

CHAPTER
14

GUIDED READING *The Age of the Railroads*

Section 2

A. As you read, take notes to answer questions about the growth of the railroads.

Realizing that railroads were critical to the settlement of the West and the development of the nation, the federal government made huge land grants and loans to the railroad companies.

Benefits	→	The railroad companies built transcontinental and local lines.	The nation was transformed from a collection of regions into a united nation.	Railroad time became the nation's standard, linking Americans in one more way.
Drawbacks	→	The unchecked power and greed of the railroad companies led to widespread corruption and abuse of power.		

1. What problems did employees of the railroad companies face?	2. What was it like to live as a Pullman employee in the town of Pullman?
3. Who was involved in <i>Crédit Mobilier</i> , and what was the purpose of this company?	4. In what ways did the railroad companies use their power to hurt farmers?
5. Why didn't the decision in the <i>Munn v. Illinois</i> case succeed in checking the power of the railroads?	6. Why didn't the Interstate Commerce Act immediately limit the power of the railroads?

© McDougal Littell Inc. All rights reserved.

B. On the back of this paper, explain the importance to the United States of the **transcontinental railroad**. Then, describe who **George M. Pullman** was and why he is a significant historical figure.