

William S. Cohen- Mr. Busque, 8th Grade Social Studies

Name: _____ Period: _____

Transcontinental Railroad put into perspective.

To understand the magnitude of the building of the Railroad we will look at some numbers. Lets do some math!

RAILROAD FACT:

2500 railroad ties per/mile of track

RAILROAD FACT:

5,500 spikes per mile of track.

RAILROAD FACT:

350 rails per/each mile of track. Each rail weighed 700 pounds

RAILROAD FACT:

The Union Pacific Railroad laid 1032 miles of track.

RAILROAD FACT:

The Central Pacific Railroad laid 742 miles of track.

RAILROAD FACT:

28.35 grams per ounce

RAILROAD FACT:

Each railroad tie weighs about 200lbs

1. When the Transcontinental Railroad was finished, the Union Pacific Railroad had laid 1032 miles of track. How many railroad ties, rails, and spikes did it take for the Union Pacific Railroad to lay their tracks?
Ties=
Rails=
Spikes=
2. If it took a worker, three hits on his hammer to drive one spike into a railroad tie, how many hammer hits did the Union Pacific make when they had laid 1032 miles of tracks?
3. The Central Pacific Railroad had laid 742 miles of track. How many miles did they lay together?
4. In 1865, the Union Pacific railroad laid 40 miles of track. In 1866, they laid 260 miles of track and in 1867 they laid 240 miles of track. During the last year of construction, 1868 how many miles of track did they lay?
5. The US Government granted the railroad companies 6,400 acres for every mile of track they laid. How many acres did the UPRR receive from the government?
6. A section of rail is 30 feet long, and weighs 700 pounds. How much does one foot of rail weigh in pounds and ounces?
7. In 1864, the Central Pacific thought it needed 5,000 workers, but it only had 600 workers. How many more workers did the Central Pacific need to hire?

8. The Chinese workers were paid about \$30 per month in gold for working 7 days a week on the railroad. If a Chinese worker worked for the Central Pacific for 3 years, how much did he make altogether?

| YEAR | Money Earned |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Year 1 | |
| Year 2 | |
| Year 3 | |
| TOTAL | |

9. During the winter of 1867 the Central Pacific was building in the Sierra Nevada. The temperature got down to -5 degrees Fahrenheit. Months later the workers were building the railroad through the desert and the temperatures got up to 120 degrees. What was the difference in temperatures that they worked in?
10. When the Transcontinental Railroad was finished, travelers could go from the Missouri to California in 4 days. A ticket in first class (they called in "Plush") cost \$111. A ticket in coach (the cheapest tickets) cost \$40. How much more would it cost two people to travel in first class than in coach?
11. Weigh a railroad spike and calculate how many pounds of spikes are needed for a mile of tracks.