

3. **placer mining:** The process of removing gold from the sand and gravel of stream beds. Gold, eroded from mountain lodes, washes into swift-flowing streams and is suspended in the water until the streams slow in certain places and the gold settles to the bottom. Placer mining is the easiest and cheapest method of gold mining because only a simple pan or wooden sluice box is required to separate the gold from the sand and gravel.
4. **quartz mining:** The process of removing gold or silver from lodes in ore-bearing rock and earth. It is an expensive process involving digging, blasting, crushing, and smelting.
5. **barrios:** Urban neighborhoods occupied, principally, by lower-class Mexican Americans. Spanish language dominates in the *barrio*, and businesses, churches, and other social institutions catering to Mexican Americans are concentrated in these neighborhoods. *Barrios* were often, but not always, located on the fringe of the city.

Pertinent Questions

THE SOCIETIES OF THE FAR WEST (434-442)

1. Describe the caste system that developed in the American Southwest under Spanish and Mexican rule. What role did the Pueblo Indians and other tribes play in this system?
2. Describe the culture of the Plains tribes, with particular emphasis on gender roles and the importance of the American bison (buffalo). What three tribes dominated the northern plains by the mid-nineteenth century?
3. Explain the advantages and disadvantages that the Plains Indians had in their conflicts with white settlers. Why did the whites eventually prevail?
4. How did Anglo-American dominance affect the nature of Hispanic culture in New Mexico from the 1840s to 1900?
5. What factors led to the decline of Mexican-American economic and social dominance in California and Texas? What was the socioeconomic status of most Mexican Americans by the end of the nineteenth century?
6. Up to 1869, in what two fields did the greatest number of Chinese immigrants work? How did employment tendencies, residence patterns, and social relationships change in the Chinese community later in the nineteenth century?
7. Why was Anglo-European hostility toward the Chinese so high in California? What actions resulted from this hostility? How did the Chinese Americans respond?
8. What factors led to the massive increase in Anglo-European settlement of the Far West after the Civil War?
9. Describe the vision of the Homestead Act and how it was flawed. What changes were made to try to remedy weaknesses in the act?
10. Describe the process of evolution from territory to state. What areas still lacked statehood by the turn of the century? Why?

THE CHANGING WESTERN ECONOMY (442-447)

11. What was the composition of the western labor force? How was it shaped by racial prejudice and gender imbalance?
12. Describe the typical pattern of development and decline in the western mining industry. What was life like for the men and women who lived and worked in the mining regions?
13. Describe the origins, purposes, and practices of the "long drive" and "open range" periods of the "cattle kingdom." What ended this colorful but brief boom?
14. Why did women tend to gain the right to vote in the western states and territories before they did in the East?

THE ROMANCE OF THE WEST (447-453)

15. To what two factors does the text attribute much of the romantic image of the Far West? Explain.
16. How accurate was Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis about the American frontier?

THE DISPERSAL OF THE TRIBES (453-457)

17. Describe the evolution of traditional national Indian policy up to the 1880s. What did the policies accomplish? How were the policies and their implementation flawed?
18. What happened to the great buffalo (bison) herds, and how did it affect Indian life?
19. Describe how the influx of white settlers into the West led to violence and warfare. What were the major encounters? Why did the whites ultimately prevail?
20. What was the basic objective of the Dawes Act, and how did it try to accomplish this goal?

THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE WESTERN FARMER (457-461)

21. Describe the building of the transcontinental railroads and subsidiary lines. Why can it be said that the western railroads were essentially public projects, despite their private ownership?
22. How did the railroads stimulate settlement of the Great Plains?
23. What unfamiliar problems did farmers encounter on the Great Plains? What methods and devices helped solve these problems?
24. How were market forces changing the nature of American agriculture? What was the result?
25. What were the three main grievances of the late-nineteenth century farmer? To what extent did psychological factors compound these problems?

PATTERNS OF POPULAR CULTURE: THE WILD WEST SHOW (448-449)

26. What role did Buffalo Bill and the Wild West Show phenomenon play in shaping and preserving an image of the American West that is at odds with that presented by most modern historians?

WHERE HISTORIANS DISAGREE: THE "FRONTIER" AND THE WEST (450-451)

27. Why do the "new western historians" argue that Anglo-European Americans did not so much settle the West as conquer it? Is this a fair characterization of the course of events?

Identification

Identify each of the following, and explain why it is important within the context of the chapter.

1. Great American Desert
2. Indian Territory
3. "territorial rings"
4. *californios*
5. "coolies"
6. "tongs"
7. Washoe district/Comstock Lode
8. vigilantes
9. "range wars"
10. Albert Bierstadt
11. Mark Twain
12. Frederic Remington