



RAILROADS

Railroads are important. They changed America in many ways. Time zones were made to help railroads keep their schedules accurate. New states were added to the United States faster because railroads made it easier to travel to the west. They also created jobs. Can you think of jobs the railroads created?

Railroads also helped create new ways of communicating with each other. Telegraph lines were built along the rail lines. They used them to keep track of freight and passengers on the train.

The engineers, brakemen and conductors had to figure out how to send messages to each other from the front to the back of the train. In the daytime they used hand signals. At night, or in bad weather, they used lanterns. Different colored lanterns were used for different messages. Today they mostly use radios, but if there is really bad weather or the radio doesn't work they still use lanterns. All the railroad companies used the same signals.