

Key event timeline-	
1849	California Gold rush
1858-9	Gold discovered in the Rocky Mountains
1862	Homestead Act
1867	Abilene becomes the first cow town
1869	First transcontinental railroad is complete
1870	Cattle ranching begins on the open range
1874	Barbed wire begins to be produced
1881	The OK Coral
1886-7	Severe winter leads to the end of the open range
1892	Johnson County War

Key Concepts

Federal law enforcement: The territories of the West were under the control of the Federal government (in the East). Only when a territory had a population of over 60,000 could it apply to be a state and have its own state government, laws and legal system.

The Federal government decided on the laws for each state, appointed a governor, three judges and a US Marshall to enforce the law.

Once a territory had a population of 5000 they could elect a sheriff for their county. He had similar powers to a US Marshal but for the county area. He would have no legal training and was usually selected as he was a calming influence.



- Enquiry questions**
- Why were there problems with Lawlessness?
 - How did the government try to tackle problems of lawlessness?
 - How effective was the government in dealing with problems of lawlessness?

- Exam question stems**
- Explain one consequence of.... (8)
 - Write a narrative account analysing (8)
 - Explain the significance of X for Y (8) (16)

Key words and definitions	
Vigilante	A group of ordinary people who punish suspected law breakers themselves instead of relying on the law.
US Marshall	A police officer in charge of a district. US marshal was a federal law officer appointed to an area.
Posse	A group of men called together by the Sheriff to help him enforce the law.
Sheriff	An elected law officer with the responsibility of keeping the peace in his areas and carrying out orders of the court such as issuing warrants and delivering prisoners to jail.
Lynching	This occurs when a group of people take the law into their own hands and executes someone they think is guilty of a crime.