Settling the West: Displacing Native Americans

TOPIC SUMMARY

As white settlers pushed west, they forced Native Americans even farther west, depriving them of their hunting grounds. The whites' destruction of buffalo herds was fatal to the life of Plains Indians. Many conflicts between settlers and Native American groups took place, and in 1867, Congress established the first reservations. Native Americans often resisted. Later, the government tried an assimilation policy, offering Native Americans homestead allotments. This too proved a failure.

Summarizing Displacement

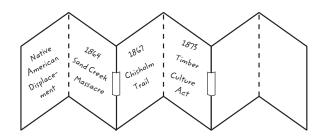


O Sentence Strips

Students can create a Sentence Strip Foldable to represent how the arrival of white settlers changed the American West. For the events they choose, students can create as many flip books as needed. The name and date of an event, such as the Homestead Act, Sand Creek Massacre, or Battle of Wounded Knee, should be written on the front of each strip, with a brief explanation of how the event led to displacement underneath.

Materials Needed: two or more sheets of 8.5" by 11" paper, stapler, scissors.

Sequencing Native American History

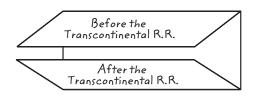


Accordion Book

Students can create a usable time line by using the Accordion Book Foldable. Have students list important events in Native American-white settler conflicts, using as many sheets of paper as they need to complete the time line. The time line will be annotated, that is, there will be brief notes on the event under the date.

Materials Needed: three or more sheets of 8.5" by 11" paper, scissors, glue.

Railroads: Cause and Effect



Shutter Fold

The transcontinental railroad affected many aspects of American life—the economy, settlement in the West, the life of Native Americans, and farming. Have students review related material and create a shutter fold to display the aspects they choose.

Students should describe the situation *before* the transcontinental railroad was built, and *after* its completion.

Materials Needed: one sheet of 8.5" by 11" of paper.