

Westward Expansion

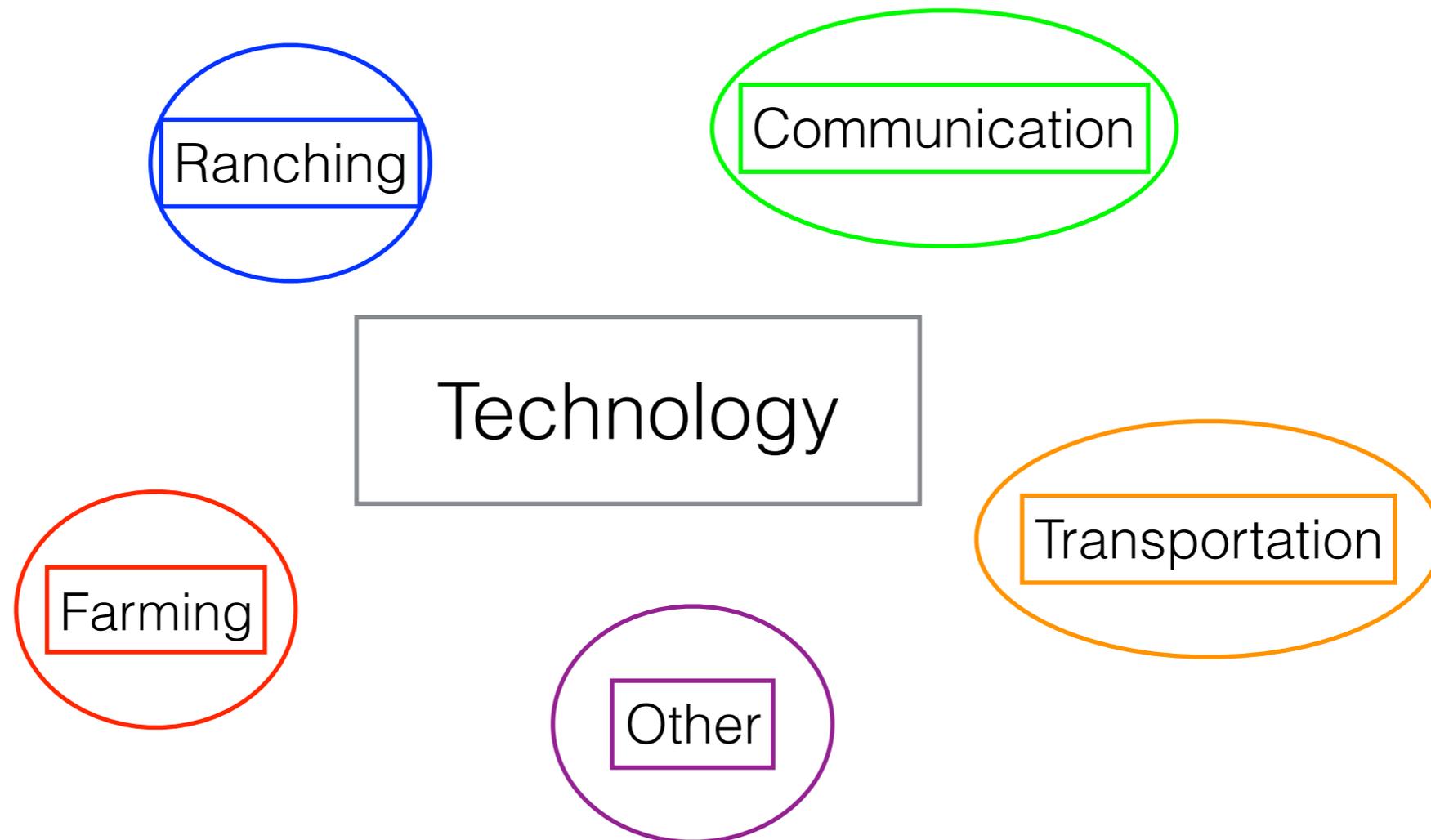
Technology that Shaped the West



Note: Underline Text = CAKE

Due to new advancements in technology, people saw the West and Great Plains Region not as a “treeless wasteland” but as a vast area to be settled.

The new technology allows for people seeking out and settling lands in the west to overcome hardships and build successful lives.



Farming

Steel Plow (1837)



The soil in the new land was too hard and rocky for the traditional wooden plows which weren't strong enough. The steel made plows were able to break through the soil.

Windmill ("introduced" 1854)

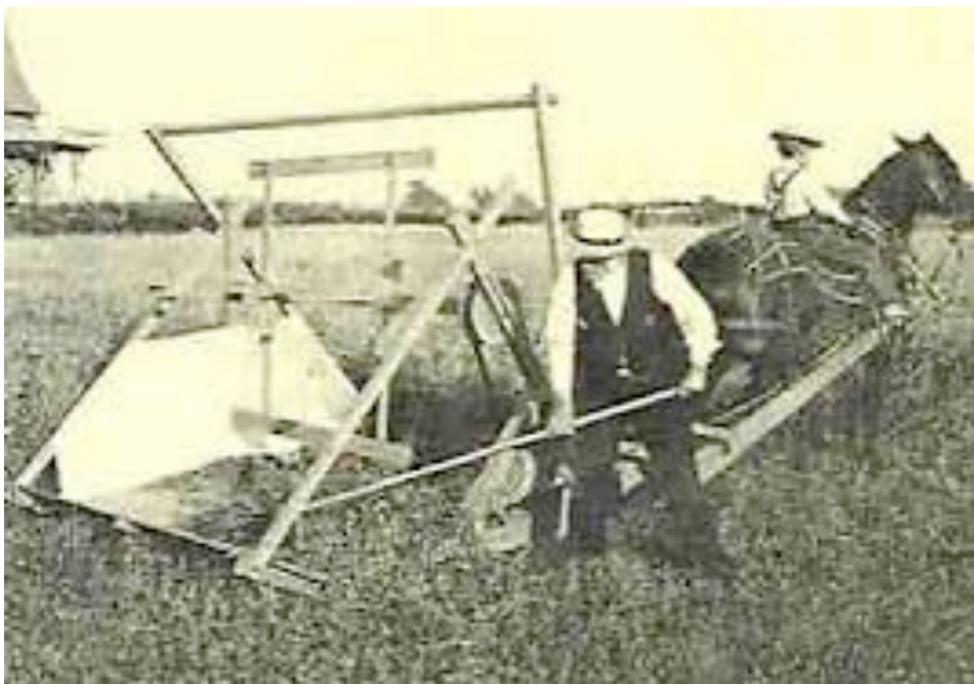
With little rainfall occurring in the west, farmers used windmills to access water for animals and small crops. The turning blades would pump water up from the underground sources (aquifers).



Farming

Mechanical Reaper (1831)

With the vast new farmlands, farmers needed a way to harvest the croplands. The Reaper or mower reduced the labor needs and increase production. Focus mainly on wheat and grain crops.



Farming

Dry Farming (1870s)

The settlers learned the new farming technique. This type of farming that allowed farmers to farm without much water. Consisted of planting seeds deeper in soil.

Popular Crops...

Wheat

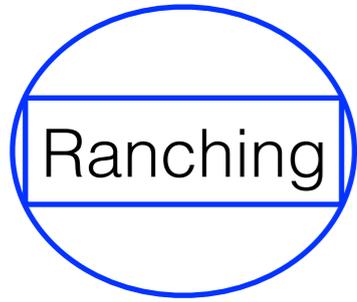


Corn



Potatoes





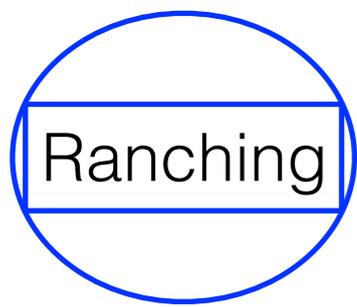
Beef Cattle Raising (1840s)



Some areas throughout the west had natural grasses suitable for cattle to graze. The easily accessible “open range” was also ideal. Texas became the center of cattle ranching.

The cattle industry was very successful because so many people in the East wanted to eat beef. Beef = \$\$





Barbed Wire (1874)

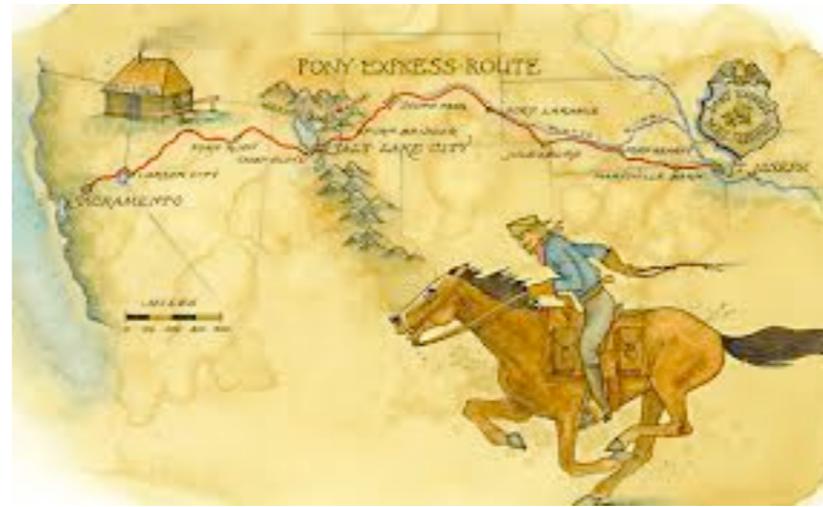


Barbed wire was used for fencing large ranches and farms.
It was build more quickly/cheaply than wood fences.

Herding and protecting large numbers of cattle on open terrain required significant manpower. It was an inexpensive method to divide the land and control cattle. This led to more efficient ranching and less need for heavy labor.

Known as the invention that truly tamed the West.

Communication



Pony Express (1860-1861)

This was a mail service that carried messages, newspapers, mail, and small packages from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, by horseback, using a series of relay stations.

During its 19 months of operation, it reduced the time for messages to travel between coasts to about 10 days. It became the West's most direct means of east-west communication and was vital for tying the new state of California with the rest of the U.S.

Communication

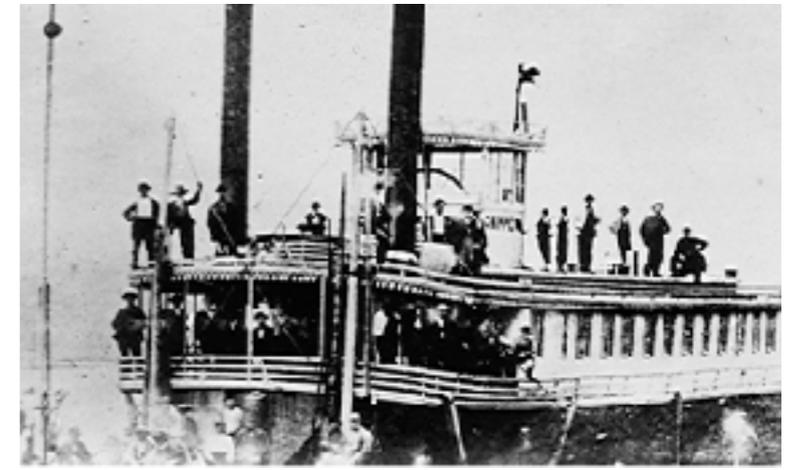
Telegraph (1861)



Used Morse Code. Which was a code in which letters are represented by combinations of long and short sounds. Messages could travel across the country in a matter of minutes.

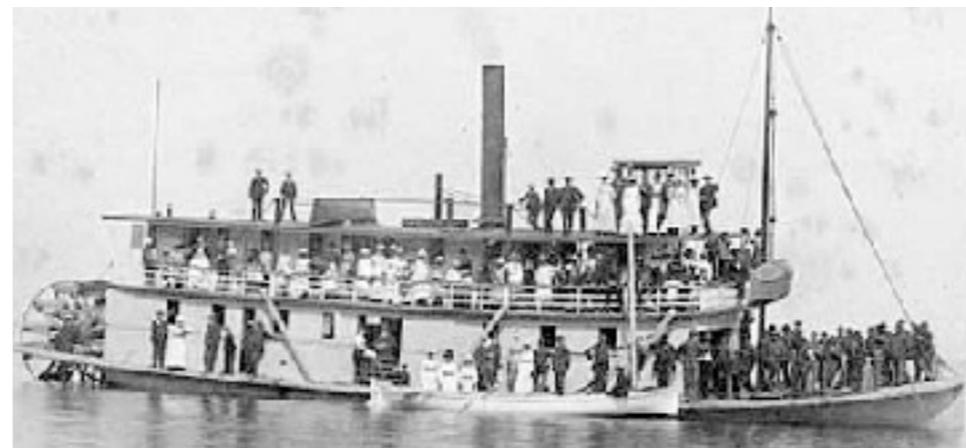


Transportation



Steamboats - Missouri River (1850s)

Steamboats were made to go upstream and powered by a steam engine. They traveled the Missouri River from St. Louis to Fort Benton, MT. This increased the amount of transportation and trade for many westerners wanting to send/receive goods and supplies in the Pacific-Northwest (OR,WA). The trip took nearly 3 months and was mostly used by fur companies.



Transportation



Transcontinental Railroad (1869)

The railroad connected the East to the West and transported people and goods. This made trade and travel easier and faster.



Started as two railroads - one building from the east to the west (from Council Bluffs, IA) and the other built from the west to the east (from Sacramento, CA). The philosophy was “meet me in the middle” (in UT).

Gold Rush (1848)

Other



Rocker box: A rocker was a rectangular wooden box, on rockers. The dirt and rock was dumped into the top, followed by water. The cradle was rocked and the heavy gold fell to the bottom of the box.



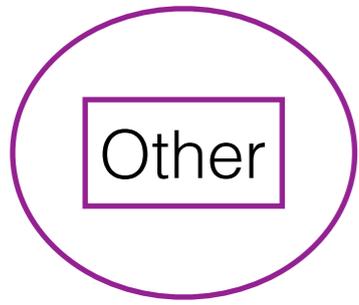
Sluice Box: Was an extended version of the Rocker Box. Rivers would be diverted. The miners would loosen dirt/rocks and allow water to transport the material down to a sluice box. The gold would be panned out.

Other

Gold Rush (1848)

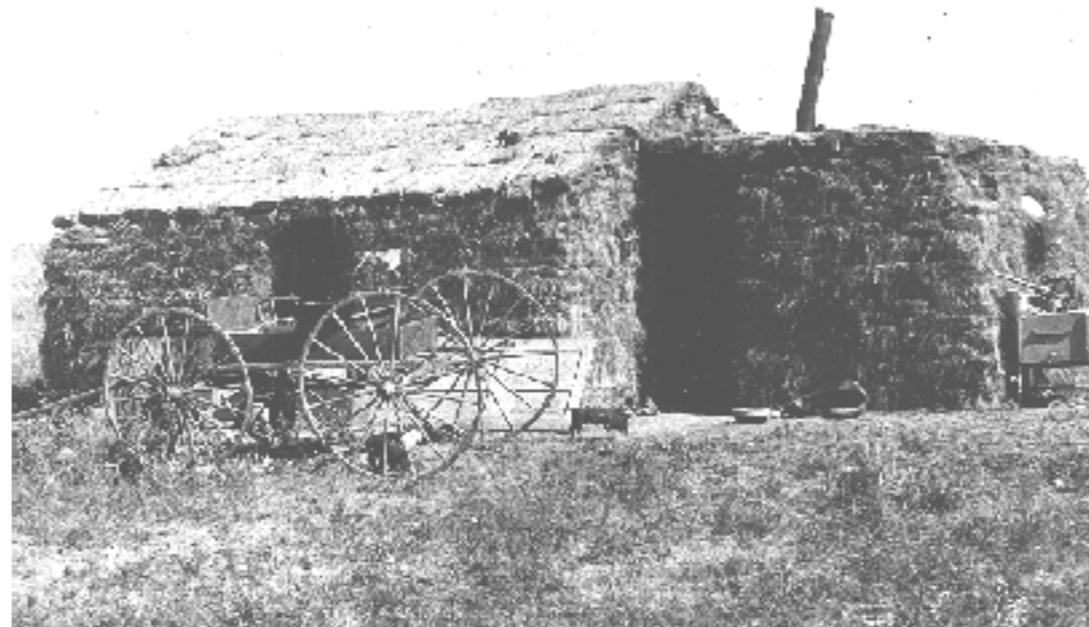
Hydraulic mining: was a potentially efficient method but it was also the most destructive. Water under pressure would be directed against a bank of gravel deposits and the hillside would wash away rapidly. The debris would wash into a series of huge sluice boxes that would catch the gold.





Sod Houses (1870s)

This was a technique for building a home by settlers homesteading on the prairie. The prairie lacked wood or stone but sod from thickly-rooted prairie grass was everywhere. It was easy to build, durable and free.



How has these examples of “westward technology” improved life and aided in the growth of a nation?

