How did Westward Expansion impact Native Americans?

1. Forced to move to reservations and Government breaks treaties

2. Lifestyle changes because of forced assimilation

3. Killing the buffalo
1. Forced to move to reservations

- Settlers felt justified in taking Native Americans' land because they felt they were making the land more **productive**.

- Treaties forced millions of Native Americans onto **reservations**

- Reservation: small piece of **government land** set aside for Native Americans
Government Breaks Treaties

- After tribes made treaties that relocated them to reservations, the US government and settlers frequently broke these treaties and took even more land from Native Americans.
2. Killing of the Buffalo

• Deliberate **reduction of buffalo** herds to force them to move off their hunting grounds to **reservations**.
3. Forced Assimilation

Assimilation: to blend into another culture, to accept that culture as one’s own.

- Efforts to get Native Americans to become settled farmers – settlers wanted the land to be used more “productively”.

- **Dawes Act** – Reservation land was divided into 160 acre plots and given to individual families to farm for a profit.

- Missionaries attempted to convert Native Americans to Christianity.

- Indian Boarding **Schools** – Children were sent to schools to focus on skills such as carpentry and housekeeping.

- Native Americans were not considered **citizens until 1924**
How did Native Americans respond to Westward Settlement?

- American Indians previously occupied the west and viewed settlers as invaders.
- Many heroic American Indians made courageous efforts to save their people.
• **Gold** was discovered on the Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

• Many **Sioux (Lakota)**, including Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, refused to go to a reservation to Montana.

• General George Custer and U.S. troops were sent to drive the Native Americans back to their reservation.

• They met 2,000+ warriors (largest Indian force ever gathered in the Plains)

• Custer was killed
Massacre at Wounded Knee

- After Col. Custer was defeated at Little Bighorn, U.S. Army was sent in
- **Sitting Bull** was killed along with **120 men**, **230 women** and children at a creek call **Wounded Knee**
- Massacre at Wounded Knee was the last major episode of violence in Native American wars
Chief Joseph, Nez Percé

- **Nez Percé** were forced onto a reservation in Idaho.
- Chief Joseph led a group of 750 Native Americans out of Idaho and escaped toward **Canada**.
- US troops were ordered to bring Native Americans back to the reservation.
- Chief Joseph and other were caught and surrendered at Bear’s Paw Mountain.
“Here me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever. “
- Chief Joseph
Geronimo and Apache Raids

- Geronimo, leader of the **Apache Native Americans** in Southwest U.S.
- Geronimo fought against Mexico and the **United States**

- Geronimo, a tribal leader, in the **Southwest** region.
- Geronimo fought against Mexico and the United States settlers.
- Apache believed he had special powers - walk without leaving tracks.
- After many battles, Apache were forced to surrender to U.S. in 1886 in Arizona.
- His name is a synonym for **bravery**.