The Settlement of the Western Frontier in the Gilded Age

I. After the Civil War, the area west of the Mississippi River was settled by miners, ranchers, and farmers

A. Mining was the first industry to attract settlers to the West after the Civil War
1. Before the Civil War, miners discovered gold in Colorado,________________________
2. After the Civil War, miners resumed their migration into the West to find more __________ and __________________________
3. Some miners found huge discoveries of gold and silver
   a. By 1880, miners at the _______________ extracted $270 million in gold and $400 million in silver
   b. In the Gilded Age, mining ___________________________ used expensive ___________________________ mining techniques to extract most of the gold and silver in the West
4. Mining towns helped develop the West because each town created a need for ___________________________ and government

B. Ranchers and the Cattle Boom
1. After the Civil War, demand for _________________________ led to a ___________________________ in the West
2. Ranchers drove longhorn cattle across the ___________________________ to ___________________________ towns
   a. Cattle bought for $______ in Texas were driven ________ months across the open range
   b. Cattle were sold in Western cattle towns like Dodge City for $______...and shipped by train to ___________________________
   c. Cattle drives led to new ___________________________ in the West
3. Cattle ranching faced difficulties by the 1880s
   a. The “open range” was ___________________________ as farmers used new ___________________________ fencing to close off their farms
   b. Overgrazing and ___________________________ left little grasslands for grazing cattle
   c. By 1900, the glory days of the ___________________________ were over

C. The Homestead Act and Farmers
1. The majority of migrants into the West were ___________________________
2. In 1862, Congress passed the ___________________________, giving __________ acres of free western land to anyone who promised to farm the land for ____ years
   a. Hundreds of thousands of migrants moved into the Great Plains to gain ___________________________
   b. Homestead life was difficult on the Great Plains
      i. Farming was difficult, but homesteaders learned __________ farming techniques and planted new varieties of __________
      ii. Homesteaders built ___________________________ because of the lack of trees in the Plains
      iii. ___________________________ and droughts were constant problems
      iv. ________% of homesteaders ___________________________ to make it the required 5 years...but those who were successful transformed America into a ___________________________
   c. Some African Americans known as “ ___________________________” took advantage of the Homestead Act to escape the ___________________________ South

D. The Transcontinental Railroad
1. Miners, ranchers, and farmers were connected to ___________________________ in 1869 with the completion of the ___________________________ railroad
2. The federal government encouraged railroad construction by giving millions of __________ of __________ to railroad companies
   a. The Central Pacific was built from West to East by ___________________________ workers
   b. The Union Pacific was built from East to West by ___________________________ workers
   c. On May 10, __________ the two tracks met at ___________________________ in Utah
3. By 1890, there were __________ railroads that extended to the ___________________________ Coast
4. Railroad innovations included ___________________________ to coordinate train schedules...luxury trains called Pullman Palace cars and ___________________________
5. ___________________________ workers were recruited to America to build the ___________________________. But, Congress passed the ___________________________ Act in 1882 which ended Chinese immigration to America

E. The migration of Americans into the West left no unorganized territories by 1890...the western ___________________________ had closed

II. The Gilded Age brought devastation to the Indians

A. The Plain Indians
1. By the end of the Civil War in 1865, __________ of all Indians lived on the ___________________________
2. Plains Indians like the Sioux, Comanche, and Cheyenne tribes were dependent upon the ___________________________ and the horse

B. America’s Indian policy changed during the Gilded Age:
In the 1830s, Jackson used the ___________________ Act to relocate Indians to lands ____________ of the Mississippi River... This “Indian Country” was located in the Plains and was ________________ from white settlers.

2. In the 1840s, ___________________ led to the acquisition of new western territories... as a result, Indians were concentrated onto small _________________.

3. The flood of miners, ranchers, and farmers during the ___________________ violated Indian territories... This led to a series of violent conflicts known as the “__________________________”

C. Indians Wars
1. In 1864, Colorado militia attacked and ____________ Cheyenne Indians, mostly women and children, in Sand Creek Massacre
2. Little Big Horn (1876)
   a. In 1876, Americans flooded into ___________________ territory in South Dakota when ___________________ was discovered
   b. The Sioux, led by ___________________, retaliated by ambushing Colonel Custer and all 197 soldiers in the Seventh Cavalry at ___________________.
3. The most effective way to defeat the Indians was by killing off the ___________________.
   a. Hunters killed buffalo for their ________________ which were sold in the East
   b. The U.S. government and ___________________ companies hired hunters to kill buffalo
   c. A hunter could kill ________ buffalo per day; The buffalo hunters in the West killed as many as __________________ per year
   d. By the end of the Gilded Age, less than ________________ buffalo remained in the Plains
4. The last Indian battle in U.S. history was ___________________ in 1890
   a. The U.S. army attacked the Sioux after tribal leaders refused to stop their “__________________________”
   b. At Wounded Knee, 200 men, women, and children were ___________________; Indians never fought the U.S. again
5. With the buffalo all but exterminated and the ___________________ by white settlers, the Indian wars ended in 1890
6. By 1890, Indians were restricted to ___________________ in isolated locations

III. Populism
A. In the Gilded Age, western farmers faced major problems
   1. What problems did farmers face in the Gilded Age?

2. Crop ____________ fell due to ________________ by farmers
3. ____________ charged high interest rates on mortgages and ________________ on farmers
4. ____________ charged high ________________ for shipping crops
5. During the Civil War, the government printed lots of ________________ money called “__________________________”
   a. This surplus money led to ________________ so the government withdrew paper money and returned to the ________________
   b. As a result, the U.S. experienced deflation which lowered ________________... But lowered prices meant farmers might be unable to __________________ and face financial ruin

B. These problems convinced western farmers to organize
   1. Groups like the ________________ and the Farmers’ Alliance demanded government ___________________ of railroads and banks and the formation of ________________ stores, banks, silos
   2. Both groups ________________ to improve farmers’ lives

C. In 1890, westerners formed a new ___________________ to bring about reforms called the ___________________ Party
   1. The Populists demanded the end to pro-business, laissez-faire policies and begin to regulate ________________ to force them to lower rates on farmers
   2. They wanted a national ___________________ to take the tax burden off ___________________
   3. Called for an amendment to allow citizens (not state legislatures) to ___________________
   4. Populists demanded ________________: using currency based on ________________ and ________________ in order to __________________ the money supply

D. From 1890 to 1896, Populist Party was an influential ____________ and challenged the Democratic and Republican Parties

E. In the 1896 presidential election, bimetallism was the most important issue
   1. Republican William McKinley supported the ________________
   2. The Populist candidate __________________ supported ________________
   a. During the election, William Jennings Bryan gave his dramatic “__________________________” speech that explained the disastrous effects of the gold standard on the ___________________ in America
   b. Despite Bryan’s success among farmers in the West, ________________ won the election
3. As president, McKinley returned to the gold standard and __________________ the bimetallism movement
4. After the election of 1896, the Populist Party ________________ but Populist ideas such as the ________________, direct election of Senators, and regulation of railroads will be enacted in the ________________ Era (1890-1920)