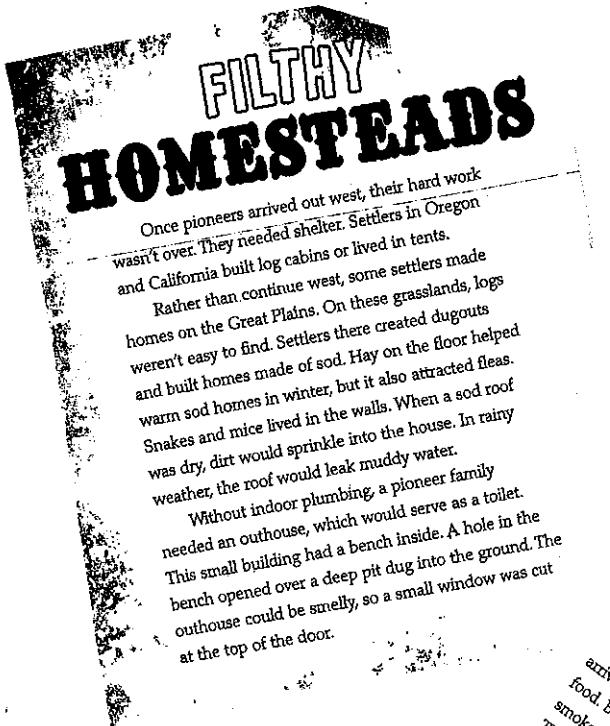


## Syllabus and Study Guide

### Unit 1: The New South, The West and Populism (NCFE 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.4., 8.2)

The first unit of American History 2 examines collapse of Reconstruction and the New South, the West, and Populism through the lenses of conflict, migration, settlement, and the "American Dream".

**Directions for "icebreaker": Read some of the excerpts below from "Disgusting History" and answer the prompt that follows in the space provided.**



### SEARCH FOR FOOD

The search for food didn't end once settlers arrived in the West. Men hunted wild game for food. But meat spoiled quickly on a hot day. Settlers smoked, dried, and salted meat to prevent rotting. The meat tasted good, but it was tough to chew.

People often compared it to shoe leather. Settlers knew they risked developing scurvy if they didn't eat fruits and vegetables. These foods were also preserved to last through the winter. Some settlers didn't have containers for storage, so they used old kerosene cans. The cans tasted like tin or used someone noticed the food inside tasted like tin or had turned black.

Drinking water was another priority. Some people collected rainwater in barrels and pans. Before drinking it they'd skim off the flies, mosquitoes, and dust that collected on top of the water. Others dug a well near their house. They had to choose the well site carefully. Otherwise water would be made dirty by human and animal waste.

### DISEASE AND DEATH

Even when a wagon train was traveling on schedule, conditions were uncomfortable. Nearly every emigrant suffered from dysentery or diarrhea. Scurvy, caused by a lack of vitamin C, was also common. Victims had leg pain and bleeding gums. Cholera was one of the most feared diseases and also the most common. It caused vomiting and diarrhea and could kill within hours.

Pioneers couldn't do much to avoid disease or cure their ills. Sickness was treated with herbs, peppermint, rum, and whiskey. Sick travelers often became too weak to walk and had to ride in the cramped, stuffy wagon. When disease didn't strike, accidents remained a serious threat. Buffalo stampedes trampled anyone in their paths. Rattlesnakes bit and poisoned their victims. People fell from moving wagons, sometimes getting crushed to death under the wheels.

### WATER WORRIES

Traveling on hot, dusty trails made the pioneers dry with thirst. Clean water was often hard to find on the way west. Pioneers had no choice but to drink water made dirty by human and animal waste. It was either drink the foul water or die of dehydration.

People also had to deal with the bitter-tasting alkaline water that was common along the trails. They disguised the taste by making coffee. But people had to be careful. Strong alkaline water could kill humans, oxen, and other animals. The water could cause internal burns, stomach pain, and fever. Some victims even vomited blood.

Dying of thirst was a real possibility on the hot plains. Water was also a problem in colder weather if a caravan became trapped.

**PROMPT:** Of the above challenges for **pioneers**, which do you think would be the most unpleasant for you and your family on the **frontier**? Explain why you chose this challenge as one of the worst for you:

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### Possible Factual Content for this Unit

Review each night and before tests and make sure you can answer all Essential Questions, know many points of evidence about Terms and can answer the Connection to Today questions.

Tentative Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pacing Estimate: 6 Days

#### I: The Push West

##### Essential Questions:

- A) What factors made Americans from every walk of life want to move west?
- B) How did the U.S. government encourage western settlement?
- C) What day-to-day challenges existed for farmers and settlers?

Terms: settlers, immigrants, Great Plains, "Great American Desert", Manifest Destiny, mechanization of agriculture, longhorn cattle, gold/silver rush, Homestead Act, buffalo soldiers, cowboys, buffalo, Native Americans, sod house, barbed wire

Connections to Today: What successful qualities/characteristics of pioneers and settlers are still valued in today's American society? What qualities/characteristics do Americans NOT value?

#### II: Effects of the Transcontinental Railroad

##### Essential Questions:

- A) What was the purpose of the transcontinental railroad?
- B) How did the U.S. government encourage its construction?
- C) In what ways did the completion of the railroad change life for the West?

Terms: transcontinental railroad, time zones, Promontory Point, Utah, federal land grants

Connections to Today: Explain what type of technology exists today that connects the country cheaper, faster, and easier. Describe how we have changed because of this technology.

#### III: Native American Conflict in the West

##### Essential Questions:

- A) Why did settlement in the West create conflict with Native Americans?
- B) How did the U.S. government deal with this conflict from 1865 to 1890?
- C) What was the ultimate outcome for Native American population and culture by 1890?

Terms: Treaty of Fort Laramie, Indian Wars, Sitting Bull, George A. Custer, Nez Perce, Chief Joseph, Black Hills, Battle of Little Bighorn, assimilation, extermination, Indian Removal, Battle of Wounded Knee, Helen Hunt Jackson's A Century of Dishonor, reservation system, destruction of buffalo, Native American cultures and traditions (then and now)

Connections to Today: What is the current state of the Native American Indian today in America and what struggles do they still have on or off the reservation system? (think of the 30 Days and TRID Talk we watched?)

#### IV: Populism! The Wizard of Oz and the Populist movement

##### Essential Question:

- A) What issues did farmers and factory workers want state and national government to address during the late 1890's?  
(list at least 4)
- B) What solutions to their problems did they propose? (list at least 4)
- C) What happened to the Populist movement by the end of the 1890's?

Terms: political party, populism, Populist Party, alliance, Grange movement, Farmers' Alliances, Populism, bimetallicism, government regulation of business (Interstate Commerce Act, *Wabash vs. Illinois*), gold standard, Populist Party platform, William McKinley, William Jennings Bryan, "Cross of Gold" speech, 1896 election

Connections to Today: Describe a modern day populist movement occurring in our culture (Trump? Bernie Sanders?). Include what issues these people are trying to improve and what they want the government to do to help.

#### IV: The New South

##### Essential Questions:

- A) How were African Americans disenfranchised after Reconstruction?
- B) Why did Southern African Americans "freedmen" move west after the collapse of Reconstruction?
- C) In what ways did the Wilmington Race Riots of 1898 occur and how did this affect North Carolina politics?

Terms: Jim Crow laws, segregation, Exodusters, Reconstruction, disenfranchisement, *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery, vocational schools, Atlanta Compromise, W.E.B. DuBois, 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, "separate but equal", Wilmington Race Riots, American Dream

Connections to Today: How has freedom for African Americans in the South progressed today? Are opportunities equal today?