A Rush to the West

Chapter 13
Section 4

Mormons
Church of Latter Day Saints

Founder: Joseph Smith

Beliefs challenged traditional Christians
Beliefs included polygamy and economic cooperation
Mormons were persecuted for their beliefs

Book of Mormon
Mormon Migration
Brigham Young
- Led Mormons to Utah to avoid persecution
- Settle at Salt Lake to form settlement away from others

Gold Rush
- John Sutter discovered gold in 1849
  - led to settlement in California
  - encouraged people to look for gold in Rocky Mountains and California
- Gold discovered in Colorado and Nevada
Gold Rush

- Californian population went from 14,000 to 100,000
- Water Rights
  - Conflicts occurred over control of water
  - Needed to water for irrigation and mining

Chinese Immigrants

- Prejudice prevented them from getting high paid jobs
- Worked in laundries and built railroads

African Americans

- Created own communities
- Denied equal rights
- Slavery did not develop in California

Women

- Few women
- Ran businesses in town

Boom Towns

- Develop overnight to provide food, supplies, entertainment for miners
- Frequently lawless, dominated by men
- When gold runs out, everyone leaves and town becomes a ghost town

Black Hawk, Colorado 1880
Californios

- Mexican residents of California (Californios) fell to only 15% of population by 1850
  - Lost political power
  - Lost rights to land
  - Suffered from laws that favored miners instead of ranchers