

Central Pacific Station #1: Recall

What tools or machines did the graders and track builders have to build the Central Pacific Railroad?

Central Pacific Station #1: Recall

What route did the Central Pacific have to use to get the supplies to its workers?

Central Pacific Station #1: Recall

Give two reasons that prices rose from the years just before the Central Pacific broke ground (1860-1863) until the railroad was finished (1869)

Central Pacific Station #1: Analyze and Interpret

Why was the groundbreaking ceremony significant? What did this event symbolize?

Central Pacific Station #1: Analyze and Interpret

Why would the Civil War and the Congressional decree cause prices to rise? Think economics!

Central Pacific Station #1: Do The Math

How much would it cost to ship 1 mile's worth of rails from the East to the West in 1865? (1 ton=2000 pounds)

Central Pacific Station #1: Do The Math

What was the rate of inflation for spikes? What was the rate of inflation for blasting powder?

Central Pacific Station #2: Recall

Why did the Central Pacific feel the need to hire Chinese workers?

Central Pacific Station #2: Recall

Describe the outcome of hiring Chinese workers. Was it a success or not, and why?

Central Pacific Station #2: Analyze and Interpret

Why would the directors of the Central Pacific have hesitated to hire Chinese workers? Think of a present day example of a similar situation and describe how the two examples are alike.

Central Pacific Station #2: Somebody's Story

Look at the picture of the Chinese tea carrier outside one of the Central Pacific tunnels. This is a famous picture because it epitomizes the Central Pacific Railroad. The Chinese workers, the 13 tunnels through the Sierra Nevada, and the backbreaking work are all important aspects of its history. It is also important to remember that each of these workers had a story, so create a life for the worker in the picture. Where is he from? Who is his family? Why is he working for CP? How does he feel? Be creative!

Central Pacific Station #3: Recall

Why was the Sierra Nevada such an obstacle for the Central Pacific?

Central Pacific Station #3: Recall

Give 2 reasons why the Summit Tunnel, Number Six, took two years to finish.

Central Pacific Station #3: Analyze and Interpret

As you have read, blasting through the mountains was difficult, dangerous, and expensive work. Why do you think the workers, directors, engineers, and construction specialists took the risk?

Central Pacific Station #3: Analyze and Interpret

Most people thought that building a railroad through the Sierra Nevada was impossible, but the Central Pacific achieved it in the end. Can you describe another instance in history or in life when a person or group of people conquered an almost impossible task?

Central Pacific Station #3: Nitroglycerin

Read the directions of the attached sheet entitled, "Nitroglycerin." Complete the worksheet and use it as your railroad tie.

Central Pacific Station #4: Recall

Besides the slow progress, what was the second major obstacle of conquering the Sierra Nevada? What did the Central Pacific do to overcome this obstacle?

Central Pacific Station #4: Recall

What happened to the progress of the Central Pacific Railroad during the winter of 1866-67? Why?

Central Pacific Station #4: Analyze and Interpret

What were the costs of dealing with the terrible winter of 1866-67? Think opportunity cost!

Central Pacific Station #4: When Life Hands You Lemons...

We must make the best of the situation we are dealt. Use the materials provided to build a shed to cover the rails.

Union Pacific Station #1: Recall

Who made up the labor force of the Union Pacific? When did they get the biggest wave of available labor and who were they?

Union Pacific Station #1: Recall

What is an “anvil chorus”?

Union Pacific Station #1: Analyze and Interpret

Why was the groundbreaking ceremony significant? What did it symbolize?

Union Pacific Station #1: Analyze and Interpret

Consider what the reporter of the Lowell Daily Citizen wrote about the workers. What do you think his intentions were when writing this article? What did he try to impress upon the readers? How do you think he expected the public to react?

Union Pacific Station #1: We Need You!

Create a poster advertising the availability of jobs on the Union Pacific Railroad. Use color and be persuasive! Connect your finished poster to the rails as your tie for this station.

Union Pacific Station #2: Recall

Map the 2 possible supply routes for the Union Pacific.

Union Pacific Station #2: Recall

What was the Burnettizer and what did it do?

Union Pacific Station #2: Analyze and Interpret

Think of the phrase, "It's a Band-Aid for a bullet wound." Describe how the Burnettizer acted as the Band-Aid.

Union Pacific Station #2: Analyze and Interpret

The Union Pacific used the cottonwood despite the fact that they knew the ties would not last. Why do you think they would do this rather than buy durable wood?

Union Pacific Station #2: The 100th Meridian

You are a reporter who was invited to the “party” to celebrate the completion of the railroad to the 100th Meridian. Write a **short** article recalling your experiences. Be sure to include the Who, What, When, Where, and Why of the event.

Union Pacific Station #3: Recall

Describe Hell on Wheels in your own words.

Union Pacific Station #3: Recall

Why would these camps be coined “Hell on Wheels”?

Union Pacific Station #3: Analyze and Interpret

Why is Hell on Wheels appealing to the UP workers? What about more refined men such as Reed?

Union Pacific Station #3: Analyze and Interpret

How do you think the directors of the railroad felt about Hell on Wheels? Why?

Union Pacific Station #3: Shark Attacks

The sleazy businessmen who continued to create Hell on Wheels along the Union Pacific track were known as “sharks.” They were only after money, and those who could not pay their debts paid consequences. Draw a cartoon of the “sharks” preying on their victims: the railroad workers.

Union Pacific Station #4: Recall

What is General Sherman’s ultimatum to the Indians who try to interfere with the building of the railroad?

Union Pacific Station #4: Recall

What is Chief Bear's Tooth's opinion of the railroad and the white man?

Union Pacific Station #4: Recall

Based on the quotation from a newspaper and General Sherman's speech, what is the tone used to address the Native Americans in regards to the impending railroad?

Union Pacific Station #4: Analyze and Interpret

Examine Chief Bear's Tooth's speech. If you were to write a letter of response to him, what would you say? (Agree with either him or General Sherman, or tell why you are not sure whose view is right)

Union Pacific Station #4: Somebody's Story

Look at the photo of the Native American man staring down at part of the Transcontinental Railroad. Imagine that he kept a journal. Write what you think he may have written in his journal that day. Be creative and use detail!