# Moving West

# The Lure of the West

- West seized the American imagination
- Kindled people's sense of adventure, their entrepreneurial spirit, and their appetite for profit and conquest
- **Push-Pull Factors** - Events and conditions that either force (push) people to move elsewhere or strongly attract (pull) them to do so

# Push Factors

- Lack of services
- Lack of safety
- high crimes
- crop failure
- drought
- flooding
- poverty and war

# Pull Factors

- higher employment
- more wealth
- better services
- good climate
- safer, less crime
- political stability
- more fertile land
- lower risk from natural hazards

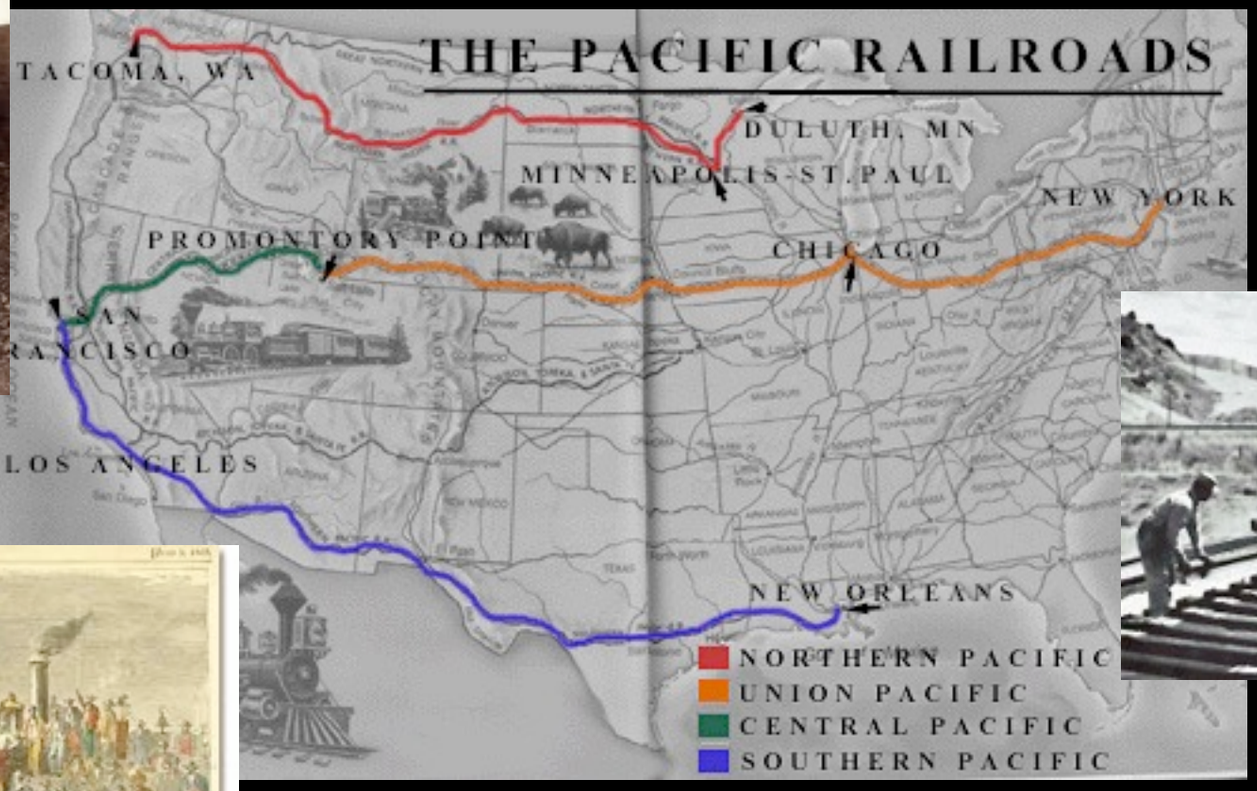
# Push Factors

- Civil war displaced thousands of farmers, former slaves, and other workers.
- Eastern farmland was increasingly costly
- Failed entrepreneurs sought a second chance in a new location
- Ethnic and religious repression caused both Americans and Europeans to seek freedom in the West.
- Open space sheltered outlaws on the run

# Pull Factors: Government Incentives

- After the Civil War the government opened the way to western migration by giving away public lands - or selling them at rock-bottom prices.
- **Pacific Railway Acts** of 1862 and 1864 - government gave large land grants to the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads.
  - 10 square miles of public land on each side of the track for every mile of track land
  - 1850 - 1871 - 175 million acres of public land was given to the railroads.

# PACIFIC RAILWAY ACT



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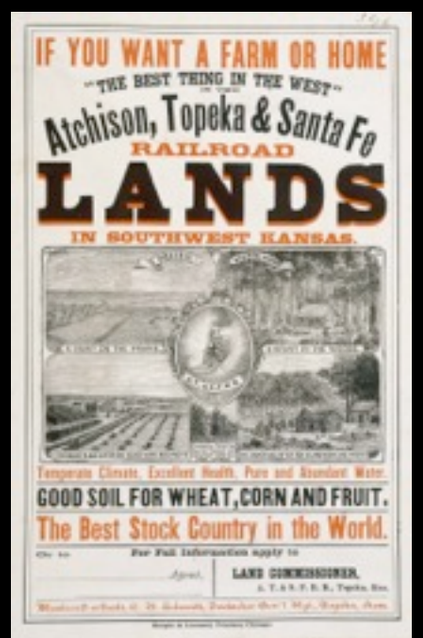
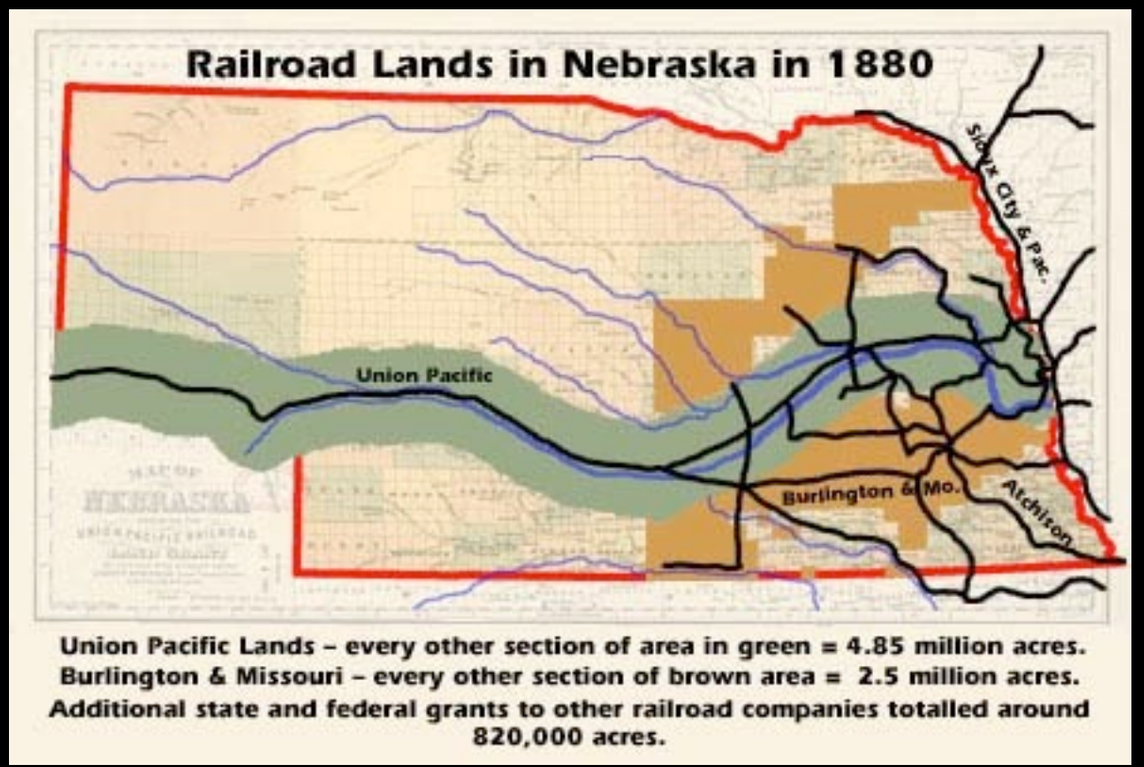
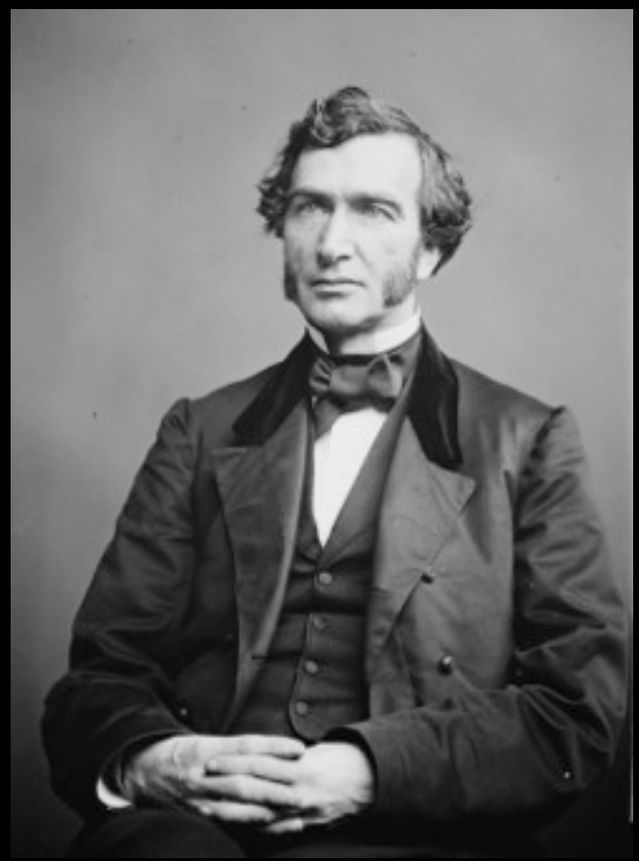
- New avenues of migration into the American interior
  - Railroads sold portions of their land to arriving settlers.
  - Lands closest to the tracks drew the highest prices.




Union Pacific Lands – every other section of area in green = 4.85 million acres.
Burlington & Missouri – every other section of brown area = 2.5 million acres.
Additional state and federal grants to other railroad companies totalled around 820,000 acres.

- Congress passed the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862
  - State governments were given millions of acres of western land.
  - States sold the land to raise money for the creation of "land grant" colleges specializing in agriculture and mechanical arts.
  - Sold to land to bankers and land speculators.



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- **Homestead Act 1862** - Small fee settlers could have 160 acres of land - a quarter-mile square - if they met certain conditions
  - At least 21 years old or the heads of families
  - American citizens or immigrants filing for citizenship
  - Built a house of a certain minimum size (12 ft by 14 ft) in at least six months a year
  - Had to farm the land for five years in a row before claiming ownership
- 372,000 farms were created
- By 1900 - 600,000 claims for more than 80 million acres

PRODUCTS WILL PAY FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS!

# MILLIONS OF ACRES

View on the Big Blue, between Camden and Crete, representing Valley and Rolling Prairie Land in Nebraska.

## IOWA AND NEBRASKA

# LANDS

FOR SALE ON 10 YEARS CREDIT

BY THE

## Burlington & Missouri River R.R. Co.

AT 6 PER CT. INTEREST AND LOW PRICES.

Only One-Seventh of Principal Due Annually, beginning Four Years after purchase.

20 PER CENT. DEDUCTED FROM 10 YEARS PRICE, FOR CASH.

**LAND EXPLORING TICKETS SOLD**

and Cost allowed in First Interest paid, on Land bought in 30 days from date of ticket.

*Thus our Land Buyers get A FREE PASS in the State where the Land bought is located.*

*These TERMS are BETTER at $5, than to pre-empt United States Land at $2.50 per Acre.*

EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENTS on FREIGHT and PASSAGE are AFFORDED TO PURCHASERS and THEIR FAMILIES.

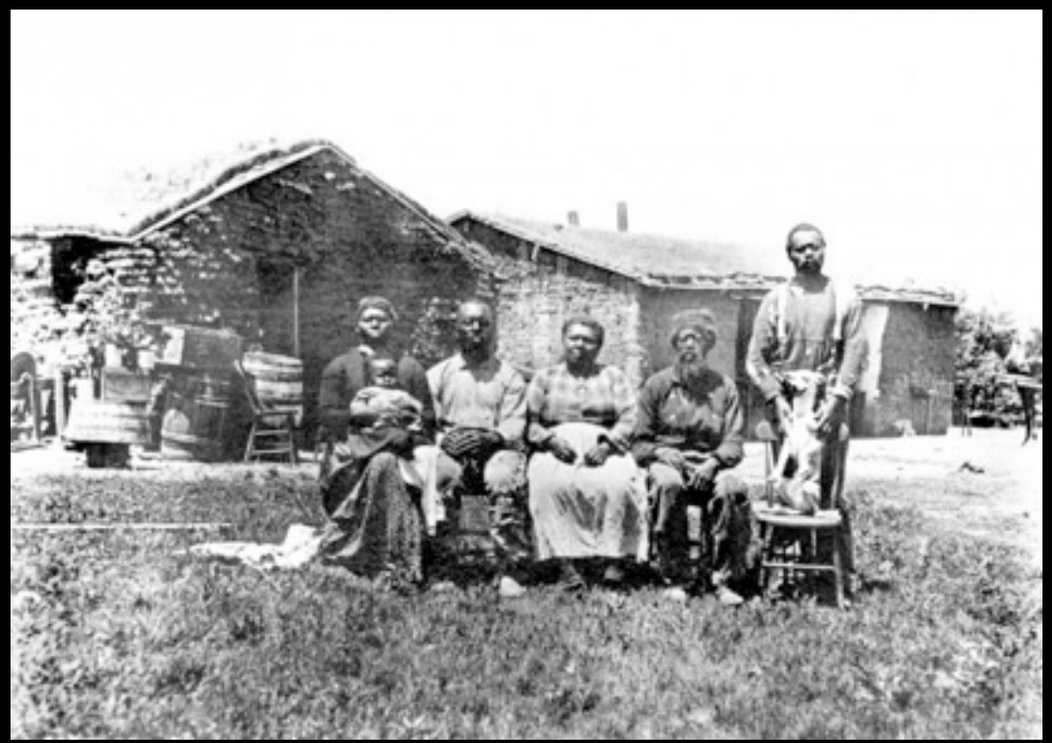
Address GEO. S. HARRIS, LAND COMMISSIONER,
or T. H. LEAVITT, Ass't Land Comm'r, Burlington, Iowa.

Or apply to

FREE ROOMS for buyers to board themselves are provided at Burlington and Lincoln.

CIRCULARS are supplied GRATIS for distribution in ORGANIZING COLONIES and to induce individuals to emigrate WEST.

A SECTIONAL MAP, showing exact location of our IOWA LANDS is sold for 30 Cents, and of NEBRASKA LANDS for 30 Cents.



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http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFrVoG-edFc

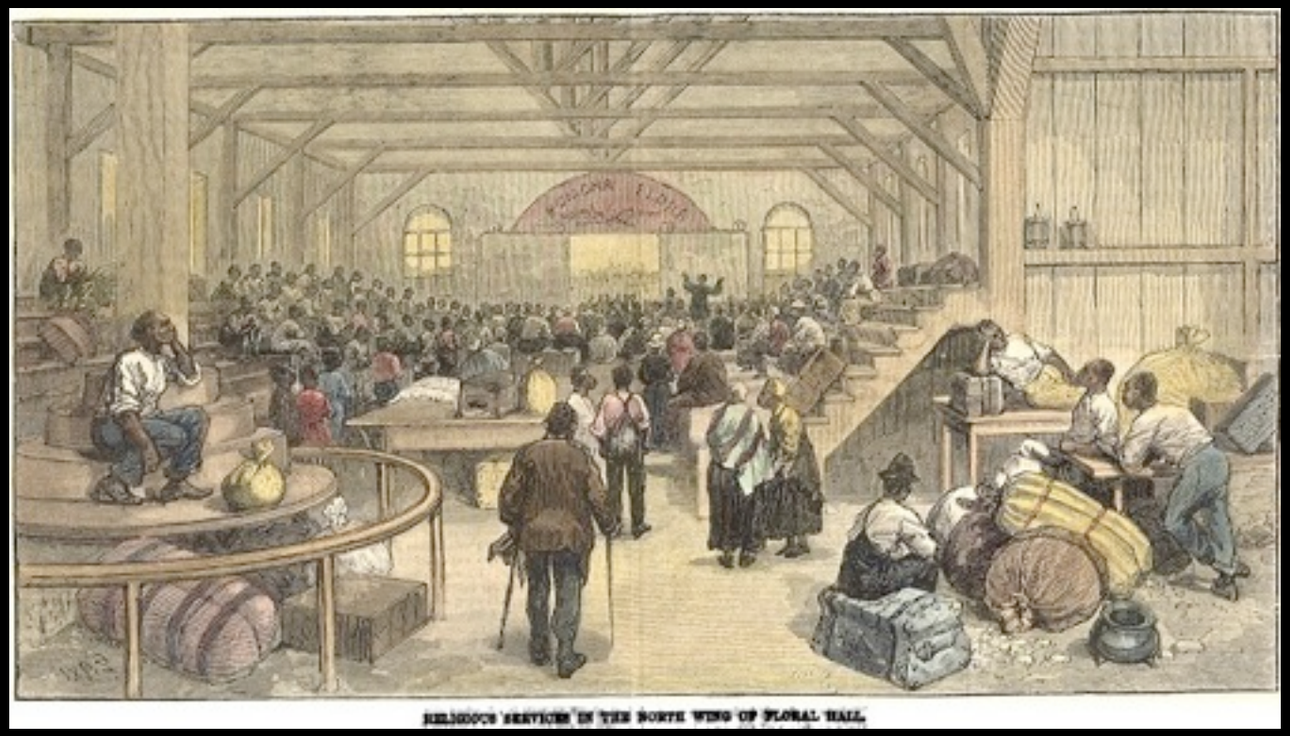
# Pull Factor: Private Property

- Homestead Act and state and local laws helped to limit settlers' risks and avoid a total free-for-all.
- Miners, cattle ranchers, and farmers all received certain rights to land and possessions.
- Land parcels were measured, registered, and deeded.
- Water rights provided stable water sources for crops and for human and animal consumption.

# Settlers From Far and Wide

- White Easterners
- Cheap land and new jobs attracted people of other countries and ethnic groups
- German immigrants (late 1800s) - land to farm
    - tight-knit communities from Texas to the Upper Missouri River.
    - Lutheran Religion, hard work, education
- Scandinavians
    - Northern plains from Iowa to Minnesota to the Dakotas
    - Dairy farmers

- Irish, Italians, European Jews and Chinese tended to settle in concentrated communities (West Coast cities)
  - Moved to cities in the American interior
  - Jobs in mining, railroad construction, and other trades
- Ranching, mining, farm labor, and jobs in boom towns drew Americans and foreigners.
- African Americans escaped the violence and exploitation of Reconstruction
  - 1879 - Benjamin Singleton - led a mass "Exodus" of southern blacks. (Exodusters)



RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN THE NORTH WING OF FLORAL HALL.

# All Colored People

THAT WANT TO

# GO TO KANSAS,

**On September 5th, 1877,**

## Can do so for $5.00

## IMMIGRATION.

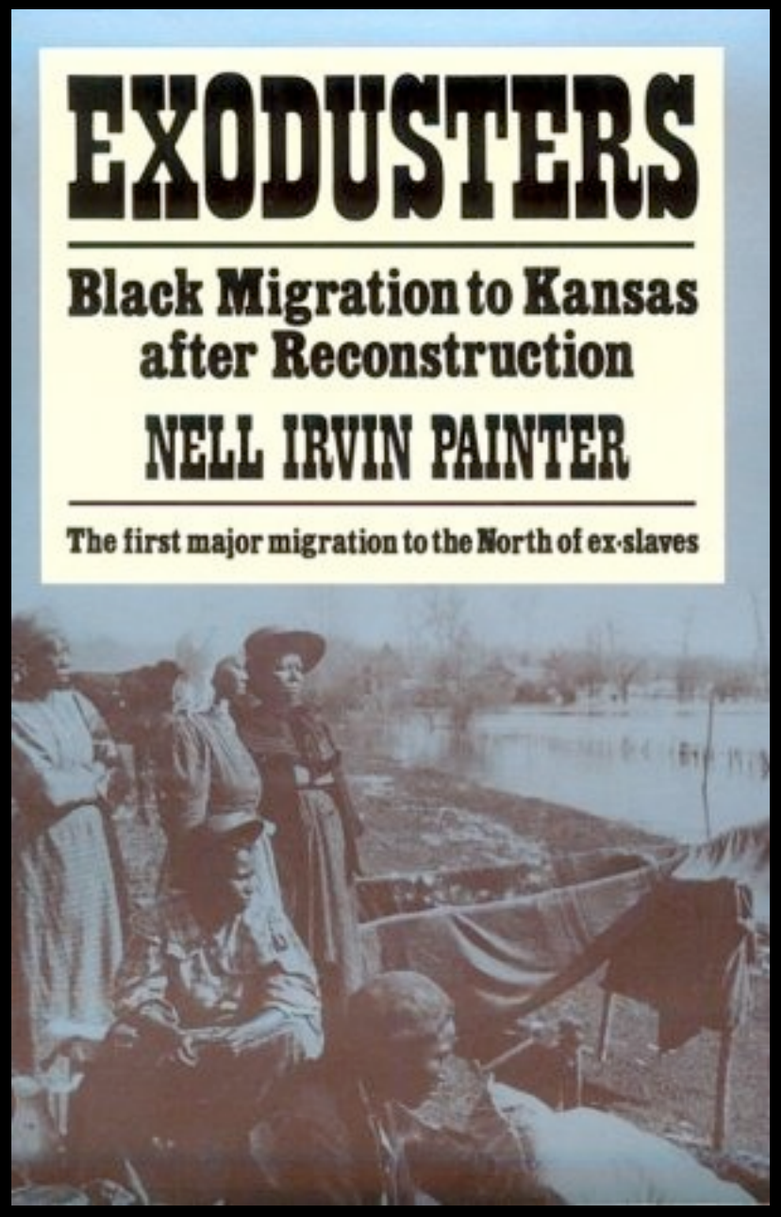
WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky., knowing that there is an abundance of *choice* lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves together for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:—Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar ($1.00), and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in instalments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

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

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

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 his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not be recognized or protected by the Colony.



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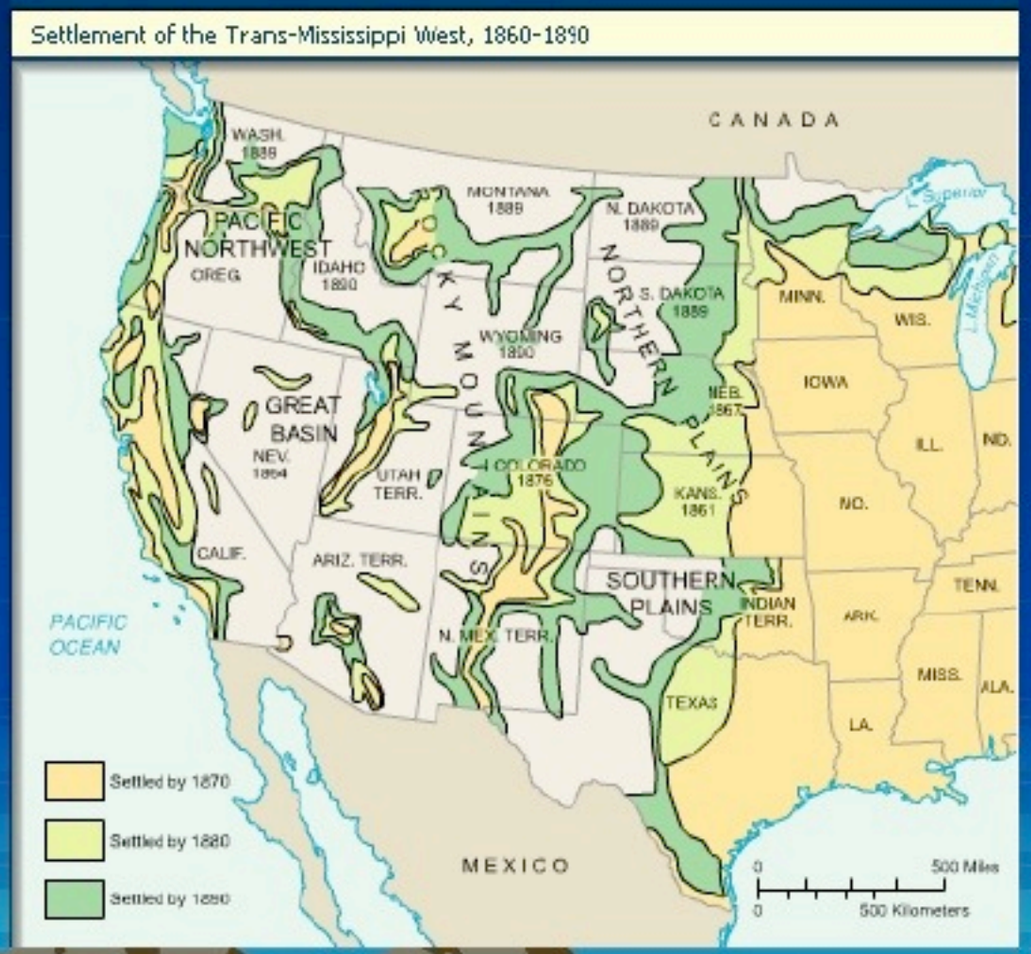
# The Shifting Frontier

- Various regions of the Frontier were settled at different times.
- By 1890 - settlements dotted the prairie every 10 miles or so.
- Towns gave rise to cities

# As the West grows…

- Settlement in the West grows with the help of the Homestead Act and the railroad, prompting a population boom
  - Between 1864 and 1890, ten states were added to the Union!



# These are the states on the Plains.

- Homesteaders came to the Plains to farm the land.
- Miners searched for gold.
- Railroad companies built the train.
- Exodusters came to Kansas to start a new life and later became miners and Homesteaders and worked on the railroad.
- Immigrants worked on railroads and in mines and became Homesteaders.

TERRITORIAL GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES
MAINE 1820
N.H. 1788
VT. 1791
MASS. 1788
WASH. 1889
ORE. 1859
IDAHO 1890
MONTANA 1889
N. D. 1889
MINN. 1858
WISC. 1848
MICHIGAN 1837
N. Y. 1788
R.I. 1790
CONN. 1788
N.J. 1787
DEL. 1787
MD. 1788
W. VA. 1863
PA. 1787
WYO. 1890
S. D. 1889
NEBRASKA 1867
IOWA 1846
ILL. 1818
IND. 1816
OHIO 1803
VA. 1788
NEVADA 1864
UTAH 1896
CALIF. 1850
COLO. 1876
KANSAS 1861
MO. 1821
KY. 1792
TENN. 1796
N. C. 1789
S. C. 1788
GA. 1788
ARIZ. 1912
NEW MEXICO 1912
OKLA. 1907
ARK. 1836
MISS. 1817
ALA. 1819
LA. 1812
TEXAS 1845
FLA. 1845
Original Thirteen Colonies
United States, 1783
Louisiana Purchase, 1803
From Great Britain, 1818
Gadsden Purchase, 1853
Spanish Cession, 1819-1821
Texas Annexation, 1845-1848
Oregon Country, 1846
Mexican Cession, 1848

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q16OZkgSXfM&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s&index=26