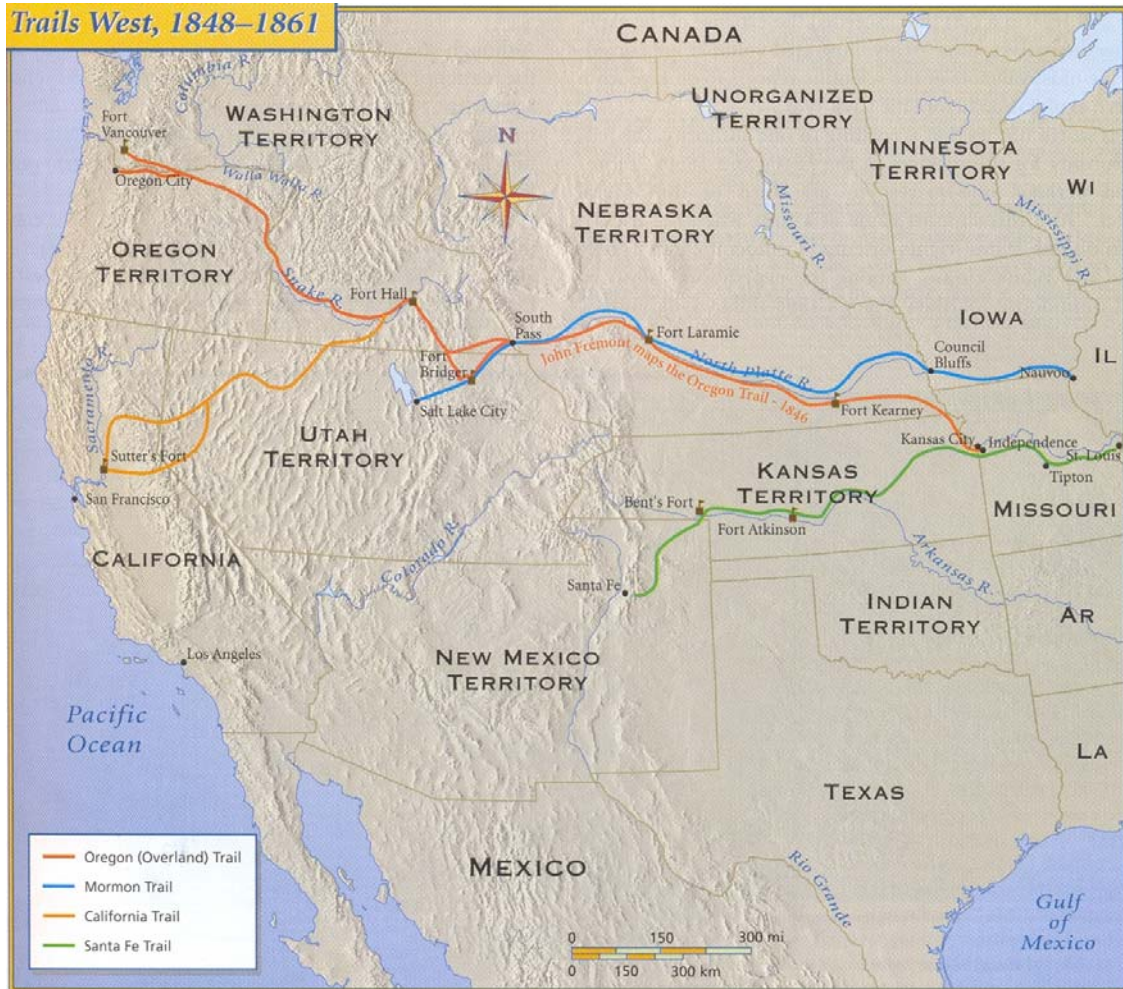


Homesteaders

Document A: Trails West 1848-1861



Document B: The Homestead Act (1862)

THE HOMESTEAD ACT

*Be It enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in assembled, That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall... be entitled to enter one quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands... ..[T]hat such application is made for his or her exclusive use and benefit, and that said entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement and cultivation, and not either directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person or person whomever; and upon filing the said affidavit with register or receiver, and on payment of ten dollars, he or she shall thereupon be permitted to enter the quantity of land specified: *Provided, however,* That no certificate shall be given or patent issued therefore until the expiration of five years from the date of such entry...*

Document C: The First Morrill Act or Land Grant College Act of 1862

THE MORRILL ACT

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress as assembled, That there be granted to the several States, for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, an amount of public land, to be apportioned to each State a quantity equal to thirty thousand acres for each Senator and Representative in Congress to which the States are respectively entitled by the apportionment under the census of eighteen hundred and sixty; Provided, That no mineral lands shall be selected or purchased under the provisions of this act...

Sec. 4 [as amended March 3, 1883]. That all moneys derived from the sale of lands aforesaid by the States to which lands are apportioned, and from the sales of lands scrip herein before provided for, shall be invested in stocks of the United States or of the States... *Provided, That the moneys so invested or loaned shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished (except so far as may be provided in section five of this act), and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated, by each State which may take and claim the benefit of this act, to the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading objects shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.*

Document D: Union Pacific Railroad Broadside Advertising Land

Rich Farming Lands!

For Sale **VERY CHEAP** by the
Union Pacific Railroad Company

*The Best Investment! No Fluctuations!
Always Improving in Value.
The Wealth of the Country is made by the advance in
Real Estate.*

NOW IS THE TIME! MILLIONS OF ACRES

*Of the finest lands on the Continent, in Eastern Nebraska,
now for sale, Many of them never before in Market, at
prices that Defy Competition.*

*FIVE AND TEN YEARS' CREDIT GIVEN, WITH
INTEREST AT SIX PER CENT.*

*The Land Grant Bonds of the Company taken at par for
lands. → Full particulars given, new Guide with new
Maps mailed free.*

THE PIONEER

*A handsome illustrated paper, containing the Homestead
Law, sent free to all parts of the world. Address*

O.F. DAVIS,
Land Commissioner U.P.R.R.,
Omaha, Neb.

— 19th-century broadside (adapted)

Document E: Sod Houses



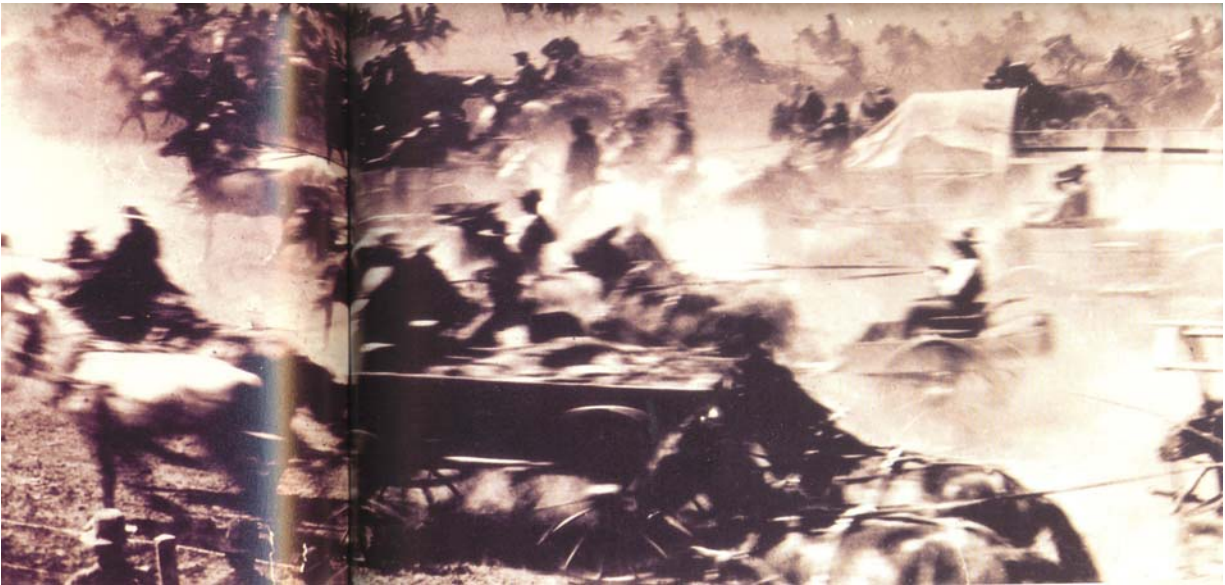
Document F: Success rates of Montana Homesteaders

	<u>Original Entries</u>	<u>Year of Completion</u>	<u>Final Entries</u>	<u>Percent Completed</u>
1900	61,270	1905	24,621	40.2
1901	68,648	1906	25,246	36.8
1902	98,829	1907	27,202	27.5
1903	80,188	1908	29,059	36.2
1904	69,175	1909	25,510	36.9
1905	70,344	1910	23,253	33.1
1906	89,600	1911	25,908	28.9
1907	93,957	1912	24,326	25.9
1908	87,057	1913	53,252	61.2
1909	75,445	1914	48,724	64.6
1910	98,598	1915	37,343	37.9
Totals:	893,111		344,444	38.6

This chart shows the approximate success rate of homesteaders who filed original entries in 1900 through 1910. The table is arranged to compare original entries with the corresponding final entries filed five years afterward. The figures should be considered at best approximate because the fact that a homesteader filed for final entry after five years does not necessarily mean that the homesteader had been a success as a farmer.

Document G: The Oklahoma Land Rush

The last- and largest- of the Oklahoma land rushes gets under way. Within hours some 6 million acres of land- the so-called Cherokee Outlet- had been carved up among nearly 100,000 newcomers.



Document H: Advice to Homesteaders

Twelfth Report of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry of the State of Montana (1910)

“... a homesteader's life is not a paradise for the poor man and never can be. The settler should be a man of some means, but not necessarily wealthy. There is no opening for the man who is penniless and the entryman with less than a thousand dollars, if the first payment is due at the time entry is made, is taking long chances.

It should be remembered that the land which can be homesteaded is raw and wild in all respects just as it was created, except for the natural changes. The main ditch and laterals are completed to the margin of each homestead. The farm ditches to conduct the water through the fields are to be laid out and dug by the settler; the land must be fenced and at least some sort of habitable buildings erected; the land must be broken and cropped and the entryman and his family must have means of subsistence until the first season's products are available. If the entryman has means to break and crop his entire place he not only has the advantage of full returns from his land but has also the use and full value of all the water, while if for lack of time or money to cultivate all his land only a portion of it can be used, he must still pay for water for every acre in his claim that is capable of being irrigated...”