

Key event timeline-		Key words and definitions	
1854	The government created <b>2 new territories (lands)</b> - Kansas and Nebraska <b>behind the Permanent Indian Frontier (border)</b> and encouraged settling by white Americans. <b>Farming is becoming successful</b> . Large farms could afford steamed-powered farm machinery and a large agricultural workforce.	Homesteader	Someone who settled on new land to create a new home
1861-65	In 1861 <b>eleven southern states had seceded (left) the USA</b> and formed a Confederacy (their own version of the USA). This <b>began the Civil War (a war between different groups within one country)</b> . By the end of the war in 1865, over 600,000 Americans had been killed and another 400,000 injured. <b>The Union (north) and defeated the Confederacy (south)</b> .	Free State	States where slavery was not allowed
May 1862	The <b>Homestead Act</b> was passed to <b>give homesteaders (settlers) plots (areas) of land</b> . Each plot was 160 acres of land. It cost <b>\$10 to register a claim</b> to a homestead plot- <b>this was called ‘filing a claim’</b> . <b>To file a claim you then had to build on the land and farm it</b> .	Confederacy	The 11 southern states who broke away to form their own USA
July 1862	The <b>Pacific Railroad Act</b> was passed <b>persuading railroads to build across America</b> (transcontinental). This led to 2 companies (Union Pacific and Central Pacific) building the first transcontinental (across America) railroad.	Filing a claim	Paying to register a claim to a plot of land
1866	Charles Goodnight set up the Goodnight and Loving trail, <b>taking cows from Texas North</b> . They drove 2,000 cattle with 18 cowboys. At Fort Sumner they sold 800 cattle for \$12,000. John <b>Iliff</b> built a ranch (large farm) near <b>Denver in Colorado</b> .	Proving up	Paying \$30 after 5 years for a plot of land that the settler has built and planted crops on
1867	1867 the railroad reached <b>Abilene in Kansas</b> . A livestock trader, <b>Joseph McCoy</b> realized Abilene could be a focus point for cattle drives. <b>McCoy bought 450 acres</b> of cheap land and built large <b>stockyards</b> to keep the cattle in and <b>built a town</b> for the cowboys. Between 1867-1872, 3 million cattle were driven to Abilene which had become the first <b>cow-town</b> . <b>McCoy became very rich</b> .	Trans-continental	Across the continent
1868	In <b>1868</b> Goodnight drove cattle all the way to <b>Wyoming and the Union Pacific Railroad</b> . By 1870 he had 26,000 cattle on his ranch. <b>Iliff</b> continued to expand (make bigger) his original ranch (farm) to cover 16,000 acres.	Texas fever	Disease that impacted cattle
1870s	1870s saw a huge growth in <b>ranching (raising cattle) on the Plains</b> . It was a great way to make money – low costs and high profits. <b>Cattle Barons (had lots of cows)</b> were the few controlled the plains and in <b>Colorado and Wyoming</b> politics as well.	Cow-Town	Towns where cows were put onto trains having been driven from the south along the trails
1873	The <b>Dawes Act</b> <b>gave individual Plains Indian families could receive 160 acres</b> – this was to prevent tribes owning all the land. All the land that was left over went up for sale.	Ranching	Raising herds of cattle on the plains
1879	The <b>Exoduster Movement</b> saw newly <b>freed slaves move west to settle and take up Homesteads</b> . By the end of 1879, 400,000 had left the south for Kansas, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois.	Cattle Barons	The few who owned large cattle ranches and enormous herds of cattle
1889-93	The <b>Oklahoma Land Rush</b> , the US government <b>opened up the middle section of the Indian Territory</b> . It was to be divided up into 160 acre sections. Thousands of hopeful settlers waited on the boundary (edge of the land available). Once the signal was given they rushed to reach a section and claim it.		