

Name _____



Iron Road

Directions: Read the passage. Identify the **cause-and-effect** connections.

In the early 1860s, the United States wanted to connect the East and West by rail to improve travel, trade, and communication. As a result, the government approved and funded the building of a transcontinental railroad. Soon after, two companies began construction from opposite directions, one starting in California and the other in the Midwest. Because the terrain in the West was mountainous and harsh, progress moved slowly at first. As immigrant labor increased and new tools were introduced, construction speed improved. After years of difficult work, the two rail lines finally met in Utah. Because the nation was now connected by rail, goods moved faster, travel became easier, and new towns formed across the West.

Cause and Effect: Match each cause with its effect using complete sentences.

1. Cause: The government wanted to connect the East and West.

Effect: _____

2. Cause: The land in the West was mountainous and difficult.

Effect: _____

3. Cause: More immigrant workers and better tools were used.

Effect: _____

4. Cause: The railroad lines met in Utah.

Effect: _____

Sequence Reflection: Which event do you think had the **greatest impact** on what came next? Use one piece of evidence from the passage.
