

Enduring Understanding: Settlers out west helped establish an "Internal Empire," linking the West with the East and creating the American identity.

The Life of a Gold Miner:

Read the following story about William Swain and be prepared to discuss the following questions:

- 1. How is "Gold Fever" an appropriate title to describe what many Americans were afflicted with?***
- 2. What would have caused Swain to remark in a letter to his brother, "There was some talk between us of your coming to this country. For God's sake think not of it. Stay at home."***
- 3. What "surprises" awaited settlers in mining communities?***
- 4. Perhaps the most profitable people in mining fields were the "Opportunists." EXPLAIN***
- 5. In what ways is the story of mining in the West a microcosm of America's Market economy?***

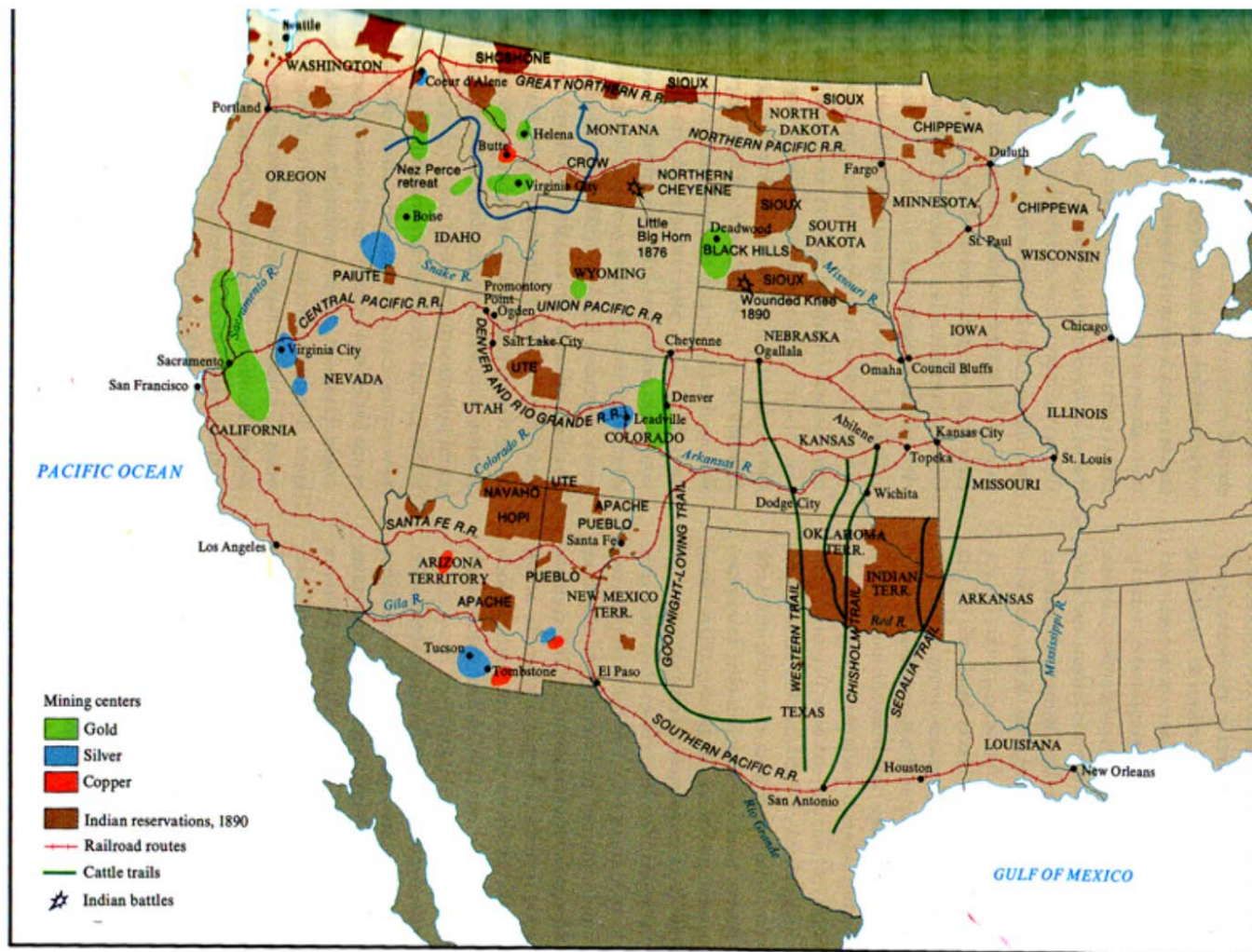
THE OPEN RANGE and the Myth of the Cowboy

REALITY

MYTH



EXPLAIN the following statement: Much like miners, the greed of open range ranchers caused their own undoing.



The American West, 1860-1890