

National History Day 2020

The Transcontinental Railroad: Breaking Barriers from East To West

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Senior Division

Group Website

1,200 Student-Composed Words

4 Minutes of Multimedia

500 Word Process Paper

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

#### *Books*

Taylor, Benjamin F. *Between the Gates*. 1865,

[http://cpr.org/Museum/Between\\_the\\_Gates/index.html](http://cpr.org/Museum/Between_the_Gates/index.html).

This book is the diary of Benjamin Taylor, a man who traveled on the Transcontinental Railroad. It provided more insight as to the positive effects of the railroad and was quoted in the conclusion.

#### *Documents*

Judah, Theodore. "A PRACTICAL PLAN FOR BUILDING THE PACIFIC RAILROAD."

Theodore Judah - "A Practical Plan for Building the Pacific Railroad" - 1857, 1857,  
[www.sfmuseum.net/hist4/practical.html](http://www.sfmuseum.net/hist4/practical.html).

This was the pamphlet published by Theodore Judah to convince the United States Government. It contains many inspirational as well as informational quotes that were used throughout the website.

Memorial of Asa Whitney, Praying For a Grant of Land to Enable Him to Construct a Railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific Ocean. 1848,

[http://cpr.org/Museum/Reports/pictures/capture\\_00076.html](http://cpr.org/Museum/Reports/pictures/capture_00076.html).

This document is an official transcript of Asa Whitney's request to the Senate for funding for the railroad to be built. This was used in the website to give reasons as to why the people at the time wanted to construct the railroad.

Pacific Railway Act. 1862,

<https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsl&fileName=012/llsl012.db&recNum=520> .

This was the actual act in Congress that enacted the employment of both Railroad companies. Although it was very short, much time and effort was put into passing it. It was included in the “Progress with Judah” section to show what the act itself looked like.

### *Images*

A Pile of American Bison Skulls in the Mid-1870s. 1870,

[http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/history/files/2012/07/767px-Bison\\_skull\\_pile\\_edit.jpg](http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/history/files/2012/07/767px-Bison_skull_pile_edit.jpg). Accessed 3 Mar. 2020.

This image is of the hundreds of buffalo killed by American settlers. It visually represents how the Native Americans were affected by this major change. We included it in the “Unforeseen Consequences” section of the website.

Hamburg. Jabez Hogg Making a Portrait in Richard Beard's Studio, 1843. 1843,

<http://www.robswebstek.com/2015/10/daguerreotype-photographer-at-work.html>.

The daguerreotype allowed for photographs to be made more accessible to the general American public. It was included to show the technological advancements at the time and how photography played a role in the construction of the railroad.

“Battle of Bull Run.” Battle of Bull Run, 14 July 2019,

<https://cdn.britannica.com/38/150938-050-8835728C/First-Battle-of-Bull-Run-Kurz-and-1889.jpg>.

This is a painting of the Battle of Bull Run, a famous American Civil War battle. It was used as the header image for the “Historical Context” page.

“Chinese Workers Building a Cut and a Bank at Sailor's Spur in the Sierra Foothills for the

Central Pacific Railroad in California.” History.com, 1866,

[https://www.history.com/.image/c\\_limit,cs\\_srgb,q\\_auto:good,w\\_700/MTYzOTYzOTU2MzgwMDUxMTY5/railroad-chinese-immigrants-gettyimages-163656736.webp](https://www.history.com/.image/c_limit,cs_srgb,q_auto:good,w_700/MTYzOTYzOTU2MzgwMDUxMTY5/railroad-chinese-immigrants-gettyimages-163656736.webp).

This photo was used as a header image in the “Not Without Setbacks” page. It was used to signify the toilsome and tedious work encountered throughout the railroad’s construction.

Honeyman, Robert B. “A Train Rounding the Bend as Chinese Railroad Workers Look on, with

a View in the Background of the South Fork of the American River near Coloma, Where Gold Was First Discovered.” UC Berkeley, 1878,

[https://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/04/08\\_chinesecalif.shtml](https://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/04/08_chinesecalif.shtml).

This image was used as the main image for the homepage. It shows the beauty of the landscape, workers, and the railroad. We thought it would be best to include it as an inspiring hook/introduction piece.

Map of Routes for a Pacific Railroad. 1855,

<http://aam.govst.edu/projects/cboyadjian/images/pacific.jpg>.

This map outlines potential routes for the railroad from the United States Department of War. It was used as a header image in “Progress with Judah” to represent the planning that took place in order for the government to approve the railroad’s construction.

“Meeting at Promontory Point.” Meeting at Promontory Point, Wired, 1869,

[https://www.wired.com/images\\_blogs/thisdayintech/2010/05/promontory-point-utah-11.jpg](https://www.wired.com/images_blogs/thisdayintech/2010/05/promontory-point-utah-11.jpg).

This image is of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Point, Utah. It was put as the header image in “United By Gold”. It visually represents the completion of the railroad, as well as the celebration that came with it.

Threvick, Richard. Trevithick's Tramroad Locomotive. 1802,

<https://railroad.lindahall.org/siteart/essays/trevithick200.jpg>.

This is a drawing of one of the first steam locomotives. This would pave the way to long-distance rail travel, and eventually the Transcontinental Railroad. We used it in the “Historical Context” section.

“Throwing Down The Ladder By Which They Rose.” Digital Public Library of America, 1870,

<https://dp.la/exhibitions/transcontinental-railroad/nation-transformed/connection-exclusion>.

This is a political cartoon showing the discrimination towards Chinese immigrants during the 1800s. We used it to show the unforeseen consequences of the railroad’s construction.

Trevithick, Richard. Trevithick's Tramroad Locomotive. 1802,

<https://railroad.lindahall.org/siteart/essays/trevithick200.jpg>.

This is a picture of the first steam-powered locomotive engine that was able to be put on railroad tracks.

Vong. The impact of the Transcontinental Railroad on Native Americans. 1869,

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/TRR>

This is an actual drawing by a Sioux indian of a Bison, indicating that the bison are becoming less prevalent. It represents one of the unintended consequences of the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

### *Newspaper Articles*

“East and West. Completion of the Great Line Spanning the Continent.” The New York Times,

11 May 1869, East and West. Completion of the Great Line Spanning the Continent. .

This article provided quotes from state governments about the unification of the railroad at Promontory Point, Utah. Various excerpts were used to show the reactions of people at the time to its completion.

## Secondary Sources

### *Books*

Ambrose, Stephen Edward. *Nothing like It in the World the Men That Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869*. Simon & Schuster, 2001.

This book gave the detailed stories of the men that were involved in the planning, construction, and politics of the Transcontinental Railroad. The book also contained many pictures of the men and the process of constructing the railroad.

Ambrose, Stephen E. *To America: Personal Reflections of an Historian*. Simon & Schuster International, 2004.

In this text, Stephen Edward reflects on American History. We specifically looked at the chapter on the railroad. There were many vivid descriptions of the working conditions as well as details on the plausibility of economics.

Rex-Atzet, W. (n.d.). *Indigenous Encounters with the Transcontinental Railroad*.

<https://www.uen.org/transcontinentalrailroad/downloads/G7IndigenousEncountersTranscontinentalRailroad.pdf>

This source shows the relations between the United States and Native American tribes, specifically the Pawnee alliance. It allowed us to understand the overall interactions between the two over the course of the construction of the railroad.

## *Films*

“Destruction of the Buffalo Herds.” Destruction of the Buffalo Herds, History Channel, 2015,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pODHzjpC9k>.

We included the portions of this video that related to the destruction of the buffalo in the great plains and the people who were involved in it. It was put in the “Unforeseen

Consequences” to further explicate the disastrous side-effects that the railroad caused.

Kritzer, Lauren, director. Transcontinental Railroad and the American West. Transcontinental

Railroad and the American West, Youtube.com, 15 Apr. 2016,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CdAzizWiyI>.

We used portions of this video in the website to reinforce the idea of the rough times experienced by the Chinese and Native Americans. It goes into detail of the struggles they faced, as well as the lasting consequences.

“The Transcontinental Railroad (AMAZING AMERICAN HISTORY).” The Transcontinental

Railroad (AMAZING AMERICAN HISTORY), Ancient World, 2017,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mS0K4RLDR7A>.

A small portion of this film was included to show the reactions of the citizens of the United States as the railroad was completed at Promontory Point.



## *Images*

Lindneux, Robert. Sand Creek Massacre Anniversary: Justice and America's Past. 2016,

<https://time.com/4584022/sand-creek-massacre-anniversary/>

An example of the unjust actions towards Native Americans. This painting is a depiction of the Sand Creek Massacre that occurred when the US Army called for a meeting just to catch the Native Americans off guard.

“Map of the Transcontinental Railroad.” Scholastic, Scholastic,

<https://junior.scholastic.com/content/dam/classroom-magazines/junior-scholastic/issues/2018-19/051319/the-railroad-that-changed-america/JS-051319-Railroad-PO-2.jpg>.

A map of the route of the Transcontinental Railroad. This was used to give the viewer a visual representation of the route.

National Park Service Staff. Four Special Spikes.

<https://www.nps.gov/gosp/learn/historyculture/four-special-spikes.htm>

One of the four golden spikes that were used in the railway on the track. It was used to show what it looked like in the “United by Gold” section.

O'Hara, Ryan. Buffalo off a dirt road in the badlands. 2010,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/eaghra/4924530114/in/photostream/>

O'Hara's picture illustrates the peace of the serenity of the Great Plains (specifically, this photo was taken in South Dakota) before the railroad. This was used as a header image for “The Barrier” page.

The Telegraph Key Used to Send the Famous Message “What Hath God Wrought” over the

Prototype Telegraph Line between Baltimore and Washington D.C. in 1844. Smithsonian

American Art Museum,

<https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2019/05/24/today-history-may-24-1844-samuel-morse-transmitted-first-message-telegraph-line/3746291002/>.

This is a picture of one of the original long-distance telegraphs. It was put in “Historical Context” to signify how important communication would play a part in the development of the railroad.

### ***Website Articles***

Bask.com Staff. “The Transcontinental Railroad.” Bask,

[www.bask.com/blog/the-transcontinental-railroad](http://www.bask.com/blog/the-transcontinental-railroad).

Bask.com provided many statistics related to technology and suppliers of the railroad. It also gave information on times and distances of travel on the tracks.

Digital Public Library of America. Building the First Transcontinental Railroad.

<https://dp.la/exhibitions/transcontinental-railroad/history>

This source gave a cursory timeline of the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. It was used to find the underied effects on people and places as a result of its construction.

History.com Editors. “Transcontinental Railroad.” History.com, A&E Television Networks, 20 Apr. 2010, [www.history.com/topics/inventions/transcontinental-railroad](http://www.history.com/topics/inventions/transcontinental-railroad).

History.com gave us a basic rundown of the events that took place before, during, and after the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Kennedy, Lesley. "Building the Transcontinental Railroad: How Some 20,000 Chinese Immigrants Made It Happen." History.com, A&E Television Networks, 10 May 2019, [www.history.com/news/transcontinental-railroad-chinese-immigrants](http://www.history.com/news/transcontinental-railroad-chinese-immigrants).

This article explained why the Chinese immigrants proved to be a vital part of the construction workforce. We included much of the information in the "Not Without Setbacks" section.

"Native Americans and the Transcontinental Railroad." PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, [www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/terr-native-americans-and-transcontinental-railroad/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/terr-native-americans-and-transcontinental-railroad/).

PBS presented in detail how the Native Americans were slaughtered in the wake of the US Army. They did not agree with the expansion of the railroad, but were disregarded and even forcibly removed.

Vong, Sam. "The Impact of the Transcontinental Railroad on Native Americans." National Museum of American History, 3 June 2019, [americanhistory.si.edu/blog/TRR](http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/TRR).

This source gave different examples of how each of the American Indian tribes were affected by the Railway as well as their distinctive reactions to its construction.