



Our Country Long Ago

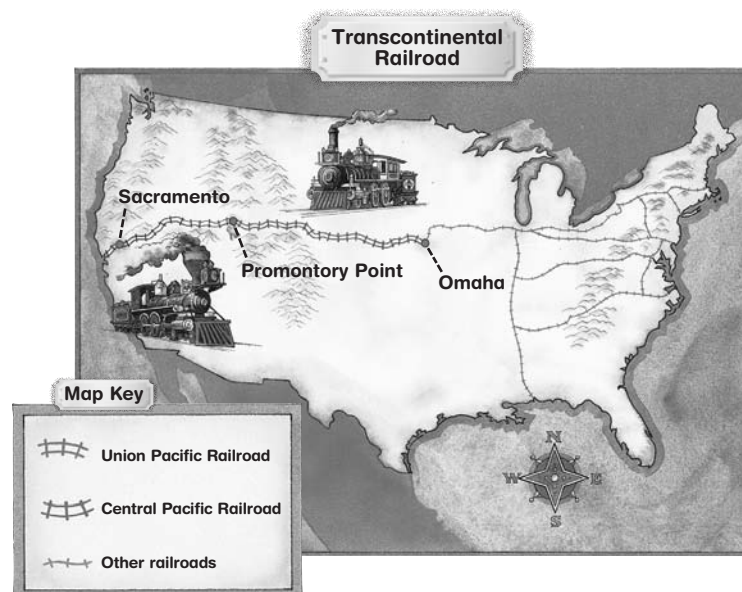
Directions: Read together.

Westward Ho!

Many people wanted to come to the West. Trains were a faster way to travel than covered wagons. Trains were needed so that communities in the West could get the supplies they needed.

There were many railroads in the East, but few in the West. The country needed a railroad that could link the East Coast to the West Coast.

Two groups built the western part of the railroad. One group started near Omaha, Nebraska. The other group started in Sacramento, California. The two groups met and joined the railroad tracks at Promontory Point in present-day Utah. It took seven years to build this railroad.





Strategy 1 Locate Key Words in the Question

Learn

Circle key words. Tell what you need to find out.

1. Why did people already in the West need trains?

I need to find out why people already in the West needed trains.

Try It

2. What kind of railroad did the country need?

I need to find out _____

3. Where did the two groups that built the western railroad meet?

I need to find out _____



Have students: • Read the question. • Circle key words in the question.
• Think: "I need to find out..."



Strategy 2 Locate Key Words in the Text

Learn

Circle key words in the question. Circle key words in the text.

1. Why did people already in the West need trains?

The key words in the text are trains, needed, West, and

supplies.

Try It

2. What kind of railroad did the country need?

The key words in the text are _____

3. Where did the two groups that built the western railroad meet?

The key words in the text are _____



Have students: • Read the question. • Circle key words in the question.
• Circle key words in the text. • Finish the sentence: "The key words in the text are..."

**Strategy 3 Choose the Right Answer****Learn**

Choose the best answer.

1. Why did people already in the West need trains?

- ~~so they could go live in the East~~
- so they could get supplies
- ~~so they could provide supplies to people in the East~~
- ~~so they could meet people in the East~~

Try It

2. What kind of railroad did the country need?

- one that traveled into the rain forest
- one that could link the North to the South
- one that was more comfortable
- one that could link the East Coast to the West Coast

3. Where did the two groups that built the western railroad meet?

- Omaha, Nebraska
- Sacramento, California
- Promontory Point in present-day Utah
- on the West Coast



Have students: • Read the question. • Read all the answer choices.
• Rule out any incorrect choices. • Mark the best answer choice.



Strategy 4 Use Information from the Text

Learn

Circle key words in the question. Circle key words in the text.
Answer the question.

1. Why did people already in the West need trains?

People in the West needed trains to get supplies.

Try It

2. What kind of railroad did the country need?

3. Where did the two groups that built the western railroad meet?



Have students: • Read the question. • Circle key words in the question.
• Circle key words in the text. • Use details from the text to answer the question.



Strategy 5 Use Information from Graphics

Learn

Circle key words in the question. Use the map on page 29 to answer the question.

1. What two railroads are named in the map key?

The two railroads named in the map key are the Union Pacific

Railroad and the Central Pacific Railroad.

Try It

2. What directions do the two railroads go?

3. Is Promontory Point east or west of Omaha?



Have students: • Read the question. • Circle key words in the question.
• Use details from the map to answer the question.



Strategy 6 Write Your Answer to Score High

Learn

Look at this example.

1. **How** did **trains** **help** **communities** in the **West**?

Trains helped communities in the West travel faster than covered wagons.

Is the answer correct?

Is the answer complete?

Do all the details help answer the question?

What should you do to improve the answer?

Try It

Circle key words in each question. Write an answer.

2. How many groups built the western part of the railroad?

3. How long did it take to build the western part of the railroad?



Have students: • Read the question. • Circle key words in the question. • Use details from the text to write an answer. • Ask: “Is the answer correct? Is the answer complete? Do all the details help answer the question?”