

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

In 1820, the steam train was introduced to the people of the United States. The steam engine was a great new way to travel long distances, and it seemed like a much better way than wagons to travel to the West Coast. What the country needed next was a transcontinental railroad track to get them there. Transcontinental means going across a continent.

During the California Gold Rush in 1849, more and more people were traveling West. Wagons were a hard way to travel when the roads were made of dirt and the journey would last several months. If a train was able to carry settlers West, so many people could make the journey in a fraction of the time, with much less work and hardship for the settlers.

A merchant named Asa Whitney asked Congress to pass an act to build a railroad. In 1850, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act which enabled two railroad companies to begin construction on a railroad track to connect the East and West coasts of the United States. The Central Pacific Railroad Company would start in Sacramento, California and lay their track as they moved East. The Union Pacific Railroad Company would begin in Omaha, Nebraska on the Western side of the Missouri River and lay their track as they moved West. The central route of the Union Pacific was similar to the Oregon Trail.

The two companies raced to meet in the middle. Both the Central Pacific Railroad Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company were promised land and money for every mile of track they completed. The companies were commissioned (paid) to begin work in December of 1863, but because of the Civil War, really didn't make progress on their roads until after the Civil War.

Theodore Judah was the architect and engineer of the Central Pacific. The Central Pacific Railroad began work in 1865, but had a hard time keeping workers because of the difficult labor. They began to hire Chinese immigrants who had come to the United States for the gold rush. Chinese

3

In 1807, his golden
spike was driven into
the ground by
Governor _____



Whitney



Lincoln



Stamford



Bradford

4

A merchant named
_____ urged Congress
to pass an act to
build a railroad.



Asa Whitney



Eli Whitney



Adam Whitney



Andy Whitney

5

The Transcontinental
Railroad was finally
complete after _____
years.



1



3



5



7

6

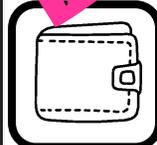
In 1862, President
Abraham Lincoln
signed the _____
Railroad Act.



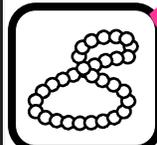
Atlantic



Pacific



Central



Union

7

The cost to travel from Omaha to San Francisco in 1870 was _____.



\$663



\$265



\$16



\$65

8

Where did the Central Pacific Railroad Company start?



Wyoming



Utah



Nebraska



California

9

What war slowed the progress of the railroad?



War of 1812



Civil War



Seven Years War



Vietnam War

10

Where was the Promontory Summit?



California



Utah



Nebraska

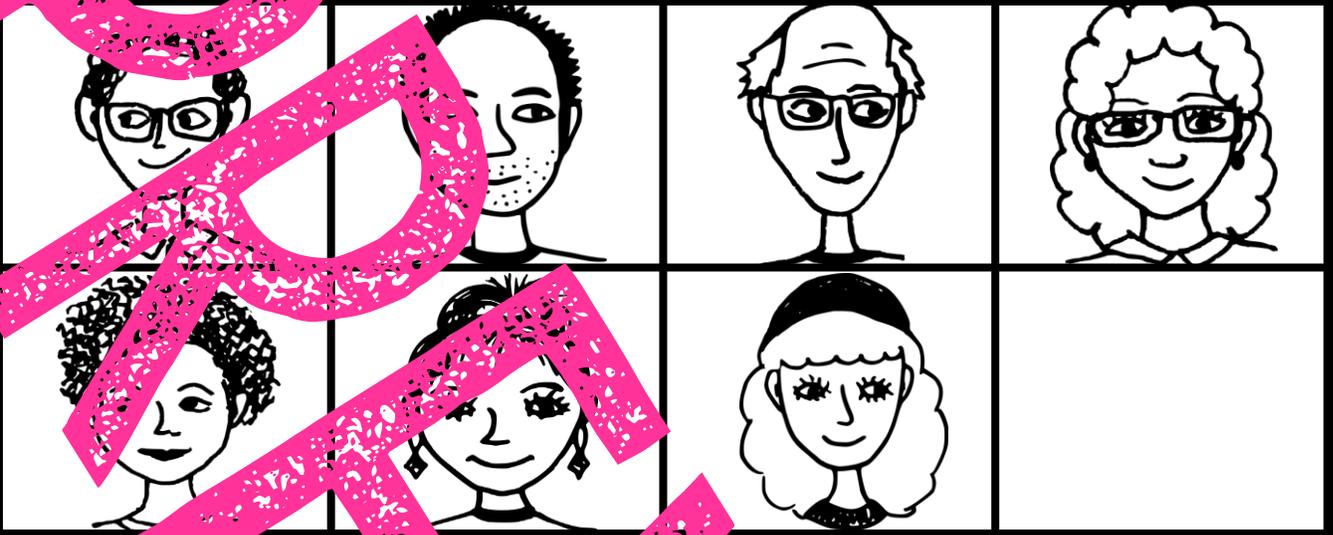


Iowa

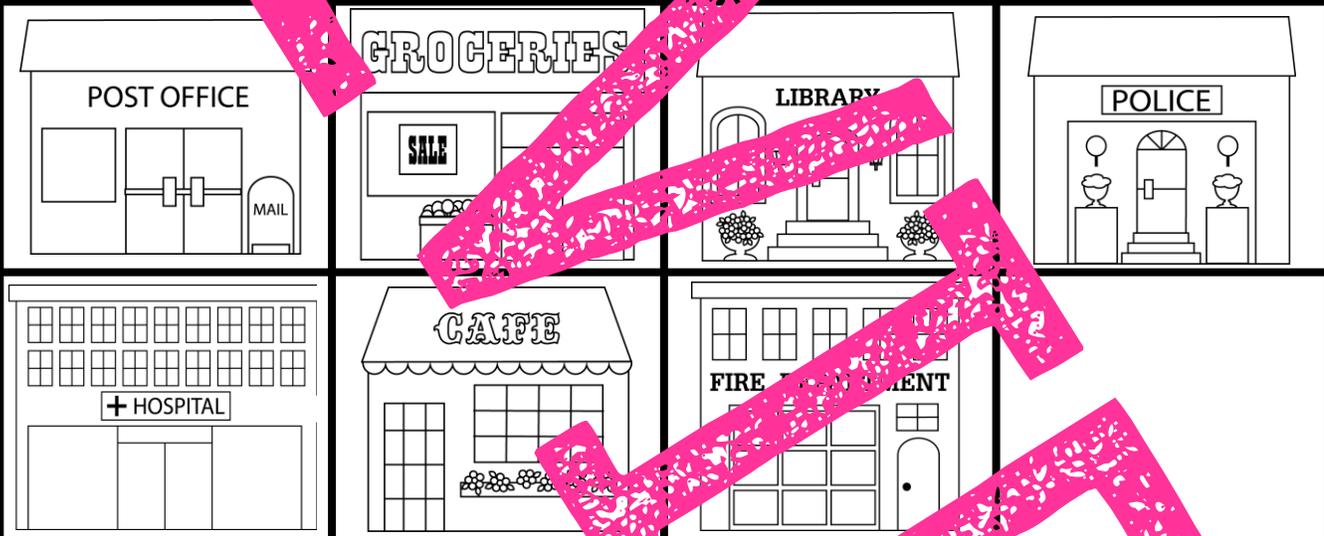
CASE FILE

Cross out the images you use as an answer. What remains will solve the case!

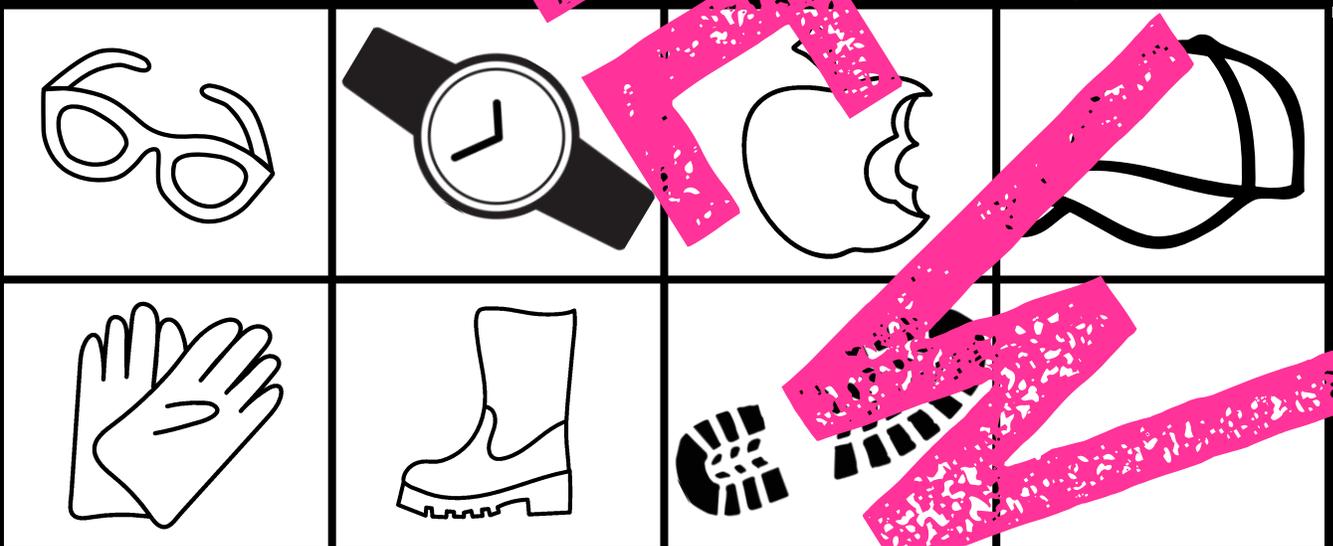
SUSPECTS



LOCATION



EVIDENCE



CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

CONGRATULATIONS

YOU SOLVED
THE CASE!



LEAD DETECTIVE NAME:

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!

