**EOCT Review**

**Chapter 9: Westward Expansion and Manifest Destiny**

* The first transcontinental railroad was constructed in 1869 by immigrant laborers.
* It was mainly Chinese immigrants who built the Central Pacific Railway, which went from Sacramento eastward, through the Sierra Nevada Mountains, to Utah; Irish immigrants built the Union Pacific Railroad westward from Omaha.
* The transcontinental railroad shortened the time needed to cross the country, led to the destruction of the buffalo that had lived on the Plains, and opened the Great Plains and Far West to settlement by ranchers and farmers.
* The Great Plains and Far West were already occupied by Indian tribes. Each Indian tribe had its own customs, traditions and way of life. The Plains Indians depended on the buffalo for their way of life.
* The federal government signed treaties with different tribes, obtaining some of their lands but guaranteeing to protect other lands. In 1868, General Sherman signed a treaty with the Sioux guaranteeing their control of the Black Hills of South Dakota.
* When gold was later found in the Black Hills, Colonel Custer took mining experts and troops into Indian territory. Settlers began arriving in violation of the treaty. Sioux and Cheyenne warriors defeated Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. The following year the U.S. Army defeated the Sioux and forced them onto reservations.
* Other tribes were also forced onto reservations. The United States defeated those Indians that attempted to resist during the “Indian Wars” (1877–1890). Indian warriors were no match for battle-hardened U.S. troops with superior weapons. The Plains Indians also could not survive without the buffalo on the Plains.
* Indian resistance to the westward expansion of the United States ended with their confinement on reservations. The growing number of settlers on the Great Plains also put pressure on the Plains Indians to move to reservations.
* Reservation lands were often unfamiliar and inferior to lands previously controlled by the tribe. Tribes enjoyed relative independence on their reservations. Federal agents often pocketed money and provisions intended for the tribes.
* Reformers tried to assimilate the Indians into mainstream American life. They sent Indian children to reservation schools and boarding schools, where they became Christians and learned English instead of their own beliefs and traditions.
* The construction of the transcontinental railroad, the relocation of the Indian tribes onto reservations, and the Homestead Act (1862) led settlers to move to the Great Plains and Far West.
* Farmers came up with innovative solutions to deal with the dry climate and dense grass of the Plains: they dug wells to get to groundwater and used windmills to pump the water to the surface. They built houses out of sod bricks and made fences of barbed wire. They used steel plows to break up the tough sod and plant seeds. They formed clubs and associations to fight loneliness.