

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

The Transcontinental Railroad made it easier to travel from the east to the western parts of the United States. Before the Transcontinental Railroad, it took months to travel using oxen and wagons.

Towns started to spring up around the railroad tracks. Settlers started to move west with more ease. Supplies, goods, and mail were now able to travel to the west more quickly. The railroad changed the country's economy since goods could now be sold over long distances.

Building the railroad was very difficult. Tracks had to go through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Explosives were used to blast through mountains and make tunnels. It took many workers to accomplish this task.

Much of the work was done by Chinese laborers. The railroad companies sent people to China to hire workers to build the railroad. Without the Chinese workers, it would have taken many more years to build the railroad. This would have delayed the progress of the expansion and development of the United States in the west.

Perritano, J. (2010). *The transcontinental railroad*. New York: Children's Press.

Walske, C. (2016). *The Transcontinental Railroad*. Minneapolis, MN: Core Library, an imprint of Abdo Publishing.

Caravantes, P. (2017). *The building of the Transcontinental Railroad*. Mankato, MN: The Child's World.