

Name _____

Date _____

Chapter 10: The American West

THE FIRST ONE

How did the United States acquire the transcontinental railroad route? What were the challenges and solutions?

The Continental Congress authorized the first transcontinental railroad route in 1850. The route was authorized by the Pacific Railroad Act of 1850. The route was authorized by the Pacific Railroad Act of 1850. The route was authorized by the Pacific Railroad Act of 1850.

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Read the text and answer the questions 1-10.

1. Before 1850, how could a person go from New York to California?

- A by wagon or ship
- B by rail
- C by wagon or rail

2. What railroad company started laying their route?

- A Great Pacific Railway
- B Central Pacific Company

3. How was the railroad route chosen and how was it made?

- A was the shortest, easiest path across the country.
- B was the best path across the country.
- C was to bridge the distance through the mountains.

4. What is the meaning of the word "colossal" in the text?

- A being the same size as
- B the structure
- C is huge

5. What railroad was the most important?

- A The Great Pacific Railway
- B The Central Pacific Company
- C The Union Pacific Railroad
- D The Great Northern Railroad

Answer questions 6-10 in another sheet of paper.

6. Why was the transcontinental railroad built? List two facts from the text that support your answer.

7. Why do you think so many immigrants and farmers lost their western wealth in the 1870s?

8. The Panama Canal was completed in 1914. How was it built? List two facts from the text that support your answer.