

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Which of the following details supports the idea that the Civil War impeded the progress of the Union Pacific Railroad?
 - Ⓐ Confederate soldiers would not allow railroad workers to pass.
 - Ⓑ The fighting was so fierce in the areas where the railroad needed to be built that it was not safe for the workers.
 - Ⓒ Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad was not permitted to start until after the war ended.
 - Ⓓ The war was taking up all of the iron, gunpowder, and workers that the railroad needed.
2. The *act of following or seeking someone or something* is called a _____.
 - Ⓐ pursuit
 - Ⓑ journey
 - Ⓒ run around
 - Ⓓ extended stay
3. Why did so few people want to work for the Central Pacific Railroad?
 - Ⓐ The bosses were too strict and hard on them.
 - Ⓑ They preferred to stay in the cities rather than be out in the country.
 - Ⓒ The pay was insufficient.
 - Ⓓ The work was slow and extremely difficult.
4. Why did the railroad officials hire marksmen to protect the tracks despite the military presence?
 - Ⓐ The military was not well trained and did not do a good job defending the track.
 - Ⓑ The military could not guard all the miles of track.
 - Ⓒ Many men in the military left to work for the railroad companies.
 - Ⓓ The military was never sent in to help the railroad companies.

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5. In what year was the Pacific Railroad Act passed?
 - Ⓐ 1862
 - Ⓑ 1869
 - Ⓒ 1865
 - Ⓓ 1962
6. Why did Congress decide to have two companies build the Transcontinental Railroad?
 - Ⓐ Congress was indecisive as to which company would do a better job.
 - Ⓑ The companies would work in competition and therefore would complete the construction quickly.
 - Ⓒ The owners of the companies were friends and requested to work together.
 - Ⓓ Congress wanted to be fair and allow any company that wanted to be involved to participate.
7. Which of the following words means *people who served in the armed forces*?
 - Ⓐ immigrants
 - Ⓑ infamous
 - Ⓒ veterans
 - Ⓓ settlers
8. What was the cause of Chinese workers making up the majority of the Central Pacific workforce?
 - Ⓐ The Chinese workers were captured as slaves and made to work on the railroad.
 - Ⓑ Chinese workers required less compensation than the American workers.
 - Ⓒ There were no other people living out west at the time.
 - Ⓓ Many aspects of Chinese culture kept the workers healthier than American workers.

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9. Which of the following details does not support the idea that the journey west, prior to the building of the Transcontinental Railroad, was challenging?
 - Ⓐ Much of the land was uncharted and unmapped.
 - Ⓑ The journey from New York City to San Francisco took nearly six months.
 - Ⓒ Travelers had to cross on foot or horseback, or in a horse-drawn wagon.
 - Ⓓ Thousands of people made the trip to California each year.
10. What is the author's purpose in writing *The Transcontinental Railroad*?
 - Ⓐ to inform the reader about the building of the railroad from the point of view of the Native Americans
 - Ⓑ to entertain the reader with stories about the Gold Rush in the West
 - Ⓒ to inform the reader about the importance of the railroad in uniting America from east to west
 - Ⓓ to persuade the reader to plan a trip on the railroad in order to appreciate all the hard work that went into its construction
11. **Extended Response:** What obstacles stood in the way of the initial planning and implementation of the Transcontinental Railroad?
12. **Extended Response:** How did the Transcontinental Railroad forever change the lives and culture of the Great Plains' Native Americans?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

The Transcontinental Railroad

Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details

1. Ⓓ Main Ideas and Details
2. Ⓐ Vocabulary
3. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
4. Ⓑ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
5. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
6. Ⓑ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
7. Ⓒ Vocabulary
8. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
9. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
10. Ⓒ Author's Purpose
11. Answers will vary but students should include the following information: *building a railroad of that size was too expensive for any one person or company to pay for; the technology at the time did not seem advanced enough for such a big job; the Northern and Southern states were fighting in the Civil War and argued about whether the railroad should cross the northern or southern half of the country.*
12. Answers will vary but should students should note that land was taken from the Native American tribes without permission or compensation; their land was destroyed alongside the buffalo population on which they were dependent; and the railroad brought settlers who took the land, and eventually the Native American tribes began to disappear.