

Railroads Connect the Nation

USH Module 3

Directions: Read the information in the boxes carefully. Then use it to answer the questions that follow. You will then understand how the railroads gained importance.

Pacific Railroad Acts—1862 and 1864

- Acts give the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroad companies 20 million acres of federal land and federal loans to build a transcontinental railroad.
- The Union Pacific builds westward, starting from Omaha.
- The Central Pacific builds eastward, starting from Sacramento.

The Work Starts

- Former Union General Jack Casement heads the Union Pacific crew. The railroad hires mostly Irish immigrants.
- Charlie Crocker heads the Central Pacific crew. The Central Pacific hires Chinese immigrants.

1867: The Grange Is Founded

- Also called Patrons of Husbandry, the Grange is founded by Oliver Kelley.
- The Grange's purpose was to give farm families opportunities to learn more about farming.
- The Grange fought railroads for charging high prices to ship crops.
- The Grange elected legislators who set up railroad commissions in several states.

1869: Transcontinental Railroad Completed

- Rail lines running from east to west meet at Promontory Point, Utah.
- The adventure of cross-country travel begins.

Crédit Mobilier Scandal

- Crédit Mobilier was the construction company that built the Union Pacific Railroad. Both companies were run by the same people. The construction company gave itself the contract for building the railroad and overpaid itself for work done.
- The company gave stock to congressmen for land and money and to keep them from investigating.
- 1872: *The New York Sun* exposes the bribery, but no one is convicted.

Uniform Time Plan Adopted—1883

- Professor C. F. Dowd divides the earth's surface into twenty-four time zones, four of which cover the continental United States: Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific.
- When the railroads adopt the plan, so does the rest of the country, thus putting everyone on the same schedule.

1887: Interstate Commerce Act

- The act declared that railroad rates must be reasonable. Congress also established the Interstate Commerce Commission to oversee railroad rates.
- The commission had no power to set rates and was not very effective until after 1901.

Who

1. developed the plan for a uniform time system?
- _____

2. founded the Grange?
- _____

5. was the Crédit Mobilier?
- _____

6. legislation established a commission to oversee railroad rates?
- _____

What

3. convinced the United States to adopt the uniform time plan?
- _____

4. did the railroad acts provide the railroad companies?
- _____ and _____

When

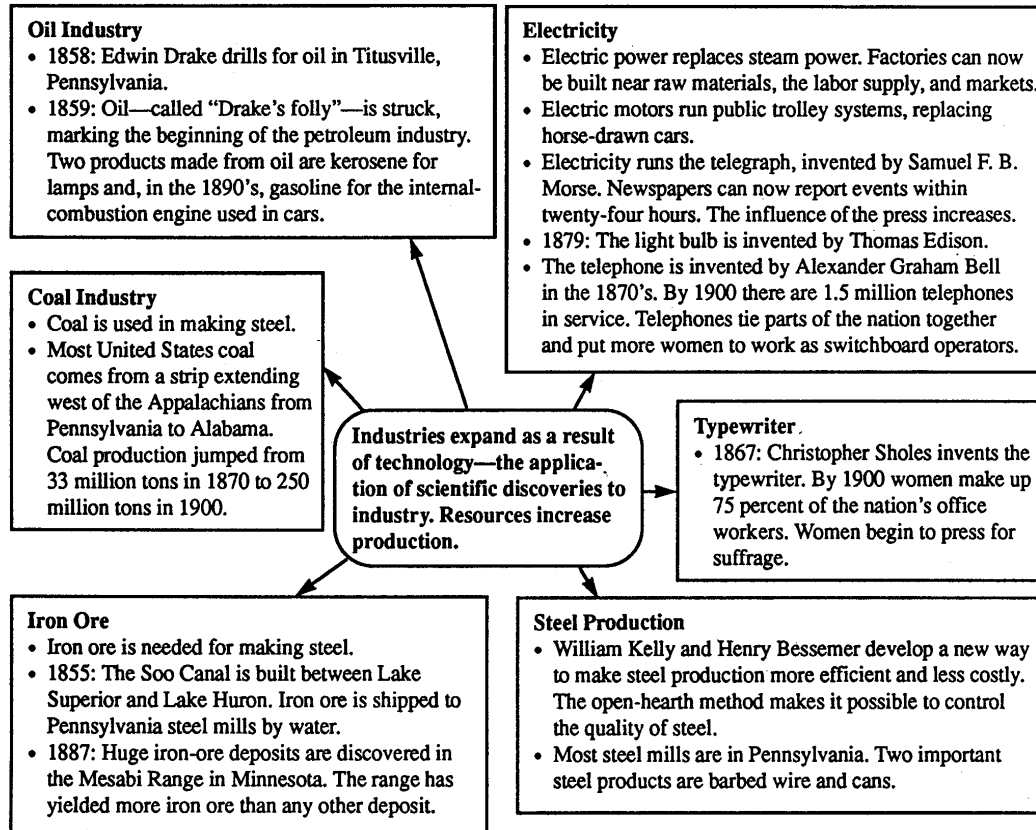
7. was the transcontinental railroad completed?
- _____

8. was the Interstate Commerce Act passed?
- _____

Industries Expand

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Directions: Read the information presented below and use it to complete the sentences at the bottom of the page. You will then understand how new inventions encouraged the expansion of American industry.



1. _____ made it possible to build factories away from waterfalls.
2. The telegraph increased the influence of the _____.
3. _____ invented the light bulb.
4. One invention that drew more women to office jobs was the _____.
5. Technology is the application of science to _____.
6. The _____ improved communication between parts of the nation and gave many women jobs.
7. William Kelly and Henry Bessemer developed a new way to make _____.
8. Two important products made from steel were _____ and _____.
9. Two uses of oil were _____ for lamps and _____ for internal-combustion engines.