

# The Age of the Railroads

## - Activity

What?:

- The nation spanned by railroads

When?:

- May 10, 1869

Where?:

- Promontory, Utah

Why?:

- To promote western expansion

How?:

- Railroads from the east and the west connect

Who?:

- Central Pacific Railroad,  
Union Pacific Railroad





What problems did employees of the railroad companies face?

attacked by Native Americans; suffered  
from disease and accidents

What was it like to live as a Pullman employee in the town of Pullman?

lived in clean, well-built houses and had services such as doctors and shops, but lives controlled by company rules

Who was involved in *Crédit Mobilier*?  
What was the purpose of this company?

Union Pacific stockholders and some  
Congressmen; to lay track at inflated  
costs so stockholders could make huge  
profits

How did the railroad companies use their power to hurt farmers?

abused federal land grants, fixed prices, and charged unfair rates



Why didn't the decision in the *Munn v. Illinois* case succeed in checking the Act limit the power of the railroads right power of the railroads?

because the Supreme Court later ruled that states could not regulate interstate commerce

Why didn't the Interstate Commerce  
limit the power of the railroads right  
away?

because of a long legal process and  
resistance from the railroads