

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 7, Lesson 13

Teacher Packet

THE RAILWAY TRAIN.

I like to see it lap the miles,
And lick the valleys up,
And stop to feed itself at tanks,
And then, prodigious, step
Around a pile of mountains,
And, supercilious, peer
In shanties by the sides of roads;
And then a quarry pare
To fit its sides, and crawl between,
Complaining all the while
In horrid, hooting stanza;
Then chase itself down hill
And neigh like Boanerges;
Then, punctual as a star,
Stop-docile and omnipotent-
At its own stable door.

Throughout the poem, the author compares the railway train to a horse. At first, it seems like the train is being compared to just any animal, when the narrator says she likes to see the object, “lap the miles” and, “lick the valleys up”, almost like a cat would do. The phrase, “step around a pile of mountains” creates the image of a large animal, maybe a horse or a mountain goat, traveling over difficult terrain. The line, “chase itself down hill” is when the image of the horse as the animal the author is using becomes clearer. It isn’t until the last stanza that it is obvious the train is being compared to the horse. The poem says the horse “neighs” and stops, “At its own stable door.” The horse that Dickinson uses in the poem seems curious as it “peers into shanties” and energetic as it “chase[s] itself down hill,” which reminds the reader that the train is a new and young technology for the country. The energy, speed, and impressive actions of the train in the poem make it seem more powerful than an actual horse, which is what most people used for transportation before the train.

Exemplary Responses

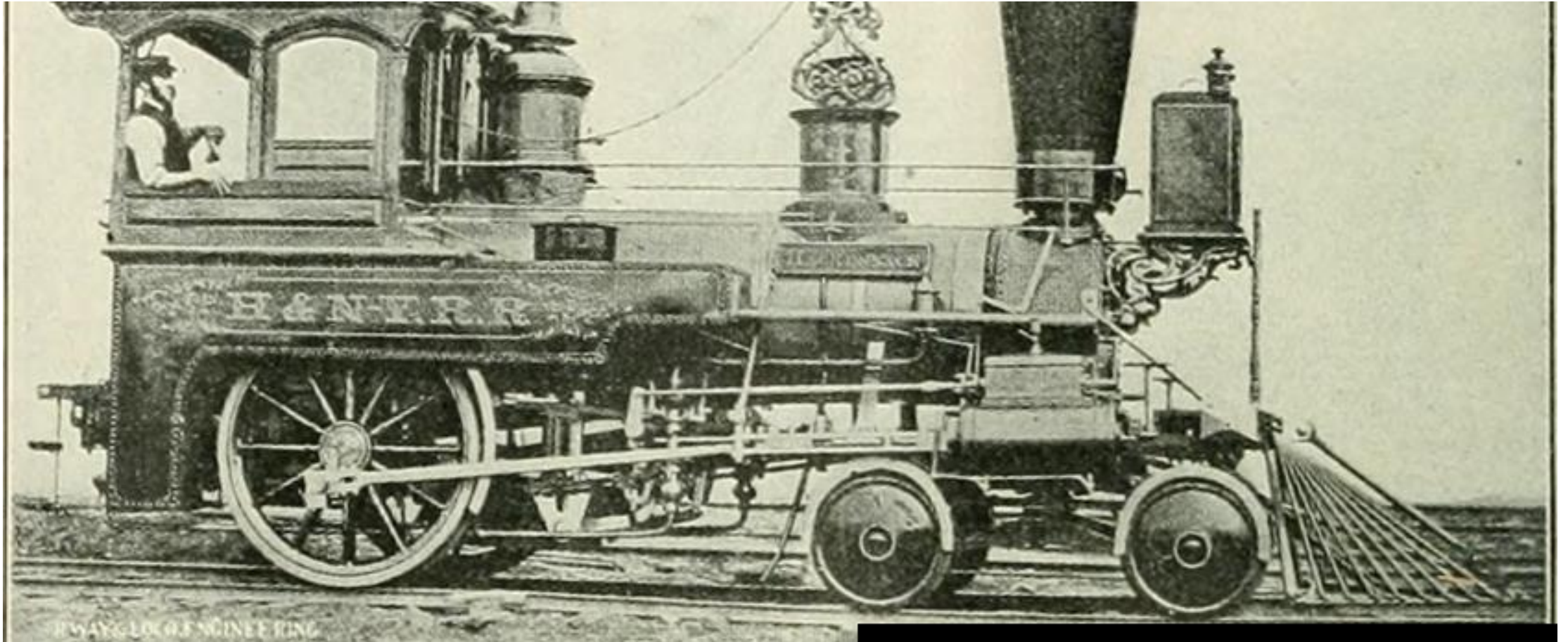
- Use complete sentences
- Use quotes to support ideas
- Explain the quotes
- Include multiple examples

The Effect of Railroads on American Life

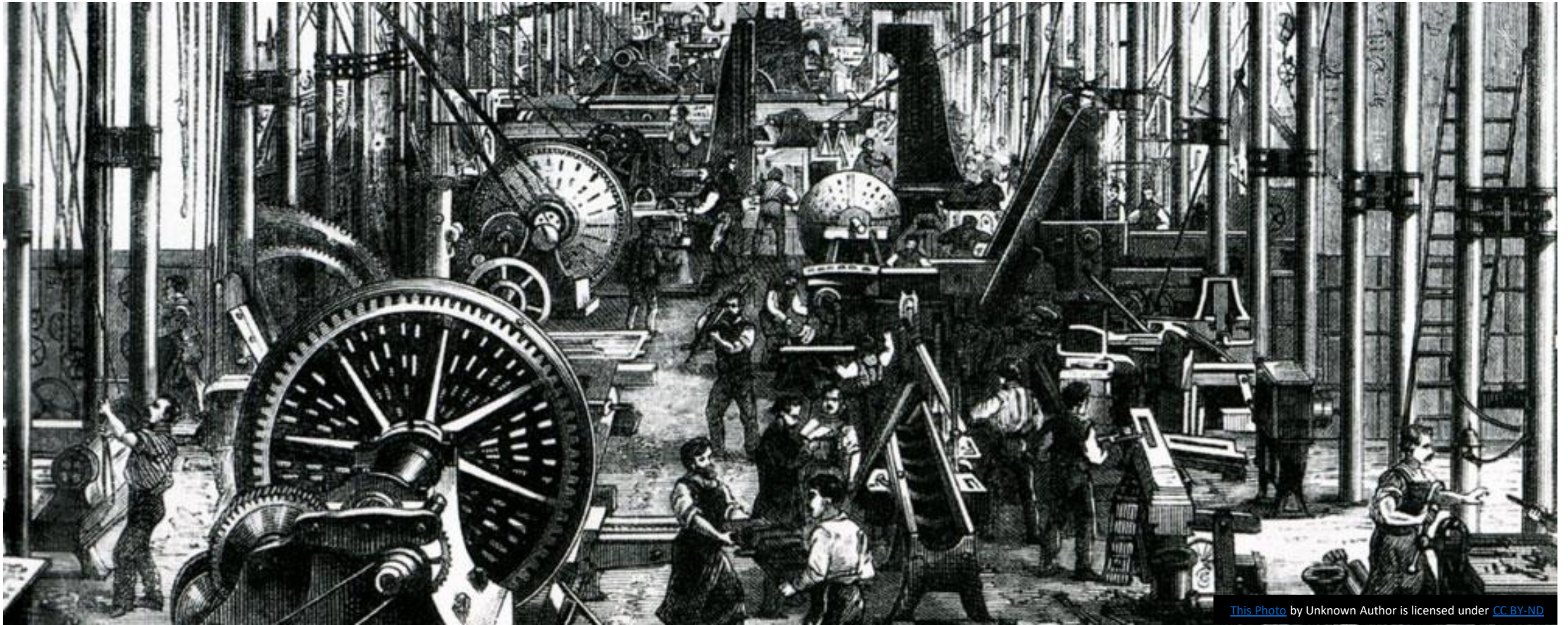
In the mid 1800s, the only thing stopping Americans from settling the West was the fact that only a long, perilous wagon journey could transport you there.



Then, in the midst of the **Industrial Revolution**, the first practical railroad was built. Over time, railroads changed the face of America. They first were used to transport **freight**, or cargo, but eventually **revolutionized**, or greatly changed, travel... and created jobs in the railroad industry. Many possibilities were seen in the railroads, and many lives were changed because of them.



Around the mid 19th century, the Industrial Revolution started. This was a period of industrial growth. Gradually, machines took the place of hand tools.



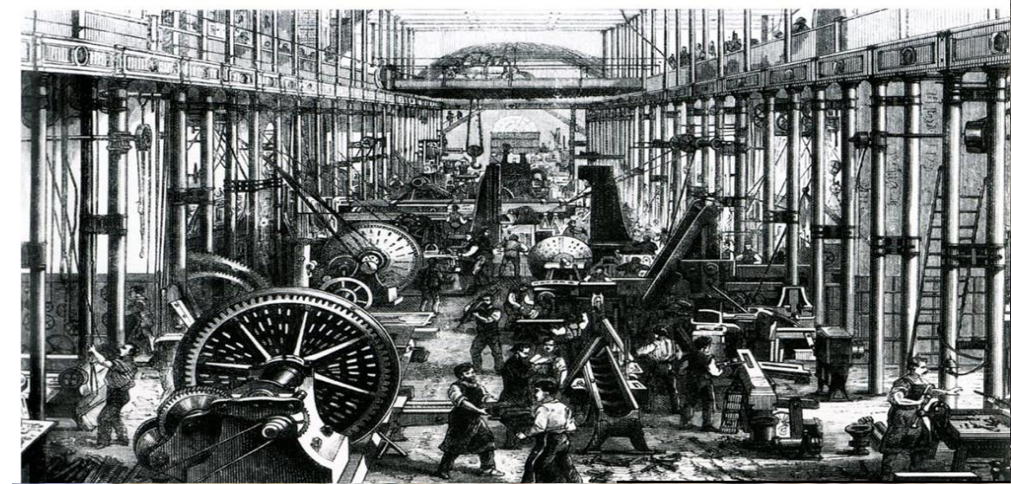
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Steam engines and flowing water in water mills began to take the place of what used to be power provided by humans and horses. The factory system was also invented as well as **interchangeable** parts, two inventions that changed the way products were **manufactured**, or put together.



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- Industrial Revolution started
- machines
- Steam engines
- take the place of... humans and horses
- factory system
- changed the way products were manufactured
- increase of factory-made goods
- new transport system ...needed to carry freight...

This paragraph explains that during the Industrial Revolution, machines and factories really changed how products were manufactured, so there were more factory-made goods. This meant they needed a new transport system to carry all of the freight because it would be too much for the horses used to carry the goods.

There were many apparent advantages of railroads that improved American life and the economy and industry. Before railroads, goods shipped from England would be sent up rivers on **barges**. Those barges would travel about five miles per hour, while railroads could easily travel at approximately thirty-five miles per hour. This would save a lot of time and money and could ship more **perishable** items longer distances.



Also, trains could be built anywhere. They were not restricted to only waterways. These advantages made railroads popular among traders and merchants.

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- Advantages of railroads
- Save a lot of time and money
- Ship more perishable items longer distance
- Could be built anywhere

Trains saved time and money, shipped more perishable goods farther, and could be built in many places.

One major difference between shipping freight by barge and shipping by railroad was the time it took. Freight would travel 7 times faster on a train than on a barge.

Railroads were also popular among citizens. The earliest passenger train was the 136-mile long South Carolina railroad. Soon there was a rise in business travel because of the convenience of trains as well as travel for pleasure. Before the construction of railroads, traveling away from your home was uncommon.

From the late 1800s to mid 1900s, trains were the preferred form of transportation for long distance travel. Travelers could have their own bedroom compartment and could roam the halls of the cars. The dining car's food was similar to that of a fine restaurant...



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- Popular among citizens
- Rise in business travel
- Travel for pleasure
- Transportation for long travel

The train was also popular among citizens for business, leisure, and long-distance travel.

What was it like to be a passenger on a passenger train in the late 1800's to the mid 1900's? Be sure to use examples from the text to support your answer.

Railroads were also popular among citizens. The earliest passenger train was the 136-mile long South Carolina railroad. Soon there was a rise in business travel because of the convenience of trains as well as travel for pleasure. Before the construction of railroads, traveling away from your home was uncommon. Second homes, as well as summer and winter resorts, were created on the Atlantic coast and also farther west to encourage people to travel west. From the late 1800s to mid 1900s, trains were the preferred form of transportation for long distance travel. Travelers could have their own bedroom compartment and could roam the halls of the cars. The dining car's food was similar to that of a fine restaurant...

Train passengers experienced comfort and convenience. For example, they could “have their own bedroom compartment” and eat meals that were just as good as what is served at a “fine restaurant.”

Soon, railroads became an important part of American life and the American economy and industry. Railroads were essential to the development of western agriculture and industry. Trains transported perishable produce to markets. They brought in raw material from far away and could ship goods throughout the country. Manufacturers could now be located anywhere, as railroads were now branched all around the country in many remote, or isolated, places.

Trains were also being placed inside cities; subways were developed above ground as well as underground. Railroads also created wealth for those who promoted and funded them. As railroads grew, investors were still hesitant about their profitability. As soon as railroads proved to be profitable, investors were eager to invest capital, or money, in the industry.

From the time of its invention, the railroad brought success to the United States. Trains transported freight around the country. **No form of transportation had ever been able to send perishable goods so far away.** Americans soon began to travel away from home for business and for pleasure; something that was rare before railroads. Thousands of jobs were created in the railroads and train building industries. A surge of immigrants came from Asia and Europe, creating a demand for even more jobs, in search of better lives or a job opportunity on the railroad...So many possibilities were seen in the railroad. Railroads have changed the entire face of America and have had a great effect on the country's history.

Please use your notes from today's lesson to write a summary paragraph about the entire text we read. You can use any of the phrases or the summary sentences you have already written to help you. Since you are summarizing the entire text, you will need several sentences to capture the central ideas.