

The student will demonstrate knowledge of how the nation grew and changed from the end of Reconstruction through the early twentieth century by a) explaining the relationship among territorial expansion, westward movement of the population, new immigration, growth of cities, and the admission of new states to the Union.

Following the Civil War, the westward movement of settlers intensified into the vast region between

**Mississippi River** and **Pacific Ocean**

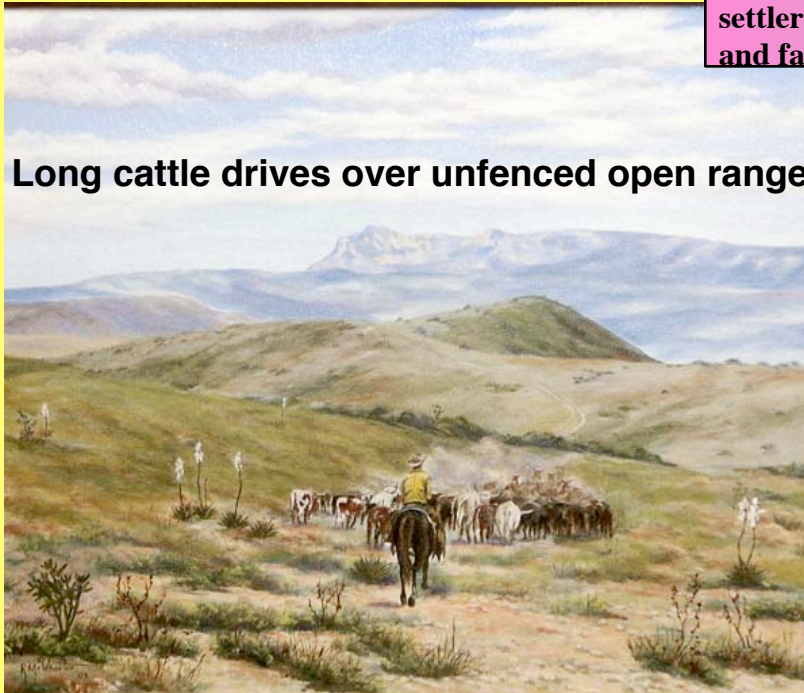


**The Homestead Act of 1862** gave free public land in the western territories to settlers who would live on and farm the land.

Southerners and African Americans, in particular, moved west to seek new opportunities after the Civil War

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, economic opportunity, industrialization, technological change, and immigration fueled American growth and expansion.

Long cattle drives over unfenced open range



The years immediately before and after the Civil War were the era of the American cowboy

New technologies (for example, railroads and the mechanical reaper), opened new lands in the West for settlement and made farming more prosperous.

**Closing of the frontier**

By the turn of the century, the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain region of the American West was no longer a mostly unsettled frontier, but was fast becoming a region of farms, ranches, and towns.