FRONTIER – unsettled or sparsely settled area of the country largely occupied by Native Americans

GREAT PLAINS – area from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains

Mid 1800’s on the Great Plains there are basically no trees and 300,000 Native Americans

Railroads bring settlement to the frontier – supplies, people, etc.

Silver and gold are found in Colorado and Nevada in 1859
The COMSTOCK LODE found in western Nevada produces over $300,000,000 worth of gold and silver between 1859 and 1880.

Gold found in Black Hills of South Dakota in 1874.
Gold found in Cripple Creek, Colorado in 1891.

1896 gold was found in Yukon Territory in Canada.

Raising cattle in the west was limited to only local buyers. Could not get the cattle to larger cities for sale to masses.
Ranchers start “driving” cattle to railroad towns – Abilene, Kansas

LONG DRIVES – moving cattle from the ranch to the railroad towns for transportation

West becomes known as the “Wild West” where people take the law into their own hands

People protect each other with VIGILANTES – groups of people who take the law into their own hands

People are usually punished without a trial

Railroads expand to more towns and soon there is no more need for the “Long Drives”
THE END