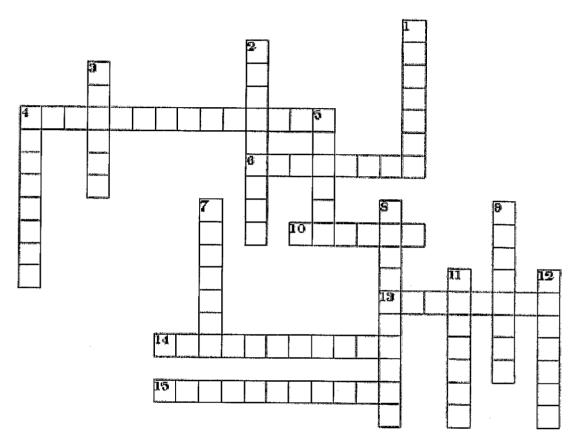
## Railroad Workers - Part 1: Crossword Puzzle

Building a railroad was not an easy task. It took a lot of hard work and skill. Railroad workers worked long hours on tedious jobs which were often very dangerous. They also had to remain healthy despite the long hard days.

**<u>Directions:</u>** Use the clues to match the job descriptions with the railroading job title to complete the crossword puzzle.



### **Job Descriptions - Across**

- 4. Build bridges over rivers and canyons
- 6. Measures the distance between the surveyor and the rodman
- 10. Uses picks, dynamite and shovels to smooth the roadbed
- 13. Drives the train
- 14. Bounces on shovel handles to pry up ties to make the rails level
- 15. Hauls supplies to the construction site

### Job Descriptions - Down

- 1. Sends messages between the surveyor and the rodman by waving a flag
- 2. Takes tickets, solves problems and relays information to the engineer
- 3. Holds a pole so the surveyor can measure the slope of the land
- 4. Connects and disconnects the cars and sets the brakes
- 5. Drives the spikes into the ties to hold the tracks in place
- 7. Feeds the firebox with wood or coal
- 8. Carries gallons of tea to the Chinese workers in empty powder kegs
- 9. Charts the flattest, safest route for the tracks
- 11. Cuts trees in the mountains for railroad ties
- 12. Carries and lowers 560 pound rails

#### Job List

Surveyor Rodman Flagman Chainman Grader Bridge builders Tie-hack Mule-whacker Iron-man Spiker Gandy-dancer Tea-bearers

Conductor

Brakeman

Fireman

Engineer

# Railroad Workers - Part 2: Critical Thinking

**Directions:** Answer the following questions about railroading work using the jobs and descriptions from the Railroad Workers Crossword Puzzle.

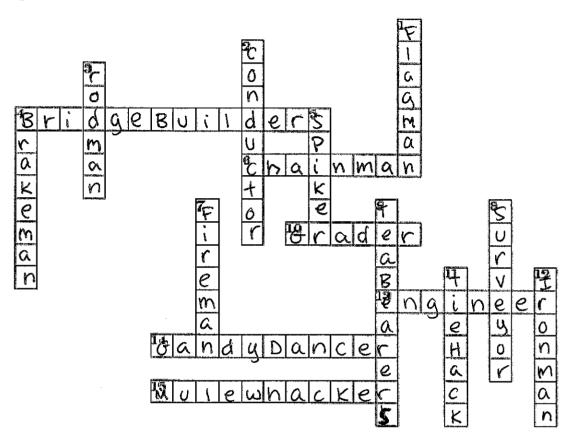
1. Which job off of the crossword activity would you have liked the best?
2. Why did you choose that job?
3. After a twelve hour work day earning only a dollar, would you still choose that type of job? Why or why not?
Use your thinking caps!!
4. Every job on the railroad had some dangers associated with it. Choose three different jobs from the crossword and list two dangers the job may have involved.
(Hint: Think about where the workers were working. Were they in large or small groups? Are they working alone or working with others? What tools or materials did they use that may have made the job dangerous?)

ANSWER KEY

## Railroad Workers - Part 1: Crossword Puzzle

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