

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Reading Passages in this packet allow students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

TASK	OVERVIEW
TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANKS	Using Close Reading strategies, students will use context clues to fill in the missing words in the reading passage. This will then be used as the main passage to use for the remaining tasks.
TASK 2: VOCABULARY	The vocabulary activity helps kids identify and understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
TASK 3: RESPOND	Students will choose from three writing prompts and write their answer to just one of them using complete sentences.
TASK 4: TRUE OR FALSE	Students complete this activity to show overall comprehension of the passage. They may refer back to the passage when necessary. In the end, they add up the TRUE statements.
TASK 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE	For a quick formative check for understanding, students will answer 10 multiple choice questions.
TASK 6: WORD SEARCH	Students will search for key vocabulary words related to the topic. Several unused letters will spell out a secret message.
FINAL TASK: SUMMARY (OPTIONAL)	This is an optional summary graphic organizer to use if needed. Could be used for early finishers as an extension activity, or as a final check for understanding.
GRADE LEVEL	RANGE
4	MIDDLE
4	END
5	BEGINNING
5	MIDDLE
5	END
6	BEGINNING
6	MIDDLE
6	END
7	BEGINNING

TASK #1: FILL IN THE BLANK

EARN THIS!

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

Treaty	River	continent
West	Civil War	California
Lincoln	Congress	1849

In 1830 the steam train was introduced to the people of the United States of America. 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 _____ Coast. What the country needed next was a transcontinental railroad track to get them there. Transcontinental means going across a _____.

With the California Gold Rush in _____, more and more people were traveling West. Wagons were a risky 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, more 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 urged _____ to pass an act to build a railroad. In 1862, President Abraham _____ 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, _____ 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 _____ and lay their track as they moved West. The central route of the Union Pacific was similar to the Oregon _____.

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 their company completed. The companies were commissioned (paid) to begin work in December of 1863, but because of the Civil War, they didn't make progress on their railroads until after the _____.

Theodore Judah was the architect and engineer of the Central Pacific. The Central Pacific Railroad began work in 1865, but had difficulty keeping workers because of the _____.

TASK #4: TRUE OR FALSE



EARN THIS!

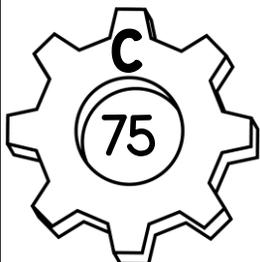
Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the gear that corresponds to that question. If it is false, cross out the gear. When you are finished add the **TOTAL** of ALL TRUE gears.



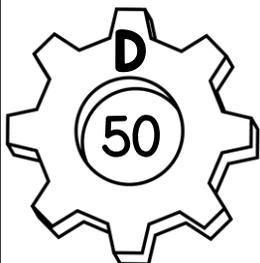
A. On May 10, 1869, the golden spike was driven into the ground.



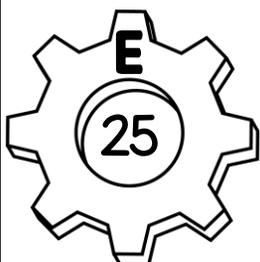
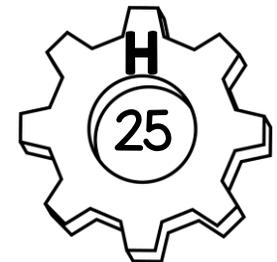
B. The transcontinental Railroad cost \$375 million dollars.



C. With the California Gold Rush in 1849, more and more people were traveling West.

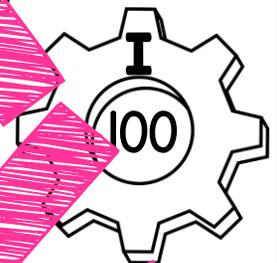


D. The Central Pacific Railroad had to get through the Sierra Nevada Mountains.



E. President Herbert Hoover signed the Pacific Railroad Act.

F. The Union Pacific Railroad Company would begin in San Diego, California.



G. The central route of the Union Pacific was similar to the Oregon Trail.

H. The two tracks joined at Promontory Summit in Utah.

I. The Transcontinental Railroad was finally complete after 7 years of construction.

J. Asa Whitney urged Congress to pass an act to build a railroad.

TOTAL: _____

TASK #5: MULTIPLE CHOICE



EARN THIS!



Complete the multiple choice questions below by circling the correct answer.



1. When was the California Gold Rush?

- A. 1823
- B. 1849
- C. 1887
- D. 1902

6. When was the golden spike driven into the ground?

- A. 1865
- B. 1867
- C. 1869
- D. 1871

2. The golden spike was driven into the ground by ____.

- A. General Braddock
- B. Mayor Walker
- C. President Lincoln
- D. Governor Stanford

7. The Union Pacific Company work force was mainly made of ____ immigrants.

- A. Irish
- B. Spanish
- C. Dutch
- D. German

3. The Union Pacific Railroad Company started building in ____ in May of 1866.

- A. Omaha
- B. Baton Rouge
- C. Sacramento
- D. Denver

8. Progress on their railroads was delayed because of the ____.

- A. French and Indian War
- B. Revolutionary War
- C. Civil War
- D. War of 1812

4. The Central Pacific Railroad had to get through the ____ Mountains.

- A. Pyrenees
- B. Alps
- C. Sierra Nevada
- D. Appalachian

9. Workers could blast through ____ per day.

- A. 1 foot of mountain
- B. 10 feet of mountain
- C. 15 feet of mountain
- D. 20 feet of mountain

5. Where was Promontory Summit?

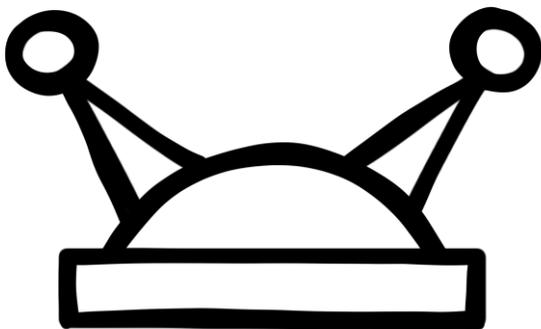
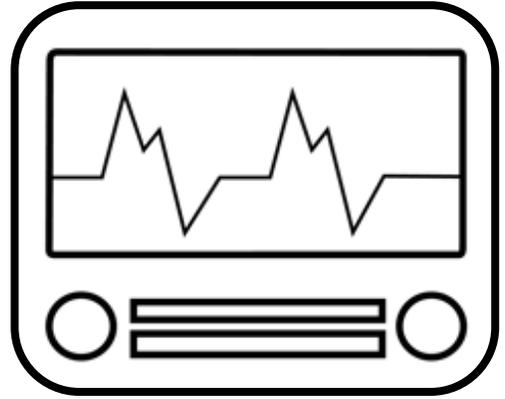
- A. Utah
- B. Mississippi
- C. Colorado
- D. Missouri

10. How many railroad companies were allowed to begin construction on the railroad?

- A. 6
- B. 2
- C. 8
- D. 4

BOT CARDS

Complete all 6 tasks correctly, then color and assemble your robot.



Brilliant Bot Builder



a *read*

*For successfully
completing 6 reading
comprehension tasks.*

MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon to learn more!

