



# The West

---

Immigration  
and  
Americanization



# The West- Cultural Development

---

Explain the causes and effects of the settlement of the West from 1877 to 1898.

In hopes of achieving ideals of self-sufficiency and independence, migrants moved to both rural and boomtown areas of the West for opportunities, such as building the railroads, mining, farming, and ranching.

As migrant populations increased in number and the American bison population was decimated, competition for land and resources in the West among white settlers, American Indians, and Mexican Americans led to an increase in violent conflict.

# The West- Cultural Development

---

The U.S. government violated treaties with American Indians and responded to resistance with military force, eventually confining American Indians to reservations and denying tribal sovereignty.

Many American Indians preserved their cultures and tribal identities despite government policies promoting assimilation, and they attempted to develop self-sustaining economic practices.

# Discussion Questions

---

- a. How did the rapid development of the West have an impact upon the women who would migrate with their families into this region of the country?
- b. Why did so many immigrants migrate into the American West in the period leading up to the Civil War and after its conclusion?
- c. What was the significance of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882?
- d. How did the horse change the way of life for the Native Americans who lived on the Great Plains?
- e. How did Americans try to Americanize the Native Americans of the Great Plains?

# Historical Image Analysis

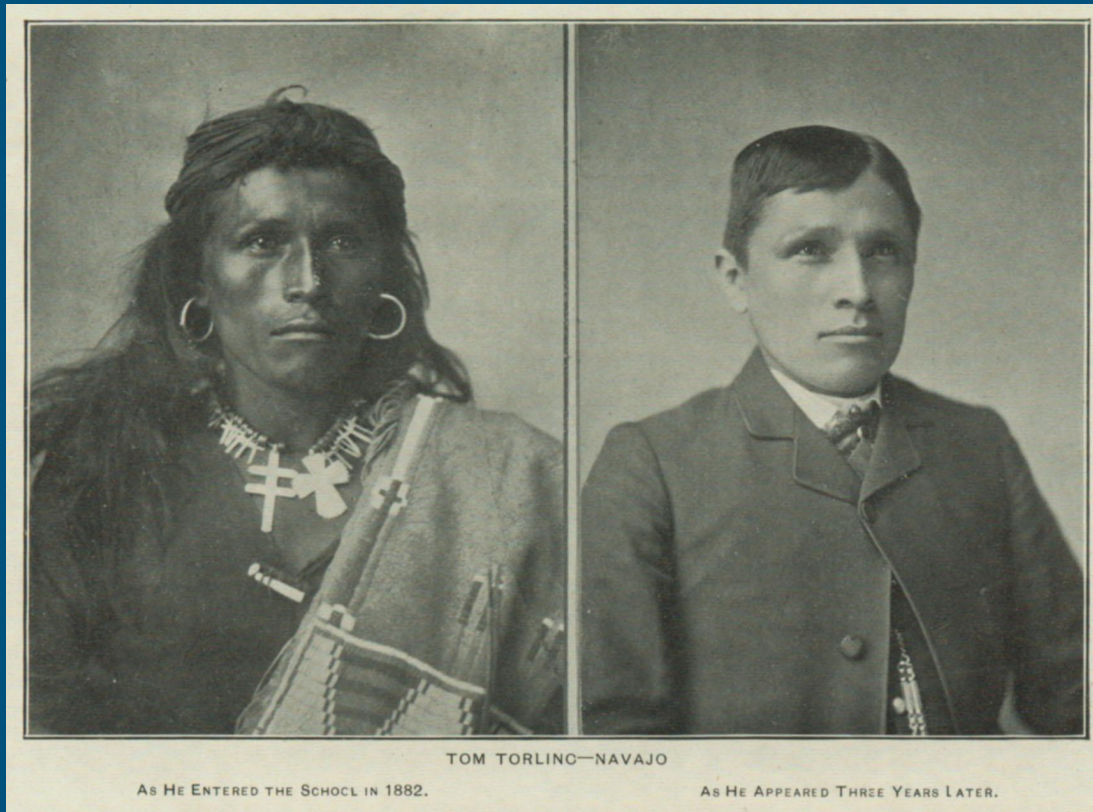
---

## OPTIC

- Use OPTIC to analyze the two images from this lesson. OPTIC stands for O-overview, P-parts, T-title, I-interrelationships, and C-conclusion.
- What do the two images tell us about how Americans felt about the process of immigration during the Gilded Age on the one hand, and also about the process of Americanization on the other?



Political Cartoon- The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882



Americanization- Tom Torlino, Navajo Medicine Man, 1882 (entered school) and 1886 (completed school)