



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad

### Teacher Resources

#### FOR CLASSROOM USE

**Fraser, Mary Ann. *Ten Mile Day and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad*.** New York, Square Fish/Henry Holt, 2012. On May 10, 1869, the final spike in North America's first transcontinental railroad was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah. Illustrated with the author's carefully researched, evocative paintings, this great adventure story highlights the day Charles Crocker staked \$10,000 on the crews' ability to lay a world record ten miles of track in a single day.

**Otfinoski, Steven. *Building the Transcontinental Railroad: An Interactive Engineering Adventure*.** North Mankato, Capstone Press, 2015. This "Choose Your Own Adventure"-style book invites readers to assume roles as builders of the Transcontinental Railroad. Readers are asked to flip to different pages based on their choices. Readers will be presented with a realistic view of the human cost of these large-scale projects. Some options end with the death or dismissal of the worker; others result in success and recognition.

**Linking East and West.** This PowerPoint briefly covers the expansion of the West, including the Pony Express, the Telegraph, and the Transcontinental Railroad.  
<https://www.clover.k12.sc.us/cms/lib/SC01001948/Centricity/Domain/1570/Linking%20East%20and%20West%20Lesson-%20Transcontinental%20RR.pdf>

**Schulz, Charles M. *Charlie Brown – The Building of the Transcontinental Railroad*.** In this 24-minute video, the familiar Peanuts cartoon characters explain the history of the building of the railroad. It includes maps, music, and photographs. (Note: The online video at the link below

contains short commercials. Commercial-free copies may be available at the public library or National Railroad Hall of Fame.) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3g8nmo>

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Transcontinental Railroad** – A power point story of the building of the Transcontinental on a flash drive.