

Manifest Destiny and Railroads**name:**

Westward Expansion and Populism

Unit 2

Key Idea:

Analyze changes that occurred as the United States shifted from agrarian to an industrial society. (3.6)

A) Rewrite the Key Idea as an investigative question.

Directions: Follow the directions provided in the presentations. Remember to ALWAYS annotate as you read!

Manifest Destiny**Bell Ringer**

- On lined paper, analyze the cartoon using WAVES.
- Answer this question for Significance: What does this cartoon tell us about how the United States and settlers viewed moving west?

Expansion westward seemed perfectly natural to many Americans in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1845, newspaper editor John O'Sullivan coined the term "Manifest Destiny" to describe the essence of this mindset. There were many factors motivating this drive west. For some, the religious fervor spawned by the Second Great Awakening inspired many settlers to believe that God himself blessed the growth of the American nation. The Native Americans were considered heathens and by Christianizing the tribes, American missionaries believed they could save souls and they became among the first to cross the Mississippi River.

Economic motives drove other westward. Land was the one resource that families could rely on to yield profit and wealth. But, as the lands east of the Mississippi River were settled, many people's desires for land drove them further west. When gold was discovered in California in 1848, the number of migrants increased even more.

At the heart of manifest destiny was the pervasive belief in American cultural and racial superiority. Native Americans had long been perceived as inferior, and efforts to "civilize" them had been widespread since the days of European colonization. Even the Mexicans who ruled Texas and the lucrative ports of California were also seen as "backward."

Expanding the boundaries of the United States was in many ways a cultural war as well. As we learned in Unit 1, the desire of southerners to find more lands suitable for cotton cultivation would eventually spread slavery to these regions. North of the Mason-Dixon line, many citizens were deeply concerned about adding any more slave states. Manifest destiny touched on issues of religion, money, race, patriotism, and morality. These clashed in the 1840s as a truly great drama of regional conflict began to unfold.

1) How did many Americans view Native Americans during the period of Manifest Destiny?

- A) As cultural equals
- B) As allies in expanding westward
- C) As heathens in need of Christianization
- D) As independent nations with sovereign rights

2) What issue caused regional conflict as Americans expanded westward?

- A) The establishment of new political parties
- B) The introduction of democracy to Mexican territories
- C) The spread of slavery into new territories
- D) The construction of transcontinental railroads

3) What were some ways Westward Expansion led to conflict?
YOUR Answer

Your TEAM'S Answer

Rails West

The locomotive was not an invention of the era. Indeed, Americans had traveled by rail in the decades that preceded the Civil War. But such travel was risky. Passengers often sat in the same room as a wood burner and had to be watchful of wayward sparks landing on their clothing. Braking systems were not always trustworthy. Several engines even exploded while trying to reach a destination.

Traveling also represented a tremendous investment in time. Rail passengers often had to change trains frequently because the width between tracks varied from company to company. Such a journey could be uncomfortable, boring, and dangerous. After the Civil War many rail problems were solved. George Westinghouse invented the air brake and trains could stop more reliably as a result. Railroad firms agreed on a standard width between tracks to reduce transfers. The Pullman Car Company produced sleeper cars and dining cars to make travel more comfortable.

Soon after the railroad made its appearance in the U.S. in the 1830s, Americans dreamed of linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by rail. A transcontinental railroad would allow for settlement of the west, open new markets for eastern manufacturers, and bring relief to overcrowded eastern cities. Steaming locomotives would hasten western settlement, spread democratic values, and increase the size of the United States (Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico etc., were not yet states, only territories). Western settlement was a paramount national interest. Beginning in 1862 Congress passed the Pacific Railway Act to encourage a transcontinental railroad. In all, 170,000,000

acres of land were granted to businesses, including the Central Pacific Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad. These businesses were granted from \$16,000 - \$48,000 loans for each mile of track laid with 5 miles of right-of-way on either side of the railroad. A cash bonus was given to whoever first completed a transcontinental railroad. On May 10, 1869, the first was completed at Promontory Point, Utah. Soon, other transcontinental lines were constructed and travel across the continent became worlds simpler, less expensive, and much faster, than by the old Conestoga wagon.

4) How did Congress encourage the construction of the transcontinental railroad?
 A) By offering free labor for the construction
 B) By providing businesses with land grants and loans
 C) By importing foreign labor to work on the railroads
 D) By making railroad construction a national holiday

5) Which of the following was NOT an expected outcome of the transcontinental railroad?
 A) Hastening western settlement
 B) Spreading democratic values
 C) Reducing overcrowding in eastern cities
 D) Creating direct rail access to Europe

Pacific Railway Act (1862)

- Passed to encourage a _____.
- Without the _____ in Congress, a _____ for the transcontinental railroad is decided
- In all, _____ acres of land are granted
 - Charters _____ and _____ Railroads
 - \$16,000 - \$48,000 loans for _____
 - _____ of land granted to Railways for _____
- Transcontinental Railroad completed at _____, May 10, 1869.

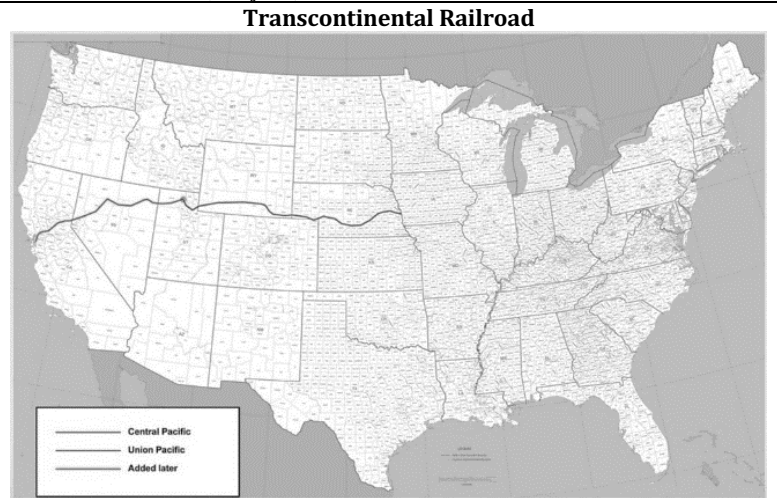
Corrupt Business Practices of Railroads

Monopolies

- Few railroad lines went through _____.
- Settlers faced _____ as a result because _____.

High Freight Rates

- _____ shipping had higher rates because there were no other options.
- _____ from the _____ was more expensive than from the _____.



6) How did the railroads impact the way the west was settled?
 YOUR Answer

Your TEAM'S Answer

Summary: Rewrite the question made from the Key Idea at the beginning and summarize this worksheet by answering it below. IF YOU DO NOT REWRITE THE QUESTION, I WILL NOT READ YOUR ANSWER.

Rewrite your Key Idea as a Question:
