

Changes in Technology (Inventions and Developments) That Helped the Homesteader



- ❑ *steel plow* - made it possible to cut through the tough “sod” of the Plains (Homesteaders were called “Sodbusters”)
- ❑ *barbed wire* - to keep animals and livestock away from crops; low-cost alternative to wooden fences
- ❑ *windmills* - to pump water from deep underground
- ❑ *machinery* - made it possible to do more work in less time at greater speed; increased production (examples: McCormick reaper, steam-powered tractors)
- ❑ ***GROWTH OF RAILROADS!***
 - made it easier for settlers to get to the Plains
 - farmers could ship their crops to markets faster and more cheaply
 - farmers could get manufactured goods more easily