

Check for Understanding:

1. Identify:

(a) Northern Pacific Railroad; 173

b) Great Northern Railway; 175

(c) James J. Hill; 175

(d) John D. Ryan 177

2. Define:

(a) Transcontinental; all the way across the continent (page 171)

(b) Right-of-way; the legal right to cross someone else's property (page 172)

(c) Financier; investors who finance huge projects (page 174)

(d) Land grants; free land that the federal government gives to the company, an organization, or a state (page 174)

(e) Labor unions; organizations of employees that bargain with the employers (page 178)

(f) Industrialize; developed its industries on a large scale (page 183)

3. Why did the people living in Montana as well as many outside of Montana want the territory to have railroads? So that they can move around faster and easier.

4. What was the major impact of railroads on Indian lands? The railroads joined together with the ranchers and political leaders. (Page 171)

5. What was the Hi-line route? The hi line route is the northernmost transcontinental route in the USA (page 175)

6. What was unique about the way the Milwaukee Road powered its trains? It used electricity to go around.

7. Who came to Montana to work on the railroads? Japanese, Chinese, Asians, and Europeans

8. How did trains affect the social, economic, and physical landscape of Montana? Land got ruined to create railroads for the train. The air is getting polluted with all of the smoke coming out. If a bad plant is on the railroads, the train could run it over and spread more seeds.

Critical Thinking:

1. Think about the impact of the railroads on Indian tribes. What, if anything, did Indians gain by the coming of the railroads? What did they lose? They gained the economic things off of trains but lost a lot of land.

2. Analyze the role the railroads played in Montana's settlement. If the railroads had not come, do you think Montana's population would have grown so quickly in the late 1800s? Why or why not? I don't think it would of because there is no transportation for things to get around.

3. Why do you think Asian railroad workers were treated differently from white railroad workers? Are there any comparisons to present-day labor conditions? They were different from the rest. The Asian chief of the railroad thought it would be better by being a lot sterner with the rest of the workers.

4. Imagine there was still a broad network of rail links between towns in Montana. How, if at all, might this affect your life? No one would get any sleep.

5. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, under President Dwight Eisenhower, was the beginning of the vast interstate highway system in the United States and spelled trouble for the railroads. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of rail and road, for both shipment of goods and passenger travel. The trains took a bunch of room took a lot of land from the Indians; the advantages would be that the trains could carry a lot more than anybody can.

6. Reread the sidebar, "We Talked until It Made My Heart Feel Dead," on page 172. Why do you think Pretty Eagle changed his mind about ceding part of the Crow Reservation? I think that he changed his mind because they got tricked into thinking it was a good offering.

Past to Present:

1. Research how the U.S. government supports the railway industry today, and compare it to the support it gave them in the 1800s (for example, land grants) and to the support it provides for highway maintenance and construction. Do you think current government support for railroads should increase, decrease, or remain the same? Why? I think that it should decrease because its ruining land.

Make it Local:

1. Do you have a train depot in your home town? Is it still in use and, if so, in what capacity (as a railway station or as something else)? No we do not have any in town.