

American West Essay Prompts

Listed below are possible essay questions. Be prepared to answer any of them on the day of the assessment. Feel free to begin planning/creating an outline, although they may not be used on the day of the assessment.

1. Both the homesteaders and the cattlemen had to overcome many problems on the Plains. Briefly describe the most important problems that settlers faced during their journey westwards.
2. The Plains Indians and White Americans were in conflict for most of the time during this period. What did White Americans not like about the Plains Indians' way of life? Explain your answer using your knowledge.
3. Some historians have stated the completion of the transcontinental railroad was the most important development of the west. Analyze the veracity of this statement.
4. What 3 important factors attracted folks to move to the Far West or the Great Plains?