

# Railroads Transform the West

## Gathering the Facts

- Turn to pages 64–65 of the Atlas. Read the overview. Also look at graph A, “Miles of Railroad Track,” and photo B. Use the information to complete the following sentences.
  - In 1860 there were \_\_\_\_\_ miles of track in the United States.
  - Railroads hired \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ immigrants to lay new tracks in the West.
  - By 1870 there were \_\_\_\_\_ miles of track, including the first \_\_\_\_\_ railroad.
  - Travel time across the country went from \_\_\_\_\_ days to \_\_\_\_\_ days.

## Places, Regions, and Landscapes

- Look again at graph A. Also look at map C, “Railroads Cross the Open Range,” and map F, “Mismatched Railroads,” on page 45. Write **T** if the statement is true and **F** if the statement is false.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Most railroads before 1860 were in the East.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ In 1860 tracks were standardized to the main gauge used in the South.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Most of the land that the Central Pacific crossed was flat.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ The Union Pacific moved west from Kansas City.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ The Central Pacific and Union Pacific met in Utah Territory.

## Links Far and Near

- Use map C and map D, “Ranching Expands, Buffalo Herds Shrink,” to complete the chart below.

Cattle Trail	Cow Town	Railroad
Chisholm		
	Cheyenne	
		Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe

### 🕒 Time and Change

4. Look at graph E, “Changing Herds.” For each year, circle the herd that was the largest.

Year	Herd	
a. 1800	Buffalo	Cattle
b. 1850	Buffalo	Cattle
c. 1900	Buffalo	Cattle

### ★ People and Their Environments

5. Look at maps C and D. Also look at map F, “The Open Range Is Closed,” and graph E. Number the events in the order in which they occurred.

- a. Only about 1,000 buffalo remain. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 40 million buffalo roam the Plains. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Southern buffalo range is nearly eliminated. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Buffalo range is split by railroads. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Cattle and buffalo are both at about 5 million. \_\_\_\_\_

### ★ Thinking About History

6. Look again at maps D and F. For each pair of events, write **C** next to the cause and **E** next to the effect.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle are no longer able to cross open prairie.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Barbed wire is introduced in the West.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Several railroads connect Texas to the rest of the country.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle are shipped in trains, rather than walked north.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle graze throughout the plains.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Buffalo lose their range.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle ranching expands on the northern range.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Northern Pacific railroad built.