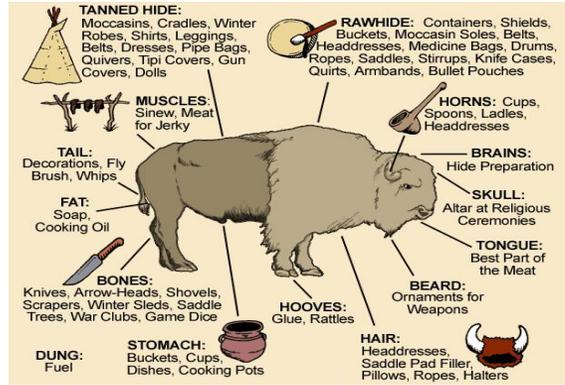


1775-83	War of Independence
1776	Declaration of Independence
1789	First President of the USA
1803	Louisiana Purchase
1804	Expedition to the Pacific
1820	The Missouri Compromise
1830	The Indian Removal Act
1848-9	Gold Rush
1851	Fort Laramie Treaty
1861-2	Little Crow's War
1861-5	US Civil War
1862	Homestead Act
1864	The Sand Creek Massacre
1865-8	Red Cloud's War
1875-77	The Great Sioux War
1876	25 June – Battle of the Little Bighorn



How was America 'made'?

Why did people move west?

Eastern farmland became too expensive.	The Homestead Act of 1862 offered free land to settlers willing to travel west.	Religious persecution caused people to seek the freedom of the west.
The Pacific Railways Acts of 1862 and 1864 granted land to those aiding construction.	Failed entrepreneurs sought a second chance in a new location.	Gold was discovered in California in 1849.
Outlaws (criminals) sought refuge in the wilderness of the west.	There were few good jobs in the east and many jobs paid very low wages.	Racial persecution caused people to seek the freedom of the west.
There were many opportunities to purchase cheap land in the west.	Many Europeans were flooding into the eastern cities and so overcrowding was sometimes a problem.	Many newspapers and magazines encouraged people to travel west. The term Manifest destiny was first used in a newspaper.
Some people living in the east received letter from friends and family which informed them of the benefits of life in the west.	Some people simply wanted to make a fresh start.	Some settlers wanted to join relatives who had already moved west.
An economic depression hit the USA in 1837 causing banks to crash. Thousands lost their wages, savings and jobs.	Farmers were facing ruin because the price of the corn they were growing in the east collapsed.	Farmers in some areas were experiencing overcrowding. The population in Missouri grew from 14,000 in 1830 to 353,000 in 1840.

Key Words

Amendment	A change or alteration.
Dawes Act	A law which allowed Plains Indians to become citizens in return for giving up tribal claims to land.
Speculation	Investing in a product with the hope of selling it later for more money.
The Plains	Land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains.
Manifest Destiny	A belief in a God-given right to take over the whole of America.
Senate	Part of the USA's Congress where laws are made.
Constitution	The rules by which a nation is governed.
Prospectors	People who went searching for gold.
Congress	The name of the body that passes laws in the USA.
Ghost Dancers	Reservation Indians who believed that white Americans could be removed from the Earth through a spiritual dance.