



# A Timeline History of the Transcontinental Railroad (Timeline Trackers: Westward Expansion)

*Alison Behnke*

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In the early nineteenth century, much of the land west of the Mississippi River was not yet part of the United States. Many people dreamed of settling this huge area, but the journey to get there was long and dangerous. By the mid-1860s, a bold plan had taken shape: the country had decided to build a single railroad stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Spanning North America, it would be the first railway to cross a continent. Follow along with the difficult and dangerous work of building the transcontinental railroad. Track the events and turning points of this major construction project that contributed to the westward expansion of the United States, yet created hardships and conflicts along the way. Readers will make connections between significant events leading up to the transcontinental railroad and see how this important period of US history unfolded. Each chapter features a timeline of events relevant to the railroad, including the Industrial Revolution leading up to it, the immigration acts that resulted from its construction, and the aftermath of these events. Sidebars, full-color photographs, and an in-depth glossary add interest and enhance students' learning experiences. This book is a great resource for units and projects on westward expansion in the United States in the 19th century.

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