

## The American West, 1835-95

| Topic   | Red | Amber | Green | Revised |
|---|-----|-------|-------|---------|
| <b>The early settlement of the west, 1835-62</b>  |     |       |       |         |
| <b>The Plains Indians, their beliefs and their way of life</b><br>- Social and tribal structures, ways of life and means of survival on the Plains.<br>- Beliefs about land and nature and attitudes to war and property.<br>- US government policy: support for US westward expansion and the significance of the Permanent Indian Frontier. The Indian Appropriations Act 1851.   |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Migration and early settlement</b><br>- The factors encouraging migration, including economic conditions, the Oregon Trail from 1836, the concept of Manifest Destiny, and the Gold Rush of 1849.<br>- The process and problems of migration, including the experiences of the Donner Party and the Mormon migration, 1846–47.<br>- The development and problems of white settlement farming.  |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Conflict and tension</b><br>- Reasons for tension between settlers and Plains Indians. The significance of the Fort Laramie Treaty 1851.<br>- The problems of lawlessness in early towns and settlements. Attempts by government and local communities to tackle lawlessness.  |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Development of the Plains, 1862-76</b>   |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Development of settlement in the west</b><br>- The significance of the Civil War and post war reconstruction, including the impact of the Homestead Act 1862, the Pacific Railroad Act 1862, and the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad, 1869.<br>- Attempts at solutions to problems faced by homesteaders: the use of new methods and new technology; the impact of the Timber Culture Act 1873 and of the spread of the railroad network.<br>- Continued problems of law and order in settlements, and attempted solutions, including the roles of law officers and increases in federal government influence. |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Ranching and the cattle industry</b><br>- The cattle industry and factors in its growth, including the roles of Iliff, McCoy and Goodnight, the significance of Abilene and of the increasing use of the railroad network.<br>- The impact of changes in ranching on the work of the cowboy.<br>- Rivalry between ranchers and homesteaders.   |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Changes in the way of life of the Plains Indians</b><br>- The impact of railroads, the cattle industry and gold prospecting on the Plains Indians.<br>- The impact of US government policy towards the Plains Indians, including the continued use of reservations. President Grant's 'Peace Policy', 1868.<br>- Conflict with the Plains Indians: Little Crow's War (1862) and the Sand Creek Massacre (1864), the significance of Red Cloud's War (1866–68) and the Fort Laramie Treaty (1868).  |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Conflicts and Conquest, 1876-95</b>  |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Changes in farming, the cattle industry and settlement</b><br>- Changes in farming: the impact of new technology and new farming methods.<br>- Changes in the cattle industry, including the impact of the winter of 1886–87. The significance of changes in the nature of ranching: the end of the open range.<br>- Continued growth of settlement: the Exoduster movement and Kansas (1879), the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1893.   |     |       |       |         |
| <b>Conflict and tension</b><br>- Extent of solutions to problems of law and order: sheriffs and marshals. The significance of Billy the Kid, OK Corral (1881), Wyatt Earp.<br>- The range wars, including the Johnson County War of 1892.<br>- Conflict with the Plains Indians: the Battle of the Little Big Horn, 1876 and its impact; the Wounded Knee Massacre, 1890.   |     |       |       |         |
| <b>The Plains Indians: Destruction of their way of life</b><br>- The hunting and extermination of the buffalo.<br>- The Plains Indians' life on the reservations.<br>- The significance of changing government attitudes to the Plains Indians, including the Dawes Act 1887 and the closure of the Indian Frontier.  |     |       |       |         |