

Iron Road Answer Key

Cause and Effect Tracker:

1. Effect: The government approved and funded the railroad.
2. Effect: Construction moved slowly at first.
3. Effect: Construction speed improved.
4. Effect: Travel, trade, and settlements expanded rapidly across the West.

Sequence Reflection Sample Answer:

The lines meeting in Utah had the greatest impact because it completed the railroad and allowed faster travel and trade across the country.

Teacher's Guide

- Review **chronological order** and **cause and effect** before students begin reading.
- For support, have students underline signal words such as because, as a result, and after to help track sequence.
- For advanced learners, challenge students to add one real historical detail that could logically fit into the timeline.
- Increase engagement by having students draw a simple left to right timeline and label each event visually.
- Extension idea: assign students to research a different transportation breakthrough and build a similar historical sequence map.