

NORTH AMERICA

# WESTERN USA

**CALIFORNIA**



**COLORADO**



**SOUTH DAKOTA**



**M**ANY parts of the western USA have hardly any people. The Rocky Mountains are beautiful for holidays, but it is hard to make a living there.

The only big city on the high plateaus west of the Rockies is Salt Lake City, Utah, which was settled by the Mormons. Some former mining towns are now 'ghost towns': when the mines closed, all the people left. The toughest area of all is the desert land of Arizona in the south-west. The mountains and deserts were a great problem to the pioneers, but today the spectacular scenery and wildlife are preserved in large national parks.



▲ **The 'Wild West'.** Scenes like this one are rare now, except when they are put on for the many tourists who visit the area. But in the days of the 'Wild West', 100 years or more ago, the skills of cowboys were vital for rounding up the cattle that roamed over vast unfenced areas.




▲ **Wheat harvest, USA.** Huge combine harvesters move across a field of wheat. In the distance is the grain store. Up to 150 years ago, this land was covered in grass and grazed by buffaloes.

## WHAT DO THE NAMES MEAN?

The Spanish were the first settlers in the western USA, and they have left us many Spanish names. Can you match the name and its meaning? (Answers on page 97.)

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Amarillo</b> (Texas) | The pass   |
| <b>Colorado</b>         | Yellow     |
| <b>El Paso</b> (Texas)  | The angels |
| <b>Los Angeles</b>      | St Francis |
| <b>San Jose</b>         | Coloured   |
| <b>San Francisco</b>    | St Joseph  |

**ENERGY**



**ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Energy conservation. A great idea! But Americans use more energy than anyone else in the world.

**WYOMING**



**ARIZONA**



**WASHINGTON**




▲ **Grand Canyon, Arizona.** The Colorado River has cut a huge canyon 1½ kilometres deep and several kilometres wide in this desert area of the USA. The mountains slowly rose, while the river kept carving a deeper valley.

**NEBRASKA**



**OKLAHOMA**



**TEXAS**

