Westward Choices

Trace how expansion policies shaped settlement and Native communities.

USH.C.1.3 "Analyze the causes and effects of the continuing westward migration and territorial growth after the Civil War. Explain the impact of the Homestead Act, the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number two policy-and-effect pairs in the passage, using the same number for each policy and its effect, then underline a federal goal.

Expansion and Its Costs

1. After the Civil War, the Homestead Act offered settlers land if they lived on and improved it. Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 made travel and shipping faster, drawing farms and towns west. The 1867 purchase of Alaska expanded United States territory, though its remote location drew fewer settlers at first. Alaska's Indigenous peoples came under U.S. rule. Federal leaders sought land, trade, and national development. These policies also brought newcomers onto Native homelands, disrupted hunting grounds, and increased pressure on Native nations to surrender land.

2. Under President Grant's Peace Policy, the government placed many Native nations on reservations and assigned religious groups to run reservation agencies. Agents taught Christianity and farming, hoping Native people would adopt settlers' ways. Native leaders challenged the loss of land and independence. Red Cloud pressed the government to honor treaty promises; Chief Joseph protested the forced removal of the Nez Perce. Quanah Parker, a Comanche leader, negotiated for his people after their confinement to a reservation.

3. In 1890, U.S. troops killed hundreds of Lakota people at Wounded Knee, including women and children; the massacre marked the end of major armed resistance on the Plains, not the end of Native resistance. Boarding schools such as Carlisle separated children from families and punished Native languages to force assimilation. Allotment divided communally held lands into individual parcels, opening remaining land to non-Native settlement. In Indian Territory, allotment and federal laws weakened Tribal governments and changed land ownership before Oklahoma became a state in 1907.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Homestead Act and the railroad work together to encourage settlement?

2. What changes did Grant's Peace Policy seek, and what did Native leaders challenge?

3. Why does the passage distinguish Wounded Knee from the end of Native resistance?

4. How did boarding schools and allotment affect different parts of Native life?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label connecting two federal policies to settlement and Native life. Contrast federal goals with Native experiences, and mention one Native leader or Wounded Knee.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number two policy-and-effect pairs in the passage, using the same number for each policy and its effect, then underline a federal goal. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Homestead Act and the railroad work together to encourage settlement?	**The act offered land to settlers, while the railroad made travel and shipping faster, helping farms and towns grow.**
2	What changes did Grant's Peace Policy seek, and what did Native leaders challenge?	**The policy placed Native nations on reservations and used religious groups to teach Christianity and farming. Native leaders challenged the loss of land and independence.**
3	Why does the passage distinguish Wounded Knee from the end of Native resistance?	**Wounded Knee marked the end of major armed resistance on the Plains, but Native resistance did not end.**
4	How did boarding schools and allotment affect different parts of Native life?	**Boarding schools separated children from families and punished Native languages. Allotment changed land ownership and, with other federal laws, weakened Tribal governments in Indian Territory.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Federal officials promoted the Homestead Act to encourage settlement, while the transcontinental railroad sped travel and shipping west. Together, these changes helped settlers establish farms and towns but increased pressure on Native homelands. Red Cloud urged the government to honor treaty promises as Native nations faced land loss. Federal leaders called expansion national development, yet Native communities faced threats to their land and independence.

Accept other passage-supported policy pairs and effects. For the museum label, look for two accurate policy connections, a contrast of goals and experiences, and a relevant leader or Wounded Knee.