

Western Settlement Alternative Activity

1. Read the text and watch the videos for each topic.
2. Read the "READ More About It!" section for each topic.
3. Prepare well-written answers to the questions below. Your answers are to be typed in a Microsoft Word document and printed. *(You may use a different word processing program if you prepare your answers away from school!)*
 - o Be sure to use TRGSSQAS!
 - o None of these questions can be answered completely with a single sentence. **Most will require at least a short paragraph.**
4. Include at least one historically appropriate illustration with each answer.



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1. How did prospectors help the settlement of the west?
 2. Why did "Boom Towns" spring up in the West? Why did "Boom Towns" sometimes become "Ghost Towns?"
 3. What was "the long drive?"
 4. Why did ranchers and cowboys resent the coming of the sheepherder? Why did they resent the coming of the homesteader?
 5. What factors caused the decline of the "Cattle Kingdom?"
 6. What was the purpose of the Homestead Act?
 7. What difficulties did Homesteaders, or "sodbusters," face on the Great Plains?
 8. Who were "the Exodusters?"
 9. What technological improvements helped farmers on the Great Plains? Explain HOW each helped!
 10. How did the growth of railroads impact the settlement of the West?
 11. Why was the buffalo important to the Native Americans of the Great Plains?
 12. In the last half of the 19th Century there was a great deal of fighting between Native Americans and the white man. Why were the Native Americans very poor when the fighting ended? What had they lost?