

UNIT 1: The Rise of Technology (1870 - 1896)

Topic: Transportation/Communication

Lesson 11: Growth of the Iowa Railroad Network

Objectives:

1. Students will recognize that Iowa's railroads developed rapidly after the Civil War.
2. Students will recognize that Iowa's railroad development was part of a larger westward movement.

Materials:

Growth of the Iowa Railroad Network

Copy ahead of time Five Iowa Railroad Maps (found in pdf format on the Explorations in Iowa History Website.)

Activities:

1. Provide students with access to *Growth of the Iowa Railroad Network*.
2. Read and discuss the article "The Railroad in Iowa". Emphasize the following concepts:
 - a. Iowa's railroad development was part of a larger westward movement.
 - b. Iowa's railroads developed rapidly after the Civil War.
 - c. Both private investment and acts of Congress helped to develop Iowa's railroads.
 - d. Four main roads (and later five) were developed across the state from which secondary lines were established.
3. Ahead of time, download and print the five Iowa railroad maps found in pdf format with the *Growth of the Iowa Railroad Network* file. Print the five maps as follows:
 - a. Page 9 on the back of page 14
 - b. Page 8 on the back of page 13
 - c. Page 7 on the back of page 12
 - d. Page 6 on the back of page 11
 - e. Page 5 on the back of page 10
4. Direct students' attention to the five railroad maps. Have them observe the information on each map and try to put the maps in sequence without looking at the dates on back. When they have placed the maps in order, they should turn them over to check the dates.

Key Observations:

1867: The major lines across Iowa had been proposed but not completed. Secondary railroad lines were being laid in eastern Iowa.

1872: The four major lines across Iowa had been completed.

1877: Secondary lines were rapidly developing across Iowa.

1883: Extensions of secondary lines were completed in several locations across the state.

1895: Every county in Iowa had at least one line and many counties had several railroad lines.