

The Transcontinental Railroad

The first Transcontinental Railroad, also called the Pacific Railroad and the Overland Route, was constructed between 1863 and 1869. The Western and Central Pacific Railroad Companies started their end of the transcontinental line in San Francisco, California and the Union Pacific Railroad started their end in Omaha, Nebraska. The two groups met at Promontory Summit, Utah, where the Golden Spike completed the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. 2019 marked the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. The newly completed railroad decreased travel time. Before, travelers would either take the stagecoach in a long and arduous journey across the frontier or take a steamship all the way around South America in a journey that could take months. The railroad also had many negative impacts on the environment and on Native American relations, but the federal government justified it as part of America's Manifest Destiny.



Primary Source

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/railroad-maps-1828-to-1900/?q=continental%20railway&fi=subject>

Secondary Source

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/where-the-buffalo-no-longer-roamed-3067904/>