**Unit 2: The American West**

Cultures Clash on the Prairies:

* Native Americans vs. “White man” (Americans)
	+ Indian – live off Buffalo (food, clothing, weapons); nomadic; person cannot own the land
	+ Easterners – greedy (want gold); agriculture; expansion; Manifest Destiny
		- Manifest Destiny – to spread from “sea to shinning sea” Atlantic to the Pacific; basically, conquer the entire continent
* Massacre at Sand Creek – Many Native Americans died; Americans thought there was gold in their reservation, so they broke the Fort Laramie Treaty
* Death on the Bozeman Trail – Many Americans (white men) died from being ambushed by the Sioux tribe – leader Sitting Bull
* Custer’s Last Stand (Battle of Little Big Horn)– Sitting Bull had a vision during his Sun dance and was able to prepare for attack and win the battle
* Battle of Wounded Knee - Sitting Bull’s death occurred because the white man misunderstood his Ghost dance. The Ghost dance was to restore Native American way of life.
* Dawes Act – broke up reservations and gave land to individual Indians to farm so they would become assimilated
	+ Assimilation is when a minority group (Indians) are forced to conform to the majority group (white man)

Settling on the Great Plains:

* Two groups of people who moved to the west to escape being mistreated; African Americans and women
	+ African Americans can escape “racism”/ segregation; they can have jobs (cowboy / miner / build railroads)
	+ Women can vote; own businesses; job more than household chores
* Railroad BOOM
	+ Monopolies
	+ Positive: Easier to transport goods; connects the continent
	+ Negative: Expensive; monopoly (no competition); only form of transportation for the farmers
* Cowboys – Mexican vaqueros
	+ Work sunrise to sunset (10 – 14 hours)
	+ Long Drive – 3 months when cowboys go East to make money
	+ No women; minimum food; sleep on the floor; high costs for shipping; bathe in rivers
* Overgrazing – not taking good care of the land
	+ For the first time ever, the Federal government created a higher education than high school; Agricultural college
	+ Yellowstone National Park – built to preserve the natural environment
	+ Morrill Act – federal money towards agricultural colleges

Farmers and the Populist Movement:

* William Jennings Bryan – “Cross of Gold” – should use gold and silver to back the dollar; democrat; ran for president & lost; farmers; people from the south and the west
* Farmers are Uniting – “Grange” – farmers are in debt and they want the federal government make it easier to pay it off
	+ Oliver Hudson Kelley main leader
	+ Want reform; graduated income tax
* Election of 1896 was Bryan vs. McKinley – McKinley (republican) won
	+ Gold will back the dollar bill
* Bonanza farms – surplus of one crop