

★ Historical Analysis Skills Activity 5

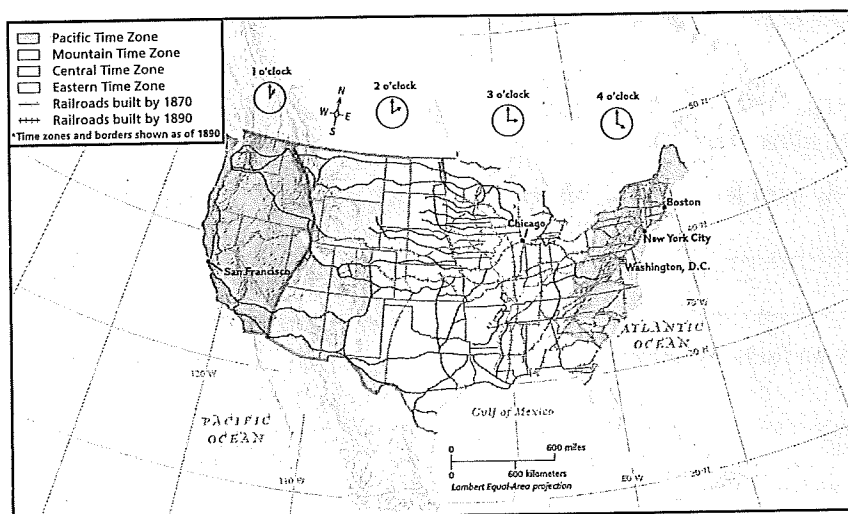
Understanding Time Zones

LEARNING THE SKILL

Before 1883, each city in the United States determined what time it was by the position of the sun in the sky at high noon. This meant that the time varied widely depending on the location. This became a problem as railway travel grew more common. It was difficult to manage train schedules without a standard time. The lack of uniform time could even lead to train collisions resulting from scheduling mishaps. In order to solve this problem, the American Railway Association divided the nation into four time zones in 1883. The four zones are Pacific, Mountain, Central, and Eastern. While the boundaries of these time zones have changed since their invention, the basic four zones have become an established part of life in the United States.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

DIRECTIONS: Refer to the map below and answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.



1. What information does the map show?
2. In which time zone is it the latest?
3. According to the map, if it is 6:00 P.M. in California, what time is it in New York?
4. Aside from making railroad travel easier and safer, what are some other benefits of a standardized system for telling time?
5. What problems might exist if there was not a standard system for telling time?

APPLYING THE SKILL

DIRECTIONS: Using an atlas or the Internet, find a map of the current boundaries for the four U.S. time zones. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief explanation of how the time zones have changed. Which time zone is your state in? Has it always been in the same time zone?



Guided Reading Activity 5-2

DIRECTIONS: Identifying Supporting Details Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

☒ **Main Idea:** After the Civil War, railroad construction expanded dramatically.

1. **Detail:** The railroad boom began in 1862 when President Lincoln signed the _____.
2. **Detail:** The _____ Railroad had primary investors who were known as _____.
3. **Detail:** Because of a _____ in California, about 10,000 workers from _____ were hired.

☒ **Main Idea:** The expansion of the railroads spurred America's industrial growth.

4. **Detail:** Railroad companies stimulated the economy by spending money on _____, _____, _____, and other necessities.
5. **Detail:** Railroad _____ resulted in seven giant systems that controlled most rail traffic.
6. **Detail:** Before the 1880s, each community set its clocks by the _____.
7. **Detail:** To make rail service safer and more _____, the American Railway Association divided the country into four _____.

☒ **Main Idea:** To encourage railroad construction, the federal government gave land grants to many railroad companies.

8. **Detail:** During the 1850s and 1860s, the federal land grant system awarded railroad companies _____ acres of land.

☒ **Main Idea:** The great wealth many railroad entrepreneurs acquired in the late 1800s led to accusations that they had built their fortunes through dishonest means.

9. **Detail:** Jay Gould was a railroad owner who was infamous for _____.
10. **Detail:** The _____ scandal involved public officials and stockholders of the Union Pacific Railroad.