

# Moving West

“Manifest Destiny”

## Why did people move west?

### A. Seeking Opportunity in the West

1. Before Civil War the “West” was the Mississippi River Region.
2. Reasons to “move west”
  - a. a new start in life
  - b. fleeing prejudice—racial, religious, etc.
3. Most western lands belonged to “Big Business”
  - a. railroads given land by the federal government  
– land sold to pay for railroad building
4. Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862
  - a. gave 140 million acres of land to western state governments

- b. land then sold through speculators

## 5. 1862 Homestead Act

- a. federal government sold land directly to settlers

- b. 160 acres for \$10 fee and “improving” land for 5 years

1900: individuals owned 80 million acres  
business owned 500 million acres

## B. Opportunity for African-Americans

- 1. “exodusters” -- settlers

- 2. often not successful -- WHY?

- a. little money

- b. racism

- 3. lack of crop knowledge

## C. Cooperation in the West

- 1. Settlers relied on each other – WHY?

a. requirement of manual labor

b. need for self-sufficiency

2. At first, had to make own necessities

3. Men took off-season jobs

D. Women in the West

1. Could file own homestead claim – However, still had to fulfill the 5 year improvement requirement

2. Women became more independent – suffrage

3. 1914 – 11 states allowed women to vote.

**ANSWER IN AT LEAST 35 WORDS.**

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