

Railroads Transform the West

Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages ⁶⁴⁻⁶⁵~~72-73~~ of the Atlas. Read the overview. Also look at the graph “Miles of Railroad Track” and the photo. Use the information to complete the following sentences.
 - a. In 1860 there were _____ miles of track in the United States.
 - b. Railroads hired _____ and _____ immigrants to lay new tracks in the West.
 - c. By 1870 there were _____ miles of track, including the first _____ railroad.
 - d. Travel time across the country went from _____ days to _____ days.

Places, Regions, and Landscapes

2. Look at the graph “Miles of Railroad Track.” Also look at the map “Railroads Cross the Open Range” and the map “Mismatched Railroads” on page ~~98~~ ⁴⁵. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if the statement is false.
 - a. Most railroads before 1860 were in the East. _____
 - b. In 1860 tracks were standardized to the main gauge used in the South. _____
 - c. Most of the land that the Central Pacific crossed was flat. _____
 - d. The Union Pacific moved west from Kansas City. _____
 - e. The Central Pacific and Union Pacific met in Utah Territory. _____

Links Far and Near

3. Use the maps “Railroads Cross the Open Range” and “Ranching Expands, Buffalo Herds Shrink” to complete the chart below.

Cattle Trail	Cow Town	Railroad
Chisholm		
	Cheyenne	
		Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe

🕒 Time and Change

4. Look at the graph “Changing Herds.” For each year, circle the herd that was the largest.

Year	Herd	
a. 1800	Buffalo	Cattle
b. 1850	Buffalo	Cattle
c. 1900	Buffalo	Cattle

★ People and Their Environments

5. Look at the maps “Railroads Cross the Open Range,” “Ranching Expands, Buffalo Herds Shrink,” and “The Open Range Is Closed.” Also look at the graph “Changing Herds.” Number the events in the order in which they occurred.

- a. Only about 1,000 buffalo remain. _____
- b. 40 million buffalo roam the Plains. _____
- c. Southern buffalo range is nearly eliminated. _____
- d. Buffalo range is split by railroads. _____
- e. Cattle and buffalo are both at about 5 million. _____

★ Thinking About History

6. Look again at the maps “Ranching Expands, Buffalo Herds Shrink” and “The Open Range Is Closed.” For each pair of events, write **C** next to the cause and **E** next to the effect.

- a. _____ Cattle are no longer able to cross open prairie.
 _____ Barbed wire is introduced in the West.
- b. _____ Several railroads connect Texas to the rest of the country.
 _____ Cattle are shipped in trains, rather than walked north.
- c. _____ Cattle graze throughout the plains.
 _____ Buffalo lose their range.
- d. _____ Cattle ranching expands on the northern range.
 _____ Northern Pacific railroad built.