

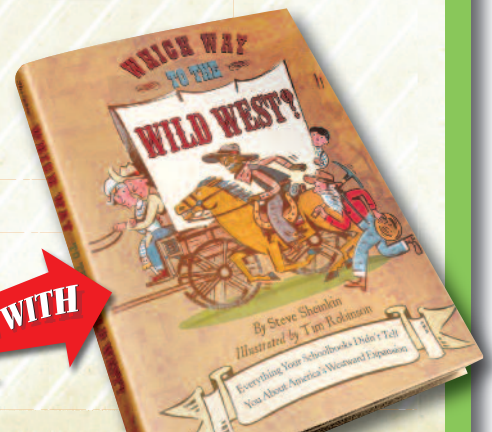
# STORYTELLER'S HISTORY

WILD WEST

# ACTIVITY GUIDE



YOUR HOST,  
**NAT  
LOVE**



USE WITH

A companion Web site containing exclusive online content is available free to all purchasers of this Activity Guide. Go to **storytellershistory.com** and click on Sign Up. Access code: abigail

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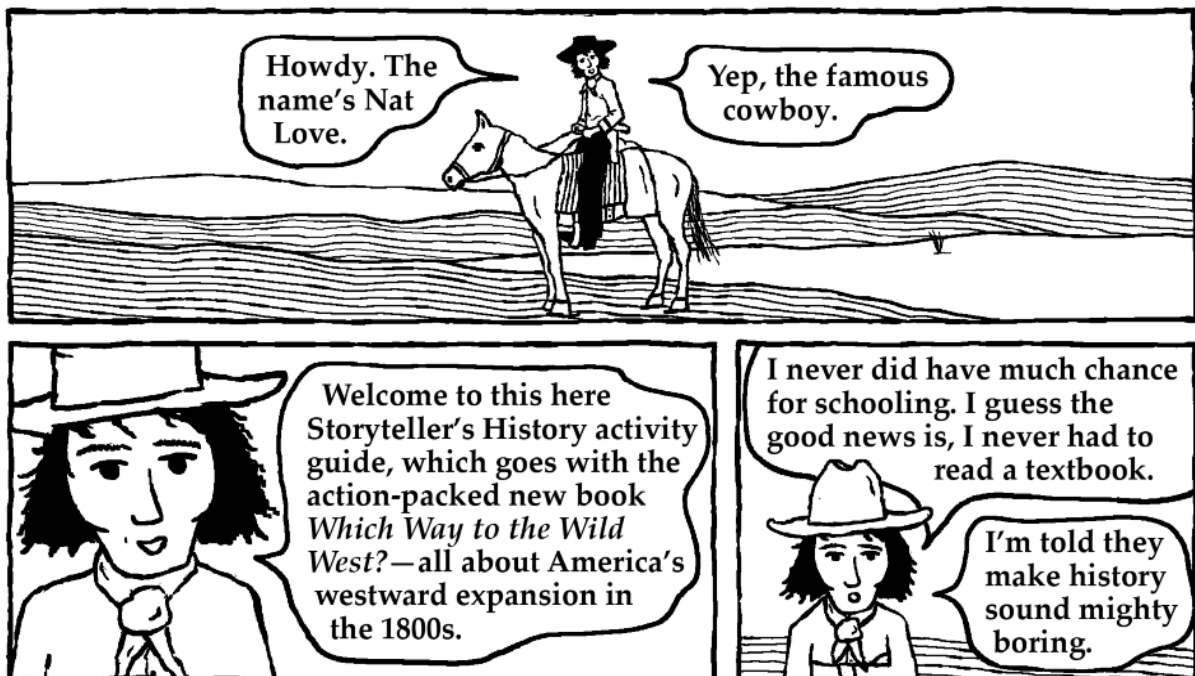
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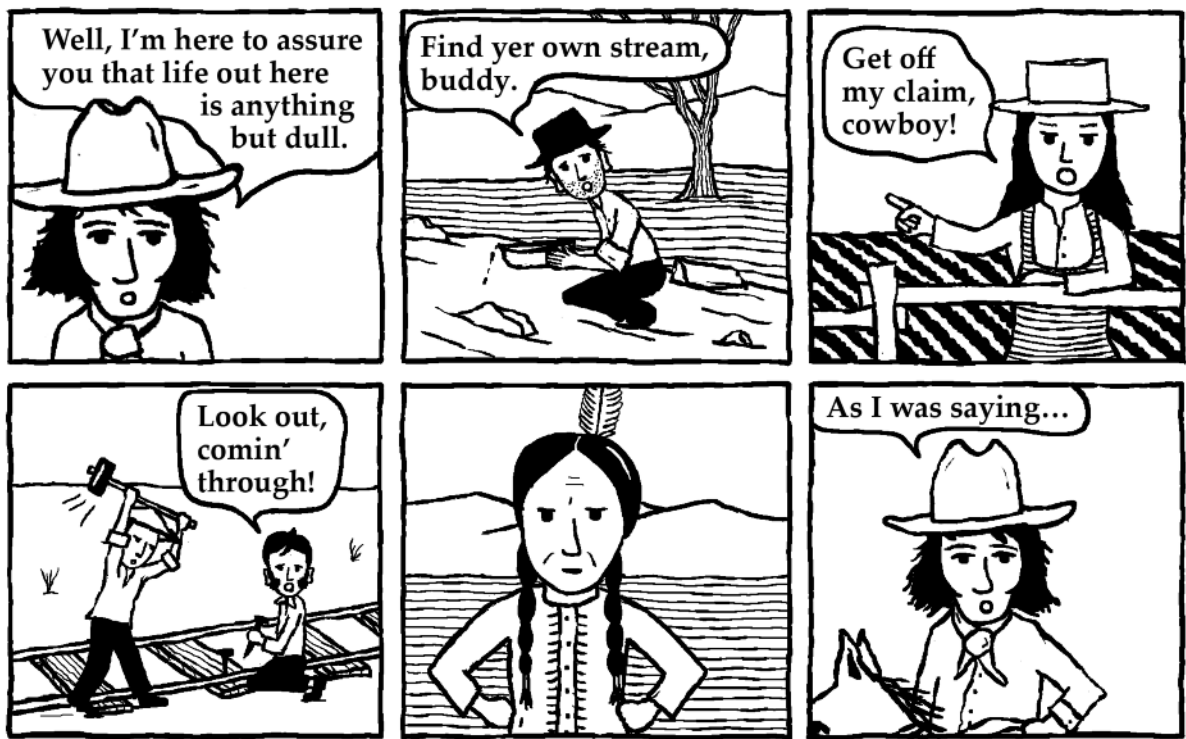
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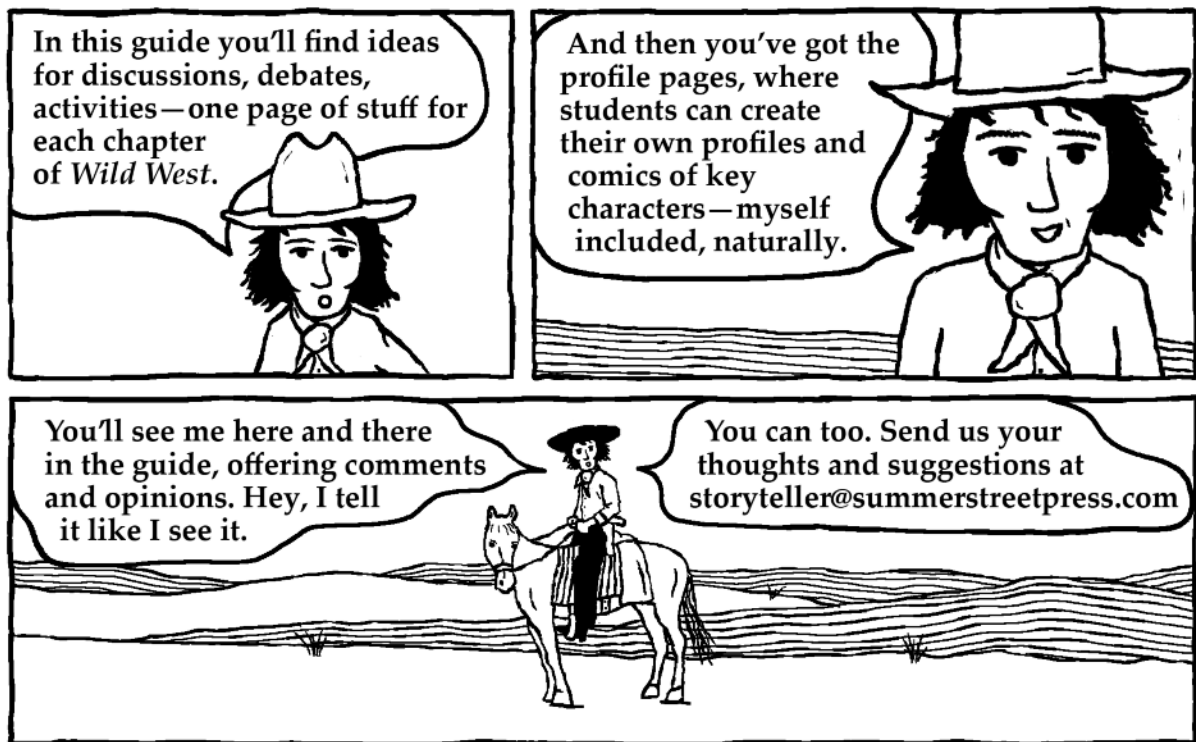
10 11

## A Word from Nat Love





2



# How the West Moved West

## In this chapter...

- ★ The United States doubles its size by buying the Louisiana Territory from the French (who really needed the cash).
- ★ Lewis and Clark, mountain men, and traders explore the West, with mixed results.
- ★ Many American families settle in Texas, leading to conflict when the Mexican government tries to lay down the law.



### explorer's blog



If Lewis and Clark made their famous journey today, they'd be blogging the whole time. Reread the Lewis and Clark stories on pages 8–14. Then imagine you're on the mission—with your laptop, naturally.

- Write a blog entry describing one memorable event from your journey.

## YOU SPEAK ENGLISH!

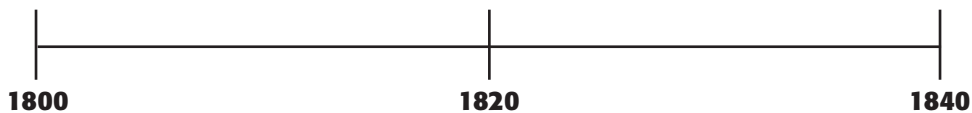
Reread the conversation between James Beckwourth and the American clerk on page 18–19.

- With a partner, continue the conversation by writing four or five more questions the clerk might ask and what Beckwourth's responses might be.
- Act out your dialogue in front of the class.
- Have the class vote on the best performance and film it (if possible).
- E-mail your film to **storyteller@summerstreetpress.com** so that it can be featured on our Web site. (While you are there, check out your competition and watch other students' videos.)

4

## WILD WEST TIMELINE

- There was a lot going on out West, and a timeline might help keep everything in order. Using the book, figure out which year each event below took place. Then add each event to the timeline
- United States makes Louisiana Purchase
- Sacagawea joins Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Mexico becomes independent nation
- Stephen Austin leads 300 American families to Texas
- Mexican troops surround Americans in the Alamo



### SACAGAWEA

is busy interpreting for Lewis and Clark. Give her some help with her **PERSONAL PROFILE** on page 25.

WHO SAID IT?

"IF YOU HAVE A NEEDLE AND THREAD, GET IT OUT AND SEW UP MY WOUNDS AROUND MY HEAD."





# Did Someone Say “Manifest Destiny”?

## In this chapter...

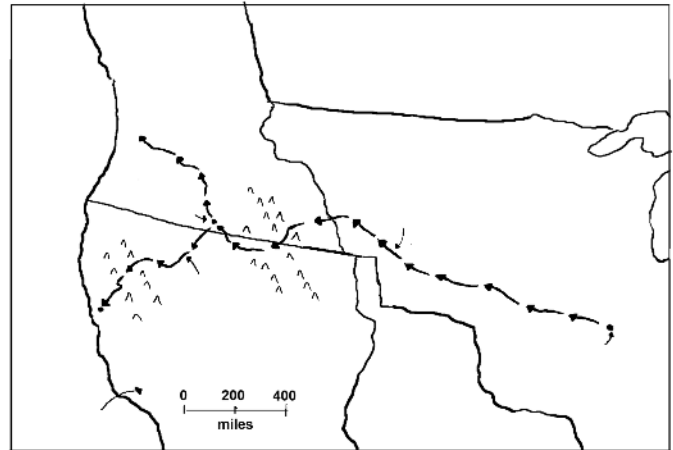
- ★ After a crushing loss at the Alamo, Texans win their independence with a victory at San Jacinto.
- ★ In search of new land, thousands of families head west. They don't all make it.
- ★ Some say the United States is destined to spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific.
- ★ Yet another conflict with Mexico arises because of border disputes over the recently annexed Texas—and neither side is backing down.



## ARE WE THERE YET?

The map below is similar to the one on page 39—except it's not too useful, since it's missing labels. Using the map on page 39 as a guide, add labels for:

- Independence, MO
- Great Plains
- Rocky Mountains
- Sierra Nevada
- California Trail
- Place names, like Texas, Oregon Country, and so on
- anything else you think would be helpful



6

## SPREADING OREGON FEVER

- Look back at the drawing of the land promoter on page 38. Reread his quote.
- Now suppose it's your job to sell farmers on the idea of moving to Oregon. Write your own sales pitch. Then get up on a chair and deliver your speech!

## LIFE ON THE TRAIL

As you read in this chapter, life on the western trails could be pretty rough.

- Make your own list of the five worst things about life on the trail (1 being the very worst).
- Knowing all this, would you still want to travel west? Why or why not?

5. ....
4. ....
3. ....
2. ....
1. ....



**JAMES K. POLK**

is plotting out ways to expand the country's territory. Help him fill out his **PERSONAL PROFILE** on page 27.

**WHO SAID IT?**

"REMEMBER, NEVER TAKE NO CUTOFFS AND HURRY ALONG AS FAST AS YOU CAN."



# War, Land, Gold, Trouble

## In this chapter...

- ★ The United States declares war on Mexico and President Polk sends troops to seize California.
- ★ Americans capture Mexico City, forcing Mexican leaders to give up lots of land—basically what is now the southwestern United States.
- ★ More settlers venture west, sparking conflicts with Native Americans.
- ★ Gold is discovered in California and “gold fever” rapidly spreads across the country.

## ARE WE GOING TO WAR?

You and your friends are members of the United States Congress. President Polk has just asked you to declare war on Mexico. Reread the first two pages of the chapter, which discuss the debate over going to war.

- Hold your own debate on this question: Should the United States declare war?
- Hold a vote, keeping track of the votes in the table to the right.

## WAR WITH MEXICO?

	TALLY MARKS	TOTAL
VOTES FOR:		
VOTES AGAINST:		

## TIME FOR A TENSE DIALOGUE

As more and more settlers migrated west, the Cayuse and other Indian groups were fed up at watching their land being taken away and their people dying from foreign diseases. They were ready to fight.

- Discuss the problem with a group of students. If the two sides could have talked to each other, what might they have said?
- Come up with a few possible solutions. Do you think any of them could have worked?

8

## THREE BAD WAYS TO THE GOLD

You have just received news of gold discoveries in California and want to get in on the action.

- Fill in the chart below to help you decide which route to take to California.
- Draw a star next to the route you chose.

GETTING TO THE GOLD	PROS	CONS
OVER LAND		
BY SHIP AROUND SOUTH AMERICA		
BY SEA AND LAND BY WAY OF PANAMA		

- My main reason for choosing this route was



## MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO

might not be so nice the next time Americans come to seize his land. Give him a little help with his

## PERSONAL PROFILE

(since he can't do it from jail) on page 29.



"I WANT HARD TIMES, SO THAT EVERY PERSON THAT DOES NOT WISH TO STAY FOR THE SAKE OF HIS RELIGION WILL LEAVE."



# Welcome to the Wild West

## In this chapter...

- ★ People from all over the world race to California to dig for gold and start new businesses.
- ★ Immigrant miners and Native Americans face discrimination in overcrowded mining camps.
- ★ George Jackson uncovers gold in Colorado and Henry Comstock stumbles upon a fortune in Nevada, triggering new gold rushes.

## WORTH THE TROUBLE

- Look back at William Swain's letter to his brother, George, on page 81. If you were George, would you take your brother's advice and stay home, or would you try your luck in California?
- Write a response to your brother explaining your decision.

*July 23, 1850*

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10

## SAME PLACE, DIFFERENT STORIES

The gold rush looked very different from different points of view. Using the lines below, summarize the very different experiences of the following people and groups.

- Luzena Stanley Wilson
- Chinese gold miners
- Joaquin Murrieta
- Samuel Clemens

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## CALIFORNIA COURTROOM

Reread the story of Biddy Mason on pages 90–91.

- Working in small groups, write your own courtroom scene.
- Be sure to include parts for Biddy Mason, the judge, Robert Smith, and any other characters you need.
- Perform your scene for your friends.



## BIDDY MASON

is adjusting to her new life in California as a free woman.

Help her fill out her **PERSONAL PROFILE** on page 31.



"AS SOON AS I CAN GET THE ROCKS IN MY POCKET I SHALL HASTEN HOME AS FAST AS STEAM CAN CARRY ME."



# Out of the Way of the Big Engine

## In this chapter...

- ★ The Pony Express becomes the fastest mail service, until the first transcontinental telegraph is introduced in 1861.
- ★ The American government finances the building of the first transcontinental railroad—setting off a race for miles and money.
- ★ As more and more railroad tracks are laid, Native Americans try to take action to preserve their way of life.

## WANTED: EXPRESS RIDERS

The Pony Express just got started, and it's your job to hire riders.

- Using the box below, write a want ad for express riders
- Be fair: give an honest description of the hardships and dangers involved.

### Express Riders Wanted

## CAUGHT YOU STEALING!

You have just uncovered one of the many schemes railroad builders are using to rip off the government. Now it's your job to tell taxpayers where their money is really going.

- Write an e-mail to the editor of your favorite newspaper revealing all the juicy details of the railroad builders' plan.

12

## THE REAL DEAL

Thomas Durant wanted his guests to experience the real Wild West—so he put on a show. Now it's your turn to entertain.

- Plan a show that illustrates what you think the Wild West was like. Write an outline of the main events of your show.
- Use the stage diagram on this page to map out a plan of what people, props, and images you would include in your show.

### My Wild West Show



### THEODORE JUDAH

is somewhere in the mountains of California. Help him out with his

#### PERSONAL PROFILE

on page 33.

WHO SAID IT?

"IF THE GREAT FATHER KEPT WHITE MEN OUT OF MY COUNTRY, THEN PEACE WOULD LAST FOREVER."





# Race You to Utah

## In this chapter...

- ★ To protect the railroad, the United States makes peace with the Lakota (at least for now) agreeing to set aside the Great Sioux Reservation.
- ★ The Central Pacific hires Chinese workers to help complete the dangerous and sometimes fatal task of building tracks over the Sierra Nevada.
- ★ The first transcontinental railroad is finally completed in 1869, allowing people to travel across the nation and seek new adventures in the West.

## TALK ABOUT HARD LABOR

You are a reporter following the construction of the transcontinental railroad and have the opportunity to interview a Chinese worker.

- Do some additional research on Chinese railroad workers. One place to look is the Central Pacific Railroad Photographic Historic Museum at <http://cpr.org/Museum/Chinese.html>.
- Write five questions you would ask a Chinese worker.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## I AM NOT DRESSED FOR SUCH AN OCCASION

Red Cloud's trip to Washington gave him the opportunity to see what America was really like.

- Reread the details about his trip on pages 119–120.
- Write a speech in the voice of Red Cloud describing what he experienced, what he felt, and what he learned.

14

## WILD WEST SLANG

If you're going to live in the Wild West, you'd better sound like you belong.

- Try to match the Wild West slang on the left with each term's meaning on the right. We did one for you as an example. Not all this stuff's in the book, but take your best shot.

### TERM

- A. hilarious
- B. smile?
- C. chiseler
- D. deadbeat
- E. stumped
- F. bosh
- G. persuader
- H. played out

### MEANING

- \_\_\_ nonsense
- \_\_\_ have a drink?
- \_\_\_ exhausted
- \_\_\_ lazy bum
- \_\_\_ cheater, swindler
- \_\_\_ confused
- A really drunk
- \_\_\_ gun



AND THESE ARE JUST THE ONES WE WERE ALLOWED TO PRINT!



### RED CLOUD

is overwhelmed by his trip to Washington. Help him fill out his **PERSONAL PROFILE** on page 35.

WHO SAID IT?

"NO INTERRUPTION TO THE WORK UPON THE LINE OF THE UNION PACIFIC WILL BE TOLERATED."



# Cowboys vs. Farmers

## In this chapter...

- ★ Many young men from the South join the grueling cowboy business, driving cattle for 17 hours a day, every day, on the long trails north.
- ★ The Homestead Act releases a surge of land-hungry settlers and immigrants to the Great Plains—but pioneer life proves tougher than many expected.
- ★ Rowdy cowboys are reined in when settlers of “cow towns” decide to appoint police chiefs.

## COWBOY KARAOKE

In order to be a cowboy you have to rough it through long and grueling cattle drives during the day. Then at night, you have to showcase your talent and calm the cattle down by singing songs to them.

- Using the library or Internet, find the lyrics to an old cowboy song.
- Or, if you prefer, write your own cowboy song.
- Extra Credit (if you’re brave enough): Sing your song to a group of cows—or, if they’re easier to find—students.

I'M GRATEFUL THAT ONLY THE CATTLE HEARD MY SCREECHIN'.



## FRONTIER TIME TRAVEL

You’ve read about just how tough life could be for pioneers on the Great Plains. Suppose you were about to become a pioneer in the 1870s—only you could bring one thing from the 21st century.

- What modern device would you bring to Plains? How do you think it would make your life better?

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16

## COWBOYS VS. PIONEERS

As you read in this chapter, cowboys and pioneers were often at each other’s throats. But which group worked harder?

- Divide into groups of two—one cowboy and one pioneer per group.
- Use the chart below to describe five tough things about life for each group.
- Then debate the question in front of your friends.

COWBOYS	PIONEERS



## NAT LOVE

has just finished a three month cattle drive and is too exhausted to fill out a **PERSONAL PROFILE**. Give the guy some help on page 37.

WHO SAID IT?

"IF YOU HAVE MADE UP YOUR MIND TO GO, YOU MUST ALSO MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO ROUGH IT."



# The Road to Little Bighorn

## In this chapter...

- ★ The lucrative business of buffalo hunting threatens the Native American way of life, driving many to reservations.
- ★ General George Custer's troops find gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, setting off another violent land dispute between Native Americans and the U.S. government.
- ★ Custer and his army are outnumbered at the Battle of Little Bighorn, which ends in an historic victory for the Lakota.

## BATTLE OVER BUFFALO

Buffalo were a very valuable resource for the Plains Indians. The arrival of buffalo hunters in the West threatened to destroy the Plains Indians' way of life. Using the write-on lines below, collect information about this vital issue.

- Reasons buffalo were important to Plains Indians:

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- Reasons the U.S. government supported buffalo hunters:

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- Results of the massive buffalo slaughter:

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18

## BREAKING NEWS FROM LITTLE BIGHORN

Custer's defeat stunned the nation and marked the biggest loss the American military ever experienced in the Indian wars. Reread the account of this battle on pages 179–185. Then imagine you are a newspaper reporter who saw the battle up close.

- Write a news story describing the events of the attack.
- Include quotes from participants.
- Enhance your story with images from books or the Internet.

## STAND AND FIGHT?

Suppose you are one of the Lakota chiefs who fought in the Battle of Little Bighorn. You have just heard about Chief Joseph's promise to never give up his land.

- If you were to meet with Chief Joseph, what advice would you give him?
- Do you think Joseph should try to stand up to the American government? Explain your reasoning.



**ELIZABETH CUSTER**

is in shock over her husband's death and doesn't feel like filling out her

### PERSONAL PROFILE

Help her out on page 39.

WHO SAID IT?

"YOU ARE FOOLS TO MAKE YOURSELVES SLAVES TO A PIECE OF FAT BACON, SOME HARD-TACK, AND A LITTLE SUGAR AND COFFEE."



# The End of the Wild West

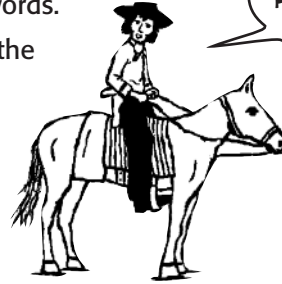
## In this chapter...

- ★ The Nez Perce battle for their land and ultimately surrender to American forces.
- ★ The death of Sitting Bull sparks the last major battle between American soldiers and Native Americans.
- ★ Calling themselves “Exodusters,” black homesteaders head west in search of land of their own.
- ★ The government announces that the West is officially “settled.”

## I AM TIRED OF FIGHTING

Put yourself in the position of Chief Joseph and reread his speech on page 198, thinking about the emotions he must have felt when he spoke those words.

- Now read the speech aloud in front of the class emphasizing his sorrow and pain. (Make it an Oscar-nominated performance!)
- Record your speech, and present it as a podcast to the class.



THIS IS ONE SERIOUSLY POWERFUL SPEECH. GIVE IT LOTS OF EMOTION.

## WILD WEST TRAVEL GUIDE

You’re hard at work on a travel book about the Wild West. Your next job is to write descriptions of two unique Kansas towns: Runnymede and Nicodemus.

- Reread the passages about each town on page 201–203.
- Add to this information by doing some research of your own.
- Write a paragraph describing each town. Tell readers why each place is worth visiting, and what they are likely to see.
- Include pictures or drawings if you’d like.

20

## NO EASY WAY TO MAKE A LIVING

There were plenty of hard ways to make a living in the Wild West—not so many easy ways. Here’s a list of eight jobs people did in the West.

- Rank them from easiest (1) to hardest (8).

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| ___ mountain man            | ___ pioneer          |
| ___ Native American warrior | ___ cowboy           |
| ___ gold miner              | ___ school teacher   |
| ___ railroad worker         | ___ American soldier |

- Of these jobs, the one I’d most want:

.....

.....

- My reasons:

.....

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## CHIEF JOSEPH

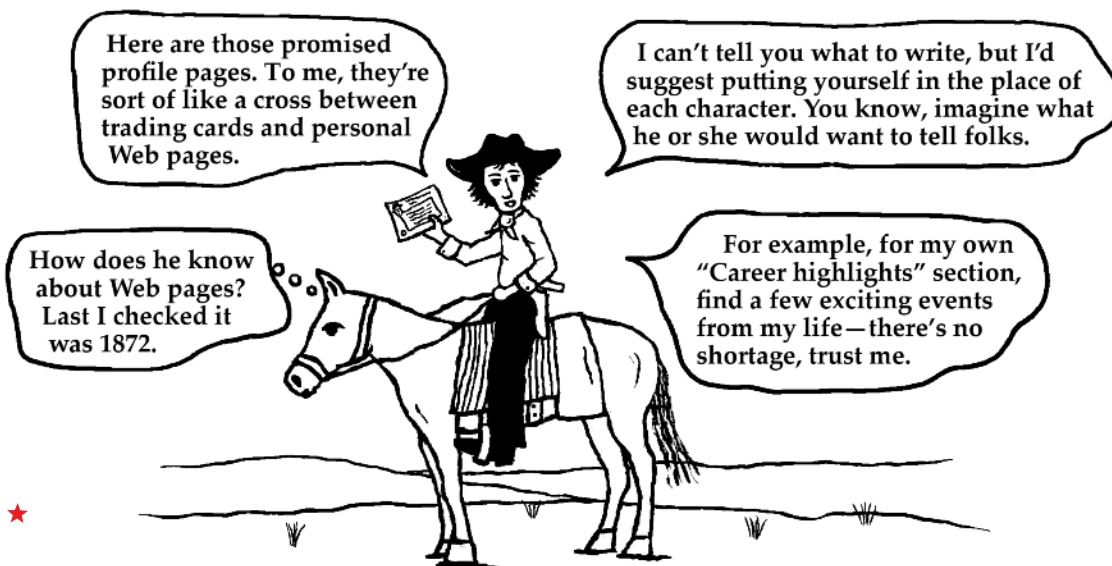
has been having some difficulty adjusting to life on the reservation. Help him fill out his **PERSONAL PROFILE** on page 41.

WHO SAID IT?

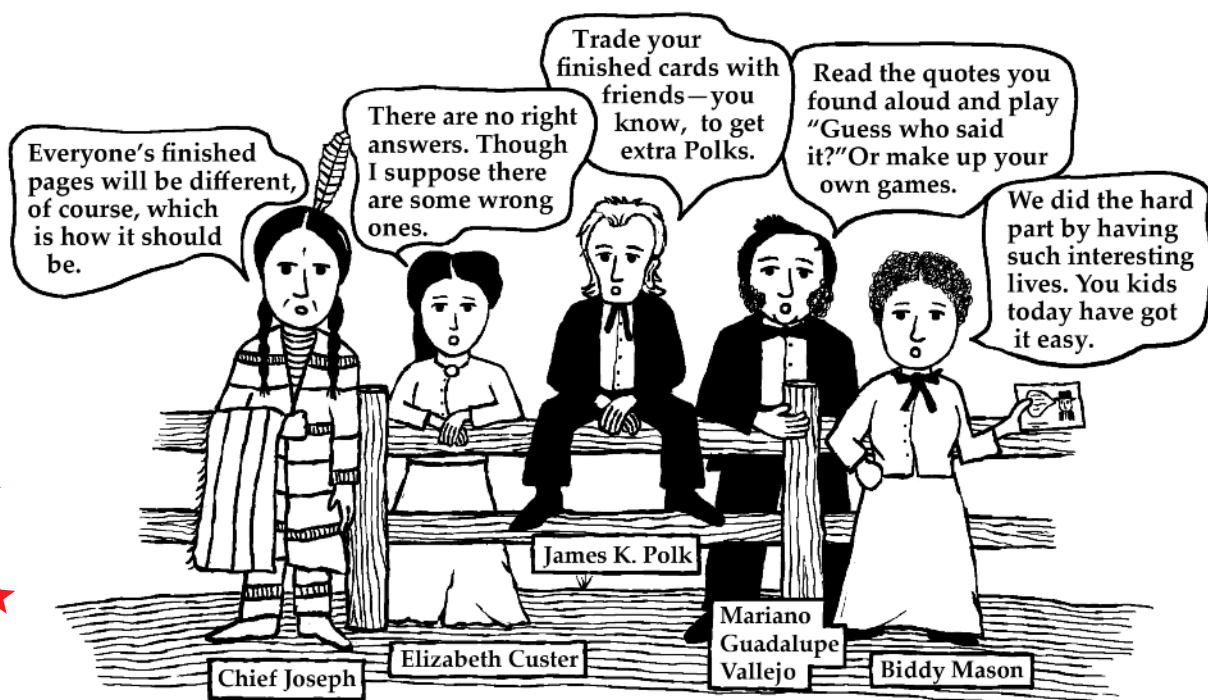
“A PEOPLE’S DREAM DIED THERE. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DREAM.”



# Find Your Friends



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# SACAGAWEA

## PROFILE

Cut Here

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES,** I REALLY SAID...

.....

.....

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.....



**SACAGAWEA**

**26**



# JAMES K. POLK

## PROFILE

Cut Here 

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES, I REALLY SAID...**



**JAMES K. POLK**

**28**



**Cut Here** 

## **MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO**

### **PROFILE**

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES,** I REALLY SAID...



**MARIANO GUADALUPE VALLEJO**

30



# BIDDY MASON

## PROFILE

Cut Here 

### Career highlights

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES,** I REALLY SAID...

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**BIDDY MASON**

**32**



# THEODORE JUDAH

Cut Here 

## PROFILE

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**



**YES**, I REALLY SAID...

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**THEODORE JUDAH**

34



## RED CLOUD

Cut Here 

### PROFILE

**Career highlights**

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES,** I REALLY SAID...



**RED CLOUD**

**36**



## **NAT LOVE**

### **PROFILE**

Cut Here 

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES, I REALLY SAID...**



**NAT LOVE**

**38**



# ELIZABETH CUSTER

Cut Here 

## PROFILE

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**

**YES,** I REALLY SAID...

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**ELIZABETH CUSTER**

**40**



# CHIEF JOSEPH

## PROFILE

Cut Here 

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I'm famous**

**Career highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**



**YES,** I REALLY SAID...



## CHIEF JOSEPH

42

Cut Here 

# MY PROFILE

**My birthday**

**My family**

**My hometown**

**The main reason I might become famous**

**Life highlights**

**Something most people don't know about me**

43



YES, I REALLY SAID...

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## Answers

### Wild West Timeline

Louisiana Purchase: 1803

Sacagawea: 1805

Mexican Independence: 1821

Austin to Texas: 1822

Alamo surrounded: 1836

Who Said It? Jedediah Smith

Who Said It? Virginia Reed

### Three Bad Ways to the Gold

Over Land, Pros: avoid dangers of sea travel

Over Land, Cons: slow pace, danger of disease

South America route, Pros: safest route

South America route, Cons: expensive, long, uncomfortable

Panama route, Pros: quickest route

Panama route, Pros: tropical diseases, chance of being stranded in Panama

Who Said It? Brigham Young

Who Said It? William Swain

Who Said It? Red Cloud

Who Said It? Black Elk

Who Said It? Percy Ebbutt

### Battle over Buffalo

Reasons buffalo were important to Indians: Plains Indians used buffalo for

food, clothing, tepees, and tools.

Reasons U.S. government supported hunters: The government knew that with-

out buffalo to hunt, Plains Indians could not roam freely on the Great Plains.

Results of slaughter: The buffalo population was about 30 million at the start

of the 1800s. By the late 1870s, buffalo were nearly wiped out in the West.

Who Said It? Sitting Bull

### Wild West Slang

A. really drunk

B. have a drink?

C. cheater, swindler

D. lazy bum

E. confused

F. nonsense

G. gun

H. exhausted

Who Said It? William T. Sherman

STORYTELLER'S HISTORY

# INTERACTIVE KITS

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- ★ Civil War

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