

Buffalo - provided food, clothing and faster than travelling on horseback

Nomadic Lifestyle - tipis ideal to protect against winds and easy to move around

Band Size - bands would change size depending on how much food was available

Everything in nature has a spirit and they can be contacted through rituals and dances

Nature

Plains Indians Beliefs & Attitudes

Property & Land

Some areas are sacred, most land was not owned

War

Highest respect to warriors, tried to avoid fighting as young men were vital to survival of tribes

Lawlessness:

- Racial tensions
- Lack of enforcement
- New crimes
- Prostitution, gambling, alcohol

Fort Laramie Treaty 1851
Agreement that defined clear territories and Indians agreed to allow migrants through in return for protection and payment from US government
Neither side followed treaty



The Indian Appropriations Act 1851
US gov placed Plains Indians into reservations where they were restricted
Government paid Plains Indians to give up land desired by white settlers
Reservations limited amount of area
Plains Indians could hunt buffalo



Children → Highly valued as future of band

Women → In charge of tipi, preparing food and getting water, highly valued as bearers

Men → Responsible for hunting, protecting band and horses and assessed on abilities as hunters, warriors and horsemen

Elders → Considered important due to advice they could give, sometimes left behind if too weak - band survival was more important

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH



- The Gold Rush**
- Gold discovered in 1848 by James Marshall
- Thousands travelled to California, by Spring 1849 there were 40,000 miners there
- Few made their fortune through gold

1. THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST c1835-c1862



Manifest Destiny
White settlers saw their culture and religion as more advanced and saw it as their mission to 'civilise' the Plains Indians

Mormon Migration

- Persecuted mostly for their practice of polygamy
- In 1845 their leader was killed and Brigham Young became leader
- They were forced to leave Illinois and migrate to the Great Salt Lake
- They were successful in their migration due to planning, leadership and tests

Oregon Trail 1836

- Established in 1825 by Jedediah Smith
- Used by thousands to cross from the east to the west - was 3,200km long
- Started in Missouri and ended in Oregon City

- Donner Party 1846**
- Travellers going from the east to California
- They were trapped in the mountains and turned to cannibalism to survive
- 87 people left for California but only 46 arrived

