

THE RISE OF RAILROADS

Student Name: _____

It's 1825 and you can feel the excitement in the air. A boom of interest in invention, industry, and scientific exploration is sweeping across Europe and the United States. Simultaneously, United States territories are expanding westward. The circumstances are ideal for perfecting a faster, more reliable form of transportation for people and cargo.

Discover All Your Options

Use research to learn everything you can about railroad history during your assigned time period. When you find an appropriate event, person, or invention, write it on the lines below.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Event: _____ | 6. Person: _____ |
| Source: _____ | Source: _____ |
| 2. Event: _____ | 7. Person: _____ |
| Source: _____ | Source: _____ |
| 3. Event: _____ | 8. Invention: _____ |
| Source: _____ | Source: _____ |
| 4. Event: _____ | 9. Invention: _____ |
| Source: _____ | Source: _____ |
| 5. Person: _____ | 10. Invention: _____ |
| Source: _____ | Source: _____ |

Build Your Timeline

Now look at your list of railroad events, people, and inventions. Research the national events occurring during the time period that the events/people/inventions were from. Try to identify links between the items listed on your timeline and the time period in which they occurred. Then use the lines below to record the six "railroad events" that you think are most important.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Event: _____ | 4. Person: _____ |
| Why it is important: _____ | Why he/she is important: _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| 2. Event: _____ | 5. Invention: _____ |
| Why it is important: _____ | Why it is important: _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| 3. Person: _____ | 6. Invention: _____ |
| Why he/she is important: _____ | Why it is important: _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Create Your Timeline and Report

Use colorful poster board, markers, and photos to create a timeline of U.S. railroad history that includes at least ten different facts that you've researched. Then write a one- to two-page report that describes your timeline and conclusions.