one would be a slave state and the next would be a free state.
This kept **balance of power**.



Tensions also grew with the Native Indian tribes.

Initially things began well. In the south-east the **Five Civilised tribes** (Cherokee, Chicksaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole) tried to live alongside White settlers

- They used the same political structure, used money and had written language.
- By 1820 Cherokee had churches, schools and newspapers.



- BUT White settlers demanded the removal of Indians from the East so they could farm.
- **Andrew Jackson** passed the **Indian Removal Act of 1830.**
- This promised money to tribes if they agreed to move to the **Indian Territory** west of the Mississippi

The Indians were unsurprisingly unhappy with this.

- Choctaw and Chickshaw did sign treaties and moved West. Between 1831 and 1833 they gave up 11 million acres and 15,000 moved.
- Cherokee complained to the Supreme Court of Georgia. 1832 who ruled they should stay.
- Creek refused to sign a treaty.

Between 1830 and 1838 the US Government **forcibly removed** the Indians

- They had a war with the **Seminole** who refused to move to the Territory, between **1835 and 1842**. The USA lost but after their leader was killed they moved West.
- The Creek eventually signed a treaty in 1832 to give up some land. White settlers took more and the Creeks attacked them (1835). Between 1836 and 1837 the army forcibly removed them.
- Most Cherokee refused to move. 1838 the army came to forcibly remove them and forced the Indians into concentration camps. They were force marched to the Territory on the **'Trail of Tears'**. 4000 died.



Making of the USA
Unit 2 (1839 to 1860) **Core Knowledge**

Background info

- There are **two million square miles** of land between the Mississippi River and the West Coast of America.
- In the **1820s Mountain Men** began to explore this land and they brought back stories of what the West was like and how you could travel through it.
- This led to the **migration west of the 1840s and 50s**

The Lakota Sioux

By 1840, a number of Indian nations lived on the Plains. This included the Apache, The Cheyenne and the Lakota Sioux.

The **Lakota Sioux** had a **nomadic** culture. They would live in **tipis** which they could collapse and move quickly to chase Buffalo herds.

They believed in the **Great Spirit**, Wakan Tanka and that all living things had their own spirit. Farming was believed to be disrespectful to the land.

There was **no single leader** of all the tribes of the Lakota Sioux.

Warfare was an important part Sioux culture and they had fierce rivalries with other tribes such as the Crow and the Mandan.

Ordinary families of **migrants** began to move West in the 1840s. They started to go for a number of reasons:

1. **1837 Depression in the East**
2. Early explorers brought back tales of the land that was perfect for farming in the East
3. The **Pre-emption Act** was passed by the US government in 1841 which made it easier for ordinary families to buy land
4. In **1845** journalists and politicians began to talk of it being America's **Manifest Destiny** to settle the whole of North America
5. By 1840 Mountain Men had begun to map routes and trails that migrants could take to the West.

The **journey west** would hold a number of **problems** that they would have to deal with:

1. Planning and reparation to make sure they had the right stuff for the 8 month journey
2. Stampeding Buffalo, snake bites
3. Torrential rain, swollen rivers, baking sun
4. Journeying through the Rocky Mountains
5. Crossing a desert
6. Hostile Indians
7. Cholera and other diseases
8. Getting caught in the mountains when the snow came

Mormons moved West in **1846** to escape religious persecution.

Joseph Smith founded the religion but it was **Brigham Young** who led the Mormons to the Great Salt Lake

They were successful settling for a few reasons such a Young's leadership, the belief that they has a mission from God, the successful digging of irrigation channels from the mountain streams and the communal culture which led to sharing of skills.

The **California gold rush of 1849** turned the trickle of emigrants West into a flood.

Over **50 000** Americans headed to California in 1849 alone. This led to mining towns growing up all over California which then bred auxiliary businesses such as hotels and shops. San Francisco boomed.

Indian lands were seriously harmed by the mining activities of the white Americans.

The **Pike's Peak gold rush of 1858-59** was another major gold rush. It was different in two main ways:

1. Rail lines made it easier for people to come and so twice as many people went to Pike's Peak to California
2. Town Boosters set out to encourage the wealth of their towns by encouraging people to settle there

Pike's Peak marked a significant shift in relations between whites and Native Americans. Treaties signed in 1851 established routes across Indian lands but now with Pike's Peak, Whites wanted to settle on Indian land as well.



Making of the USA
Unit 3: The Civil War (1861-1877) **Core Knowledge**

Background information

- The American Civil War was fought between 1861 and 1865
- Over 750,000 people died in the Civil War
- It was fought between the Northern and Southern states
- The Northern states were the Union and the Southern states the Confederacy
- Led by Abraham Lincoln, the Union won the war in 1865

1. Causes of the Civil War

There were some long-term causes of the Civil War:

- Frederick Douglass (an important **abolitionist**) was successful in gainin g support for the ending of slavery
- The **1850 Compromise** forced free sates had to returned escaped slaves to their holders
- The **Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)** said that states could decide for themselves if they wanted slaves, overriding the Missouri Compromise
- The **Republican Party** was set us as an anti-slavery party in 1854

The election of Lincoln as President triggered the outbreak of war:

- Republican **Abraham Lincoln** was elected in 1860, but with almost no support from the South
- That year South Carolina voted to **secede** from (leave) the Union in protest
- Lincoln declared the new southern Confederacy illegal, leading to war

2. The Experience of African Americans in the Civil War

There were three phases to the African-American experience of the Civil War:

A. Before the Emancipation Proclamation:

- Black Americans in the South were **slaves**, and it was illegal for them to learn to read and write
- In the North, black workers could get jobs, but their pay was worse than whites' and schools were **segregated**

B. The Emancipation Proclamation

- With stalemate in the Civil War, President Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation** in 1863, promising to free all slaves if the Union won

C. After the Emancipation Proclamation

- Over **200,000 freed slaves** had learned to read and write by 1865
- Hundreds of thousands of ex-slaves joined the Union army, the men in fighting roles and women as nurses and cooks
- Many ex-slaves were given land in the South, for example on the **Sea Islands**
- However, there was still lots of racism against African Americans in both the North and South

3. After the Civil War, there were three major phases of Reconstruction

PHASE 1: Presidential Reconstruction

President Lincoln fulfilled his promise to free the slaves with the **13th Amendment**

He set up the **Freedman's Bureau** to give land confiscated from plantation owners to freed slaves

But Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865

His successor as President, **Andrew Johnson**, did more to support white Southerners

He stopped the Freedman's Bureau and introduced the **Black Codes**

PHASE 2: Radical Reconstruction

In 1866 the government passed the 14th Amendment, giving US citizenship to all born in the USA, and in 1870 the **15th Amendment** gave all black Americans the right to vote

PHASE 3: Reconstruction loses its way

Many Southerners disliked Reconstruction

Northerners moved to the South to make more money (**carpetbaggers**) and many black Americans had to work as **sharecroppers** on the old plantations



Making of the USA

Unit 4: Settlement and Conflict on the Plains (1861-1877) Core Knowledge

Background information

- After the end of the Civil War (1865), more White Americans moved west to the Great Plains
- Some (cowboys) went to farm cattle and drive them north to the cow towns; others (homesteaders) went to settle and farm
- All of them benefited from the westward expansion of the railroad
- Many of these white settlers cam into conflict with Native Americans on the Plains

1. Railroads, ranches and cow towns

The Transcontinental Railroad united Western and Esatern America:

- Abraham Lincoln approved a Pacific Railroad Act in 1862, which promised money to railroad companies
- This railroad was completed in 1869

The cattle industry grew thanks to railroads and grass on the Plains:

- After the Civil War, there was much farming of Longhorn cattle in Texas
- Cowboys drove them from Texas up to cow towns on the railroads, to be shipped east for beef
- Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving made $24,000 selling 2000 cattle
- But cattle droves disrupted buffalo hunting for the Native Americans

Cow towns and cattle ranches developed near the railroads:

- Abilene, Kansas, was a cow town that was drunken and violent, until law was imposed by sheriffs in the 1870s
- Instead of driving cattle from Texas, businessmen such as John Iliff set up permanent cattle ranches near the railways

2. Homesteaders on the Plains

Many factors led Easterners to move to the Plains:

- The Homestead Act offered people 160 acres of land for free if they farmed it for five years
- A banking crisis in the 1870s meant that many were out of work
- Ex-slaves could move there after the Civil War

Homesteaders faced difficulties on the Plains:

- There were few tress on the Plains, so a scarcity of building materials
- There was a lack of clean water, leading to cholera and typhoid
- There were extremes of weather in summer and winter
- Isolation was a problem

Homesteaders came up with solutions to live on the Plains

- They built sod houses from earth
- They used dry farming techniques, such as Turkey Red wheat, which needed less water
- Barbed wire fencing was invented, allowing crops to be protected from animals
- Buffalo chips (dung) were collected by children and burned as fuel

3. The Indian Wars

White settlement on the Plains led to growing tension with the Native Americans:

- After Pike's Peak Gold Rush, the government began to move Native Americans onto reservations, which was strongly resisted

Little Crow's War (1861-62):

- The Santee Sioux were starving and the government refused them emergency food
- Led by Chief Little Crow, the Santee Sioux massacred 500 white settlers; 38 Sioux were hanged and hundreds sent to prison

Red Cloud's War (1866-68):

- After gold was discovered on a Sioux reservation, there were battles between settlers and the Native Americans
- The government was forced into a humiliating Treaty at Fort Laramie, which promised more land to the Sioux

The Great Sioux War (1875-77):

- General Custer's cavalry were defeated and killed at the Battle of Little Big Horn
- As a result the Sioux were re-settled on even smaller reservations

Unit 5: American Cultures 1877-1900. Knowledge Organiser

Background info:

- Cotton industry collapses in the South after the Civil war
- Benjamin Singleton (an exoduster) encouraged ex slaves to move to Kansas and claim land under the Homestead Act.
- Mass migration to America was made easier by developments in technology

Native Americans:

After Little Big Horn US policy became much harsher towards the Indians…

- Native American culture was destroyed, the buffalo were wiped out and Indians were pushed on to reservations.
- Tribes were deliberately split up to prevent them from fighting back.
- The arrival of homesteaders, ranchers and big businesses on the Plains pushed tribes to starvation.
- Native Americans were forced to **convert to Christianity**, choose English names and were encouraged to live in houses instead of tipis.
- By 1900 nearly 2/3 of all land held by Native Americans in 1877 had been taken by white settlers.
- The **Dawes Act of 1887** gave Indian families 160 acted of land and citizenship if they gave up their claim to tribal lands.

Keywords used in this unit:

Bonanza Farms – farms over 10,000 acres

Friends of the Indian – a group set up in 1883 to protect the rights of Native Americans.

Dawes Act – have Indian families a homestead and citizenship if they gave up their claim to tribal lands.

Exoduster – black settlers who moved to Kansas.

Jim Crow Laws – introduces segregation.

Redeemer governments – Southern state governments that tried to undo the changes made by the Civil War.

Trade Unions – organisations set up to protect workers' rights.

Tenement – apartment building.

African – Americans:

Overall life gets worse for African – Americans after Reconstruction:

- Black Americans were much less likely to get a job than white workers in the North, even if they were more qualified.
- The majority of black Americans in the south worked as **sharecroppers.**
- By 1900 there were **23,866** black **teachers** and **417** black **doctors** in the USA.
- **Jim Crow Laws** were introduced in the South in the **1890**'s.
- In 1892 **161** black Americans were **lynched** by mobs in the South.
- The **KKK** had a lot of influence among people in power including state politicians.
- Black campaigners still pushed for equal rights as the 13th 14th and 15th Amendments promised them equality.

Big Business and Cities

Big businesses and cities created some opportunities, but brought many challenges too:

- **Bonanza farms** began to appear in the 1880's.
- Big corporation's used their power and political influence to pay workers as little as possible.
- New factories created jobs but these were usually low skilled and for white workers.
- The growth of railroads led to a demand for coal, iron, steel and other minerals.
- **Trade unions** had little power and usually used this power to stop black or Mexican workers gaining employment.

Mass Migration:

Immigrants often met racism and hostility:

- America attracted immigrants as it offered freedom of religion and thought.
- Travel to America was made easier by the invention of steam ships.
- **600,000** immigrants came from **Italy** alone in the 1890's.
- **Ellis Island** (in New York) opened in 1892 to process immigrants.
- Most immigrants were to cities to find work.
- Anti – immigrant violence was common and laws prevented Chinese workers from moving freely in California.
- Immigrants ended up in the poorest areas of the cities.

Cities

Cities grew massively, but often contained poor areas:

- In 1870 there were 14 cities in the USA. By 1900 there were 38.
- Many were overcrowded. 32 families could share a 6 or 8 storey **tenement.**
- Western cities were a driving force behind women gaining the vote in the 1920's