

## **Chapter 8**

### **Settling the West 1865-1900**

#### **Section 1—Miners and Ranchers**

- After Civil War people moved west for a better life
- Rich deposits of gold, silver, and copper were needed for industries back East
- Placer mining—prospectors extracting shallow or by hand
- Quartz mining—corporations digging deep beneath the surface for ore
- 1849 Sutter's Mill, Calif. 1<sup>st</sup> big gold rush strike
- 49ers people who flocked to Calif. To look for gold
- 1859 Comstock Lode—Henry Comstock struck largest gold and silver mine in Virginia City, Nevada
- 1859 gold near Pike's Peak transformed Denver in to City
- 1870 gold in Black Hills in Dakota Territory
- After railroad completed more farmers and ranchers move to are
- Mexicans introduced cattle to New Mexico, Texas and Calif
- Open range was vast area of open grass land owned by the gov't
- After Civil War beef prices when up in East
- With Railroad ranchers can drive cattle to nearest railhead town to ship east
- Sedalia Trail to Missouri, Chisholm Trail to Kansas, Goodnight-Loving Trail to Wyoming
- Competition led to range wars between ranchers, farmers, and sheep herders
- Joseph Glidden invented barbed wire
- End of open rage and weather brought change to cattle industry

#### **Section 2—Farming in the Plains**

- Great Plains—100<sup>th</sup> meridian west to Rockies, from Dakotas to Texas
- Millions of buffalo once grazed on prairie grass
- Homestead Act of 1862
- Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862
- Life was difficult
- Little rain, few trees, lots of wind