Reconstruction and Westward Expansion

Outcome: End of Reconstruction
1. End of Reconstruction
   a. How did Reconstruction affect the people?
      i. Many African Americans and poor white farmers became sharecroppers.
      ii. Sharecropping: system where landowners divided their land and assigned households a few acres to work the land and keep a small share of the crops grown.
      iii. Blacks win federal and state political office.
      iv. Public schools and universities grow.
      v. Reconstruction ended with breakdown in Republican Party unity and a five year economic depression that began in 1873.
The Sharecropper Cycle of Poverty

1. Sharecropper is provided land and seed. In exchange, he promises landowner half the crop.

2. Sharecropper buys food and clothing on credit from landowner's store.

3. Sharecropper plants and harvests crop.

4. Sharecropper gives landowner crop to sell. Sharecropper will get half the earnings, minus the cost of his purchases for the year.

5. When settling up, landowner says that sharecropper owes more than he has earned.

6. To pay debt, sharecropper must promise landowner a greater share of next year's crop.

By the time sharecroppers had shared their crops and paid their debts, they rarely had any money left. Often they were uneducated and could not argue with landowners or merchants who cheated them. A sharecropper frequently became tied to one plantation, having no choice but to work until his debts were paid.
b. Compromise of 1877

i. Samuel Tilden defeats Rutherford B. Hayes in the election of 1876’s popular vote

ii. Three disputed states lead to charges of fraud

iii. Southerners agree to accept Hayes if he agrees to pull all federal troops from the South

iv. Hayes becomes the 19th president of the United States
Compromise of 1877
c. Without Federal troops in the South, Blacks were kept from voting by:

i. **Intimidation**

ii. **Poll Taxes** which poor blacks couldn’t afford

iii. **Literacy Tests**

1. Had to **read** and **write** to pass; Southern states once had laws **against teaching slaves** how to read or write, therefore, most blacks couldn’t read or write

2. Tests were **more difficult** for blacks

iv. **Grandfather Clause** allowed poor, uneducated whites to vote
Jim Crow Laws

Riots
- Alabama: 0
- Texas: 0
- North Carolina: 1

Lynchings
- Alabama: 259
- Texas: black-72, white-141
- North Carolina: black-86, white-15

Education
- Black and white children may not attend the same schools. Public schools for black and white children over six years old will be provided for free.

Transportation
- All trains must have at least two passenger cars for each race or be partitioned. There must be separate stations with regard to sex and race.
- All railroads must provide equal but separate cars for black and white passengers. Seating may not be interchanged between races in sleeping cars.
- Trains and train stations must be separate but equal.

Notes:
- Free public schools will be provided for children 6-15 years old, paid for by taxes. White and black children will have different schedules, but there will be no prejudice for either race. All schools are given, but no race only be used by that race.
End of Reconstruction

d. The Civil Rights Cases & Plessy v. Ferguson

i. Civil Rights Cases of 1883

1. Southern business owners were refusing public services to blacks

2. US Supreme Court struck down the Civil Rights Act of 1875, saying that the 14th Amendment applied only to the states; Private citizens could now legally discriminate based on race

The Civil Rights Act of 1875 was rarely enforced and was eventually overturned by a Supreme Court decision in 1883.
End of Reconstruction

- **Plessy v. Ferguson**
  - Homer Plessy was $\frac{1}{8}$th black and tried to sit in the white section of a train car; was arrested
  - US Supreme Court ruled that facilities could be separate as long as they were equal, thus establishing the “Separate but Equal” clause which allowed for legal segregation in the South
Separate but Equal?
PLESSY VS. FERGUSON

Separate but not equal
End of Reconstruction

Result: Even though Reconstruction was meant to bring the United States back together as one entity, the culture of the South and decisions made by the Supreme Court allowed for legal discrimination that would deny many Blacks rights that would eventually be fought for during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1950s.