

## Quick Check

## The Transcontinental Railroad

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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| <p>1. What was the first step in laying tracks for the railroad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Sand and gravel had to be poured.</li> <li>Ⓑ A surveying crew had to study the land.</li> <li>Ⓒ Vegetation and trees had to be removed.</li> <li>Ⓓ Giant wooden timbers had to be laid on the ground.</li> </ul> <p>2. Which of the following words refers to <i>people who do physical work for payment</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ travelers</li> <li>Ⓑ inmates</li> <li>Ⓒ laborers</li> <li>Ⓓ ballasts</li> </ul> | <p>3. Why did Congress decide to have two companies build the Transcontinental Railroad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ⓐ Congress could not decide which company would do a better job.</li> <li>Ⓑ The companies would be in competition and therefore would work quickly.</li> <li>Ⓒ The owners of the companies were friends and requested that they work together.</li> <li>Ⓓ Congress wanted to be fair and allow any company that wanted to be involved to participate.</li> </ul> |
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why did the Central Pacific Railroad initially not want to hire Chinese workers?

- Ⓐ The bosses could not speak Chinese and could not communicate with the workers.
- Ⓑ The bosses only wanted young men working on the railroads.
- Ⓒ The bosses only wanted Americans to build the railroad.
- Ⓓ The bosses believed they were weak and small.

5. 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.

6. A foreman is \_\_\_\_\_.

- Ⓐ someone who organizes and looks over groups of workers
- Ⓑ a group of people who build and design buildings and other structures
- Ⓒ a person who helps to pass laws in the U.S. government
- Ⓓ someone who was killed in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad

7. What is the author's purpose in writing *The Transcontinental Railroad*?

- Ⓐ to inform the reader about the building of the railroad only from the point of view of Native Americans
- Ⓑ to entertain the reader with stories the workers told each other for entertainment
- Ⓒ to inform the reader about the importance of the railroad in connecting the country east to west
- Ⓓ to persuade the reader to take a train ride to appreciate all the hard work that went into the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad

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8. Why were people willing to travel for six months to reach California from New York before the Transcontinental Railroad was built?
  - Ⓐ New York was overpopulated, and there was no more housing.
  - Ⓑ Many people wanted to go to California to help build the Transcontinental Railroad.
  - Ⓒ People wanted the adventure of traveling through uncharted territories.
  - Ⓓ California offered good farmland and the possibility of finding gold.
9. In what year did people gather to celebrate the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad?
  - Ⓐ 1862
  - Ⓑ 1962
  - Ⓒ 1865
  - Ⓓ 1869
10. The citizens from Ireland, Germany, and the Netherlands who worked on the railroad were \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ immigrants
  - Ⓑ foremen
  - Ⓒ slaves
  - Ⓓ passengers
11. **Extended Response:** What made building the Transcontinental Railroad so difficult?
12. **Extended Response:** Why did the Native Americans of the Great Plains attack the workers?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

**The Transcontinental Railroad**

*Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details*

1. Ⓑ *Sequence Events*
2. Ⓒ *Vocabulary*
3. Ⓑ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
4. Ⓓ *Main Idea and Details*
5. Ⓓ *Cause and Effect*
6. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
7. Ⓒ *Author's Purpose*
8. Ⓓ *Main Ideas and Details*
9. Ⓓ *Main Ideas and Details*
10. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
11. Answers will vary but should include a description of the process of laying railroad tracks and how labor-intensive this process was for the workers. Students should also note that the railroad was built through unsettled terrain and through the mountains, creating dangerous situations for the workers with inclement weather and raids from Native Americans.
12. Answers will vary, but 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 the tribes fought for their land and for their survival.