

USII.2a

During the nineteenth century, people's perceptions and use of the Great Plains changed. Technological advances allowed people to live in more challenging environments.

Physical features /climate of the Great Plains:

Flatlands that rise gradually from east to west

Land eroded by wind and water

Low rainfall

Frequent dust storms

Because of new technologies, people saw the Great Plains not as a "treeless wasteland" but as a vast area to be settled.

Inventions /adaptations:

Barbed wire

Steel plows

Dry farming

Sod houses

Beef cattle raising

Wheat farming

Windmills

Railroads

The student will use maps, globes, pictures, and tables for
a) explaining how physical features and climate influenced the movement of people westward.