

## ***Transcontinental Railroad***

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Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ***Student Name:*** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20 \_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_

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*Use the word bank to fill in the blanks below:*

|            |                  |          |
|------------|------------------|----------|
| California | nation           | Utah     |
| Chinese    | transcontinental | westward |

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On May 10, 1869, two steam locomotives faced each other at Promontory Point, Utah. One locomotive belonged to the Union Pacific Railroad, which had put down track coming \_\_\_\_\_ from Nebraska. The other locomotive bore the name of the Central Pacific Railroad, which had built eastward from \_\_\_\_\_.

The eastbound company employed mostly \_\_\_\_\_ workers brought in from abroad just for the job as well as Irish and Mormon laborers. The westbound company employed ragged, rough groups of laborers including ex-soldiers from the two Civil War armies, drunks, and brawlers.

When the two railroads met at Promontory Point in \_\_\_\_\_, the final spike, a golden spike, was driven into the track that linked east and west – thus, the first \_\_\_\_\_ railroad in the United States was completed. This moment represented a great push across the country and a recognition of the importance of trains for the future of the United States.

During the Civil War, in 1862, Congress and President Lincoln had signed the Pacific Railway Act, giving the go-ahead for the building of tracks from ocean to ocean. When this railroad was completed in 1869, the nation with its population of almost 40 million, was poised for a new era of movement of goods and people. Probably nothing else had so great an impact on the developing economy of the newly industrialized United States as the railroads. The vast territory of the USA could then be accessed, and its natural resources could be utilized for the growth of the entire \_\_\_\_\_.

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### **Questions ~**

1. How many years did completing the transcontinental railway take?
2. Who was the US President when the railway was completed?
3. When did other forms of land transportation begin to compete with the railroads?
4. In what state would you find the Golden Spike National Historic Park?