# SSUSH12 Overview

❑ As eastern regions of the United States became more industrialized after the Civil War, people seeking rural livelihoods moved farther and farther west. In turn, American Indians had to compete with these newcomers for land.

❑ A series of brutal wars ensued as various Plains Indian tribes attacked settlers, wagon trains, and the Army in an effort to protect their lands.

❑ While the American population of settlers spanned the continent and fulfilled the Manifest Destiny of Americans to control the lands between and including both coastlines, the American Indians suffered grave consequences.

# SSUSH12: EVALUATE HOW WESTWARD EXPANSION IMPACTED THE PLAINS INDIANS AND FULFILLED MANIFEST DESTINY.



*ELEMENT A: Examine the construction of Transcontinental Railroad including the use of immigrant labor.*

# Transcontinental Railroad's Construction

❑ The construction of the Transcontinental Railroad would not have been possible had a large supply of immigrant labor not been available.

❑ Other critical components of the railroad's construction include public investment through land grants and guaranteed construction costs.

- The federal government granted vast areas of western land to railroad owners.
- Railroad rights-of-ways were 10 miles wide, plus 400 feet so the railroads could sell the land to help finance the cost of construction.

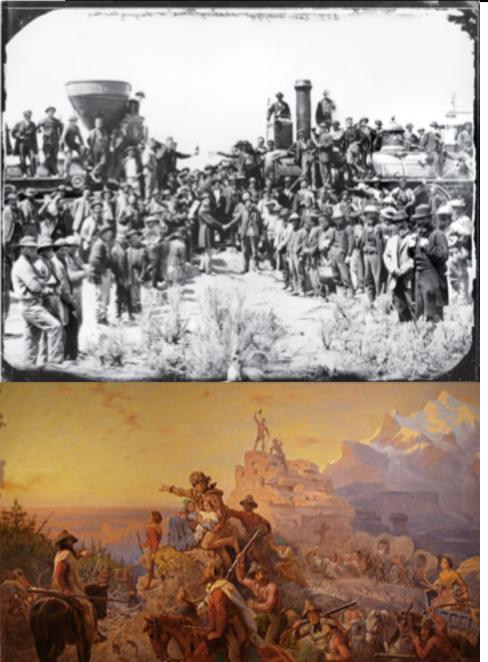# Transcontinental Railroad's Use of Immigrant Labor





❑ Generally, Irish and German laborers constructed the rail route from east to west.
  ▪ The owners of the Central Pacific Railroad, who were building the line from California initially brought European immigrants from the east but had trouble keeping them working due to the proximity and lure of the gold fields.

❑ As replacements, the owners hired available Chinese labor in California and then brought in additional Chinese labor to complete the task.
  ▪ Chinese workers were paid approximately $28-$35 per month (compared to $50 European workers earned) to do the very dangerous work of blasting and laying ties over the treacherous terrain of the high Sierras.
  ▪ The work was very dangerous and many Chinese laborers died in the explosive blasts they ignited to cut the solid rock roadbed.
  ▪ Many others died under landslides and heavy snowfalls before the Transcontinental Railroad was completed.

# Transcontinental Railroad's Completion of Manifest Destiny





❑ The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad connected the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Workers drove the final spike at Promontory Point in the Utah territory in 1869 to open the railroad.

  ▪ The ability to transport people and goods across the nation with the efficient speed of the railroad opened the West to greater population migration.

❑ Manifest Destiny was furthered by the connection of the West by rail.