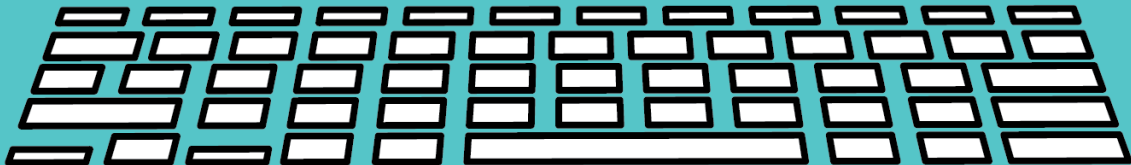
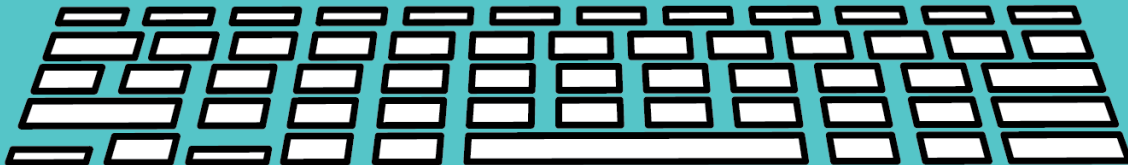


Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. Who began discussions of the continental railroad?	
2. The Union Pacific began in which state?	
3. What year was the transcontinental railroad finished?	
4. The Pacific Railroad Act became law in what year?	
5. What Native American tribe did Union Pacific hire?	
6. What year did Union Pacific begin laying track?	
7. The two companies were the Union Pacific and which other?	
8. How many months did the Pony Express last?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. Who began discussions of the continental railroad?		9. The ____ Express was a mail delivery system.	
2. The Union Pacific began in which year?		10. The central route was similar to the ____ Trail.	
3. What year was the transcontinental railroad finished?		11. Lincoln proposed a railroad network to connect to ____.	
4. The Pacific Railroad Act became law in what year?		12. Union Pacific workers were primarily ____ laborers.	
5. What Native American tribe did Union Pacific hire?		13. There was ____ sentiment. Lewis and Clark to ____ were the ____ west.	
6. What year did Union Pacific begin laying track?		14. Railroad companies received ____ \$8,000 for each mile of ____ terrain.	
7. The two companies were the Union Pacific and which other?		15. The railroad companies earned large profits in a ____ pattern.	
8. How many months did the Pony Express last?		16. Many settlers traveled west during the ____ rush.	



TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

Before the Transcontinental Railroad, Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the vast wild west. Then came westward expansion and the Oregon, Santa Fe, and California Trails. Many settlers traveled west during the gold rush and for a rich adventure. Some railroads were already built, but they were not connected.

Discussion of a transcontinental road began in 1830 with Asa Whitney. President Abraham Lincoln proposed a railroad network to connect the East and West. He signed the Pacific Railroad Act in 1862. In the mid-1800s meant long, strenuous trips. The gold rush in California, Wagon train, stagecoach, and mail were the most common ways of traveling.

The Pony Express was a mail delivery system between Missouri and California. It proved to be a fast way to travel the west coast. Riders would tag team carrying the mail across the country. It only lasted for 18 months. There was no mail service before the transcontinental railroad.

Transcontinental Railroad: Transcontinental means going across a continent. The transcontinental railroad made a path connecting the east and west side of the United States. There were already some railroads, but they didn't connect across the country or to each other. There was no railroad beyond Nebraska.

Development: Two companies were finally authorized to build the track - the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific. The Union Pacific began in Omaha, Nebraska and built track westward. The Central Pacific began in Sacramento, California and built track eastward. The goal was to meet in the middle.

The government gave millions of dollars in grants and millions of acres of land to build the railroad. First, the railroad companies earned ten square miles of land next to the track for every mile of completed track. They earned ten more miles for the next mile of track - on the opposite side. Basically, they earned land in a checkerboard pattern.

Next, the railroad companies sold this land to settlers to earn a profit. Also, the government paid the railroad companies \$16,000 for each mile of flat land that was built. Railroad companies earned \$32,000 per mile for the high plains. Finally, they received \$48,000 for each mile of mountain terrain. These payouts led to the two railroad companies going out of their way to add on extra miles.

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The central route was similar to the Oregon Trail. It began in Omaha, Nebraska and ended in Sacramento, California. The southern route crossed Texas, New Mexico, and ended in Los Angeles, California. Congress decided to build on the central route.

Challenges: Central Pacific began laying track on January 8, 1863. Union Pacific, however, didn't begin until July of 1865 due to financial issues and the Civil War. The transcontinental railroad was built between 1863 and 1869.

Central Pacific endured the challenges of blasting through and building tunnels in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Workers would lower in baskets to pound blasting holes in the rock. Then they filled the hole with explosives or dynamite. They could only blast about one foot per day. Snowy weather was also difficult. Workers built snow sheds to cover the tracks. These sheds helped prevent snowdrifts and avalanches from covering the track and workers.

The Union Pacific hardships included Native Americans. First, some of the land that the government granted the railroad company belonged to the Native Americans. Second, they thought that the "iron horse" (railroad) would interfere with their life. Third, railroad workers sent sharpshooters to remove the buffalo. Native Americans hunt buffalo for food, clothing, and more. The railroad companies made early train engines with "cow catchers." These pointed wings of iron barreled cows and bison off the tracks. The Cheyenne protested part of the line. The Sioux dismantled rail lines. The Union Pacific ultimately had to force other Native American groups away from the line.

Injuries: Injuries included snake bites, exhaustion, avalanches, heatstroke, bad weather, and Native American attacks, and fights.

Workers: The government needed immigrants, former soldiers from the Civil War, and Chinese looking for a job. Union Pacific workers were primarily Irish farmers. Mormons built much of the track in Utah. Central Pacific workers were Chinese immigrants. Chinese were hard workers and required less pay because they were new immigrants. They earned \$25 a month. White men, however, received a pay of \$30 a month plus a place to live and food to eat. The Chinese were not allowed to own property, vote, testify in court, or live with white people.

It took almost seven years and \$50 million to finish the 1,912 mile transcontinental railroad. The two railroad lines met at Promontory Summit, Utah on May 10, 1869. The final "golden" spike tied the two railways together.

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