Transcontinental Railroad Vid-notes

**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kq1r27S5DU**

**The Dreamers/ Central Pacific**-

*Theodore Judah had the idea and was an engineer. He made a partnership with: Huntington, Hopkins, Crocker, and Standford to set up a railroad corporation. They were in California and wanted to build from west to east. Crocker hired many Chinese men to do the work. They turned out to be the best workers.*

**Union Pacific-** *Thomas Durant was the force behind the East railroad building to the west. He was a crook, so Abraham Lincoln asked the Ames brothers (Oliver and Oakes) to take charge and make sure it ran correctly. They owned a pick and shovel company so the tools helped the effort. Durant sued the company for control, but lost that effort.*

*Irish immigrants joined the soldiers from the civil war (both sides)*

**City on Wheels-** *Name of the rail cars that were designed and built to do specific things like; Dining car where food was prepared, sleeping cars with bunk beds built into the sides, supply cars, flatbeds, machine shop, tool shed.*

**Native Americans- *Cheyenne, Sioux****, and* ***Arapahoe*** *Indians were the major tribes that were affected by the building of the railroad on their land. They used the buffalo 52 different ways- for: food, clothing, shelter, weapons (as shields). They also hunted elk and antelope. The settlers began to take a lot of their food making it harder to find. They also brought smallpox typhoid and cholera; diseases which the Indians had no defenses. They fowled the water, polluted the land. The younger braves began to strike back at the encroachment. At Sand Creek, the entire tribe was clubbed, shot, stabbed. They were wiped out. This event triggered uprisings against whites throughout the area.*

**Hell on Wheels-** *A “mobile city” made up of tents that followed the construction crews as it moves down the track. It had; gambling halls, saloons, brothels, several kinds of stores and outfitters, drug store, markets.*

**Snow Sheds-** *The winter of 1865 was severe, bringing famine and freezing temperatures. It slowed the work to a standstill in the east, while out west, they built sheds in the mountains to continue the work building at least 7 tunnels- but at the rate of only about one foot per day. The switch from black powder to nitroglycerin doubled the progress, but it was very unstable and killed some people at first. The Chinese did the most dangerous work, worked the hardest, and got paid the least money. They went on strike for $40.00 a month,*

*But the railroad withheld their food, so they went back to work for about a dollar a day, or, $35.00 a month.*

**The Wasteland-** *Half-way between Omaha and Salt Lake City, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, the city of Cheyenne was created out of nothing in 1867. It would have a round house, supplies, and stores, telegraph office, banks, schools and a post office. It was the midway point of the railroad trip out west. A lot downtown went from $600 to $4,000 in a short time. People rode the train and settled there.*

**Indian Wars-** *During the summer of 1867, groups of young Indian braves began raids on the rail scouts, and workers. They tore up track and tore down telegraph wires. The reason was the buffalo population went from about 10 million, down to less than 1,200 in the late 1800’s. Many tribes were starving. A peace conference was called for June, 1867, but it failed. The white settlers and the railroad corporations called for the extermination of all Indian tribes. Their fear of Indians turned to hatred of them.*

**The End of the Line-**

***Answer these questions today:***

1. *What was life like in the towns of the frontier?*
2. *In what month and year did the Sierra Tunnel break through?*
3. *List the dangers of working on the railroad:*
4. *Timetable/Train order-*
5. *Brakemen-*
6. *What problem slowed down the Union Pacific in eastern Utah? Who did the job?*
7. *What records were set by the “Crocker’s Crew” and the “Casement’s men”?*
8. *What final record was set? By whom?*
9. *Describe the corruption/cheating taking place. List at least four kinds.*

*b)*

*c)*

*d.)*

1. *When did the cheaters finally settle down and agree to finish the job? What was the arrangement?*
2. *When was the railroad finished? Where? What happened in the U.S. that day?*

*10. List what was good about the railroad (include how much time was saved), and what was bad?*

**Write a summary of the film.**