

Name: _____

COMPREHENSION CHECK

POP #23

1. **Transcontinental** begins with the prefix *trans*. What is the meaning of this prefix?
 A. under B. across C. after D. against

2. Which of these is something a grader for the railroads might have done?
 A. looked for the best place to build a railroad bridge across a stream
 B. pounded down spikes with a sledgehammer
 C. lifted and set heavy iron rails into place
 D. used a pick and a shovel to remove rocks from a road bed

3. The Union Pacific's progress across the Great Plains was much faster than the Central Pacific's progress through the Sierras. Why do you think that was?
 A. The Irish immigrants were much better workers than the Chinese immigrants.
 B. The Union Pacific workers had help from the Plains Indians.
 C. It was faster and easier to build a railroad line across flat, open plains.
 D. The Central Pacific's work days were much shorter.

4. What important historical event happened in April 1865?
 A. Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act.
 B. The transcontinental railroad was completed.
 C. The Civil War ended.
 D. The Central Pacific's rail lines through the Sierras were finished.

5. In paragraph three, it says that the Plains Indians "were angered by this intrusion on their buffalo hunting grounds." An *intrusion* is
 A. a loud, noisy party
 B. an unwanted presence in someone else's space
 C. a boxcar that is filled with bunks for sleeping
 D. a long, underground tunnel

6. How long did it take to build the transcontinental railroad?
 A. about six years B. about three years
 C. about ten years D. about one year

7. Which of the following statements about the transcontinental railroad is NOT true?
 A. The Union Pacific solved its labor problems by hiring thousands of former soldiers.
 B. Workers for the Central Pacific used explosives to make tunnels through the Sierras.
 C. A ceremony was held at Promontory Point to spike down the last rail.
 D. The Central Pacific laid more miles of track than the Union Pacific.

8. In the last paragraph, the workers' labor is described as grueling. Which of these is the best synonym for *grueling*?
 A. careless B. interesting C. patriotic D. exhausting

Grade: _____