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## THE WILD WEST

# The Transcontinental Railroad

### Why Do I Care?

The transcontinental railroad was built around 150 years ago. That may seem like ancient history. But chances are, it affected your life. Can you think of two or three ways that it might have? For example: Do you live west of the Missouri River? Did any of your ancestors? Have you ever traveled there? Do you have Native American ancestry?



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### **Another View**

Find another source about US westward expansion, railroad construction, or Native American history.

Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the source's point of view with that of this book's author. Be sure to answer these questions: What is the point of view of each author? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?



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### **Take a Stand**

Chapter Three describes how white settlers and railroad workers clashed with Native Americans on the Great Plains. Do you feel more sympathetic to one group or the other? Why?



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### **You Are There**

This book details many aspects of railroad building in the late 1800s. Imagine you are an engineer for the railroad, working far from home. Write a letter home telling your friends what you are doing.

What puzzles are you trying to solve? What is your daily life like? Be sure to add plenty of detail to your letter.



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