1. Setting the Stage (Background on the West)
   a. Americans believed in the idea of __________ __________, the idea that it was their God given right to _______ ________ to the Pacific Ocean and to Mexico
   b. President Thomas Jefferson bought the __________ __________ from Napoleon Bonaparte of France in 1803 for _____ million
   c. Between 1804 to 1806, explorers ______ and ______ were commissioned by President Jefferson to explore west to the Pacific coast
   d. The US __________ ________ in 1845 which led to the Mexican-American war which took place between 1846-1848 and resulted in US obtaining the present day _____________ United States territory from Mexico
   e. The __________________ with ___________ resulted in the US obtaining Oregon, Washington state, and parts of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho
   f. The United States now stretched from the ________________, however, many ______ ________ ________ lived on these newly obtained pieces of land and had called this land home for __________ of years

2. Motivations to settle the West
   a. The California ______ ______ of 18____ & the discovery of gold in Colorado in 18____ sparked a wave of settlers to the west hoping to literally strike gold
   b. Mining towns were ______ and included __________________ of every kind including Irish, German, Polish, Chinese, and African Americans
   c. __________! The __________ ______ of 1862 offered 160 acres to citizens; ___________ families took advantage of this offer
3. **The Transcontinental Railroad**
   a. The federal government offered 170 million acres in ______ _______ to _________ between 1850-1871
   b. Land grants were pieces of land __________ ___ _____ __________ _______ to encourage railroad companies to build more railroads westward
   c. Two competing companies worked to complete the _________ _________ in the United States
   d. The ___________________ moved eastward from Sacramento
   e. The ___________________ moved westward from Omaha, Nebraska
   f. Both companies relied heavily on foreign labor such as Irish and mostly ________________________
   g. The Central Pacific used unstable _________________ to blast through the difficult terrain of the _________ _________ mountains
   h. Both companies reached ______________ ____________, Utah by 1869 where a ______ ___________ was driven to hail the completion of the railroad
   i. Fifteen years later, the _____ _____ ______ transcontinental railroads
   j. The railroads significantly shrunk the size of the US and allowed for settlers to migrate west more ________ and ___________

4. **Life in the West**
   a. Trees were often ________ so settlers built their homes called sod homes, or __________, from the land itself
   b. ________ often worked in the ____________ with men plowing, planting, and harvesting the crops
   c. ______________ and ______________ were important for ________ production
   d. Frontier settlers faced many hardships such as ________, floods, __________, blizzards, ____________ plagues, and occasional raids by outlaws and __________ Americans

Result: Even though America was now a ________ nation, __________ with Native Americans would be the next real challenge & would remind us that there is a ________________ _____ _____________. 