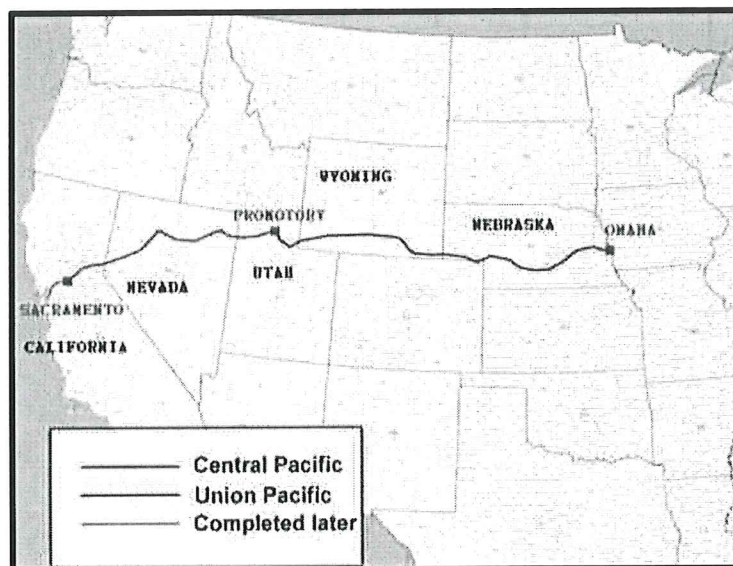


The Transcontinental Railroad

Name: _____

Directions: Read the paragraph and find the main idea. Write down three supporting details and then summarize the paragraph.

When the Gold Rush caused hundreds of thousands of people to leave their homes in the east and travel across the United States in search of gold, they traveled in covered wagons or by ship around the south part of South America, called Cape Horn. This trip was a long, difficult, and even dangerous one. The transcontinental railroad provided a more efficient way to transport people, supplies, and mail across the country. After President Lincoln signed the Railroad Act into law, construction took place between 1863 and 1869, and started in Sacramento, California in the West and Omaha, Nebraska in the east. The Central Pacific Railroad, which started in Sacramento, California, was built mainly by Chinese immigrants who not only had to deal with snow, but had to use dynamite to blast a number of tunnels through the Sierra Nevada Mountains in order to lay down track. The Union Pacific Railroad was built mainly by Irish Immigrants. They were challenged by Native Americans who were angered that this "Iron Horse" was disrupting their way of life. The two railroads finally met at Promontory, Utah on May 10, 1869. Leland Stanford, California's governor, drove down the last spike which was called the "Golden Spike" and is on display today at Stanford University in California.



Main Idea:

Supporting Details:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Summary:
