**Instructions for Team 1: Railway Promoters**

You are the owners and promoters of the railway. Your group will create a brochure for the Central Pacific Railway. Your goal is to create customers for the journey as an exciting excursion. You will also want to promote settlement of the land you acquired from the Federal government when you built the railway. Only this way will you create a steady need for your services and thus ensure that you remain a profitable enterprise. Your role is to "boost" the railway, to create some degree of "hype," to advertise the most exciting sights along the journey and the luxurious manner in which ticket holders will travel. To some degree you are creating the myth of the West in your brochure.

Below is an example of a poster advertising a Transcontinental Railway journey in 1908. It can give you an idea for what the graphics of your brochures might look like. <http://cprr.org/Museum/Maps/Overland_Route_1908_BCC.html>

Use the links below to help you research your topic. You must include the following components in your brochure:

1. Title page with catchy phrase/logo for advertising.
2. A map of the significant places along the route. The journey should begin in Omaha, Nebraska and end in Sacramento California.
3. A list of the landscape, animals, towns or cities, and human endeavors that travelers in the 1870's would be excited to see. It should be in complete sentences.
4. The price of what the journey would cost, and what would be included for the price of a ticket.
5. A description of how passengers would eat their meals and sleep on the journey.
6. How long the journey would have taken before the advent of the Transcontinental Railroad and how long it would have taken in the 1870's by train.
7. Advertise the land that would be for sale along the way? What would be the advantages of settling on it?
8. Images/drawings other than the map.
9. Neat, organized, and in color

**Suggested Web sites for research**

* The West, Episode 5: The Grandest Enterprise Under God  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/program/episodes/five/>
* The West, Archives: Epsisode 5  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/five/>
* The West, Places  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/places/>
* Union Pacific Railroad History  
  <http://www.uprr.com/uprr/ffh/history/>
* Central Pacific Railroad Photographic History Museum  
  <http://CPRR.org/Museum/index.html>  
  Click on "History" for a fabulous array of materials directly relevant to this project.)
* American Memory Project: Railroad Maps 1828-1900  
  <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html>
* American Memory Project (Library of Congress)  
  <http://memory.loc.gov/>
* National Archives  
  <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>

Now create your brochures.

**Instructions for Team 2: Passengers**

You are individual travelers and settlers. You are journeying the entire distance from Omaha, Nebraska to California. Your perspective is a personal one. You will keep a diary in which you will describe yourself, the reasons for your journey, your expectations of it, and the "real life" experiences you have as you travel. In the early 1870's this was an exciting adventure. With no TV's or movies to watch, the public eagerly read accounts like yours, which were published in magazines and newspapers of the day. You may choose to draw sketches of sights you see. Cameras of the 1870s were still cumbersome and the process time-consuming, but photographers certainly made this sojourn. So your diary would be greatly enhanced if adorned with drawings and photos.

Before you begin your actual diary complete the following steps:

1. Decide on who you are and where you currently live? What is your occupation, your reason for taking the trip? Who are the friends and/or family members you are traveling with? Do you know anyone in California?
2. Map out the actual route of the Transcontinental Railway.
3. Think about what you have heard about the great American West. What have been your sources of information? Is there anything you are longing to see? Afraid to see?
4. Decide what are you bringing with you?
5. Consider whether you ever thought of moving out West? If so why?
6. Create your personality. Are you an adventurer or homebody, a lover of cities or the country, gullible or worldly-wise, etc.

**Suggested Web sites for Research**

* The West, Episode 5: The Grandest Enterprise Under God  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/program/episodes/five/>
* The West, Archives: Epsisode 5  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/five/>
* The West, Places  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/places/>
* Union Pacific Railroad History  
  <http://www.uprr.com/uprr/ffh/history/>
* Central Pacific Railroad Photographic History Museum  
  <http://CPRR.org/>  
  (Click on "History" for a fabulous array of primary source material directly relevant to this project. Look especially at the travel accounts.)
* American Memory Project: Railroad Maps 1828-1900)  
  <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html>
* American Memory Project (Library of Congress)  
  <http://memory.loc.gov/>
* National Archives  
  <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>

Now write your diary. In the 1870's the train generally traveled at about 18 to 22 mph and the journey would have taken approximately one week. Write a journal entry for each day of your travels. Include topics such as:

* Sleeping and eating arrangements. (You may or may not have been traveling on a Pullman sleeping car.)
* Passengers you meet.
* Geographic points of interest; changes in climate as you travel along.
* Cities or towns of interest, including the Mormon city of Salt Lake, Cheyenne, mining towns, etc.
* Animals you have not seen back East.
* American Indians. Would you be likely to encounter any; why or why not?
* The tracks themselves, especially the tunnels and bridges as the train crosses the Sierra Nevadas.

**Instructions for Team 3: Chinese Immigrants**

You are men who have come from China and who worked for the Central Pacific between 1863 and 1869. You are the unsung heroes of this venture. The most widely circulated photographs of the historic meeting of the rails at Promontory, Utah left you out of the picture despite the incredible hardships you endured. You will write a series of letters home describing both the hardships and heroism of your fellow Chinese workers.

Before you begin to write your letters complete the following tasks:

1. Imagine the family you have left behind and what their hopes are for you in America.
2. Be able to describe the kinds of work you are most equipped to do as you undertake working on the railroad. Imagine what concerns you have for your safety and well-being.
3. Imagine what kinds of experiences you might have had as an Asian in a Caucasian world thus far.

**Suggested Web sites for research**

* The West, Episode 5: The Grandest Enterprise Under God  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/program/episodes/five/>
* The West, Archives: Epsisode 5  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/five/>
* The West, Archives: Epsisode 7  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/seven/>
* The West, Places  
  <http://www.pbs.org/thewest/places/>
* The Iron Road  
  http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/iron/
* Central Pacific Railroad Photographic Museum  
  <http://CPRR.org/Museum/index.html>  
  (Click on "Chinese.")
* American Memory Project (Library of Congress)  
  <http://memory.loc.gov/>
* National Archives  
  <http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>

After gathering the information you need to write one letter home for each year (6 years!) you worked on the railroad. Include topics such as:

* How the Chinese organized themselves into organized "gangs" of workers.
* How they imported aspects of their lifestyles (food, clothing) and how their lifestyles contrasted with workers from other parts of the world.
* What it was like working for Charles Crocker who ran the building of the Central Pacific.
* The work of cutting through the Sierra Nevadas without any modern machinery.
* The wage differentials paid to white and Chinese workers and other forms of discrimination you faced.
* The horrible winter of 1865-66.
* The strike of Chinese workers in 1867.
* Your emotions when the last tie is laid at Promontory, Utah.
* Your plans for the future.

**Instructions for Team 4: Representatives of Tribes of American Indians Living on the Great Plains**

You are members of a variety of American Indian tribes inhabiting land through which the Iron Road cuts its trail. It is not hard to see that the railway will end your current way of life for a variety of reasons. It will transport many new settlers who will want increasing amounts of land on the Great Plains. It may bring miners who will find gold or silver on land that is currently yours under various treaties with the U.S. government. In addition, the coming of the railway threatens the existence of the great buffalo herds on which your way of life depends. You will do three pieces of writing: a chant (or poem of lament), a speech to your fellow tribesmen which expresses in different terms the sorrow and anger you feel as you see the Iron Road destroying your way of life, and a letter to Washington, D.C. asking for specific remedies.

Tasks to complete before you start writing:

1. Research how the Plains Indians hunted the buffalo and then made use of each and every part of the animal.
2. Be able to explain why the entire lifestyle of the Plains Indian tribes was dependent on the buffalo.
3. Find out about how various Indian tribes reacted to the invasion of the railroad through their heartlands. Some good sources include:
   * The West, Archives  
     <http://dipsy.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/index.htm>  
     (See especially archives for episdoes [Five](http://dipsy.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/five/), [Six](http://dipsy.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/six/), [Seven](http://dipsy.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/seven/), and [Eight](http://dipsy.pbs.org/thewest/resources/archives/eight/).)
   * Historical Maps of the United States, University of Texas at Austin: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/histus.html>  
     See especially [Early Indian Tribes, Culture Areas, and Linguistic Stocks - Western U.S.](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_collection/united_states/Early_Indian_West.jpg) (639K).
   * American Indians and the Transcontinental Railroad  
     <http://users.efortress.com/genealogy/native_americans_and_the_t.htm>
   * Excerpt from Chief Seattle's Letter to President Pierce (1854) <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/1224/wolfsprt.htm#seattle>
   * Also suggested is "Read Cloud's War" in Dee Brown's classic book **Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the West**.
4. Decide what point of view you will be writing from for your chant/poem:
   * As a warrior from a specific tribe.
   * As a mother.
   * As a child.
   * As a buffalo.
   * As the spirit of an ancestor.
5. For your letter and speech, consider the audience you are addressing. Try to include matters which pertain to the particular tribe you are representing.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Make sure you include facts from your research above in all 3 writing pieces.