WESTERN TOWNS



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10. THE PRICE of FREE LAND



People who settled on land in the Great Plains sometimes used sod to build their homesteads. This image depicts such a sod house. The image is online via the University of Tampere, in Finland.

Many towns, some with large populations today, had inauspicious beginnings as westward migration continued:

- Santa Fe, New Mexico (1866).
- Virginia City, Nevada (1867-68).
- Cheyenne, Wyoming, on the Oregon Trail (1876).
- <u>Deadwood</u>, a South Dakota Territory gold rush town, in 1876.
- Tucson (the scene of a <u>deadly tragedy</u> in which Arizona's chief federal judge, <u>John M. Roll</u>, was killed in 2011) still had wide-open spaces <u>in 1880</u>. (All the victims of that Tucson shooting were <u>eulogized by President</u> Obama.)
- Oklahoma City (Indian Territory), by 1889, had U.S. government buildings, a railroad station, a water tank, and soldiers from the 13th Infantry guarding lumber and an uncompleted cemetery.
- <u>Midland</u>, Texas experienced severe sandstorms like the one which obscured windmills and houses on February 20, 1894.
- In 1895, children studied in a sod schoolhouse in Woods County (Oklahoma Territory).
- Lamon's Log Cabin was the first one built in Yosemite Valley (California Territory) in 1895.
- The University of Oklahoma got its start, in Norman, as a <u>territorial university</u> (1897-98).
- Flagstaff (Arizona Territory) had a post office as well as other buildings by 1899.
- Children gathered fruit from Oklahoma family farms in 1900.

- Oil was discovered in <u>Cleveland</u> (Oklahoma Territory) in 1904. A year later, the town had been transformed into a city of oil derricks.
- The mountain valleys of Idaho sprouted tent towns as westward movement continued in 1909.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

 $\underline{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WESTERN-TOWNS-Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion}$

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WESTERN-TOWNS-Go-West-U.S.-Westward-Expansion

Media Stream



Tucson in 1880 - Carleton E. Watkins

Cropped image of photograph by Carleton W. Watkins, online courtesy Arizona Historical Society - AHS Photo Number 18233.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Tucson-in-1880-Carleton-E.-Watkins



<u>Judge John Roll - Victim of Tucson Shooting</u>

Image of Judge John McCarthy Roll, courtesy U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Quoted biography of Judge Roll, online courtesy <u>Federal Judiciary Center</u>.

Source for quotations from Judge Roll's November 24, 2010 letter - <u>Arizona Daily Star</u>. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Judge-John-Roll-Victim-of-Tucson-Shooting



WESTERN TOWNS

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/WESTERN-TOWNS-Illustration-



President Obama - Tucson Memorial Speech

Video of President Obama's speech, at the University of Arizona - Tucson Campus - January 12, 2011. Video and transcript online, courtesy the White House. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/President-Obama-Tucson-Memorial-Speech