

The North

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Transportation Revolution affected trade and daily life.
2. The steamboat was one of the first developments of the Transportation Revolution.
3. Railroads were a vital part of the Transportation Revolution.
4. The Transportation Revolution brought many changes to American life and industry.

Key Terms and People

Transportation Revolution a period of rapid growth in the speed and convenience of travel

Robert Fulton an American who had the first full-time commercial steamboat in the United States

Clermont a steamboat that could travel up the Hudson River with no trouble

Gibbons v. Ogden the first U.S. Supreme Court ruling on commerce between states

Peter Cooper an American who built the *Tom Thumb*, a small steam train with great power and speed

Section Summary

TRADE AND DAILY LIFE

Along with the Industrial Revolution, the **Transportation Revolution** changed life in the 1800s by speeding travel and decreasing cost of shipping goods. People and information began traveling at much higher speeds. New towns and businesses sprang up with improved communication, travel, and trade. The steamboat and the railroad, new kinds of transportation, quickened the pace of American life.

STEAMBOATS

In the late 1700s American and European inventors advanced steam-powered boats. **Robert Fulton** tested the *Clermont* in the United States. The successful test helped launch the steamboat era.

Why did information begin traveling at higher speeds?

In what way might the pace of American life have increased?

Section 3, *continued*

Steamboats cut months off the time needed to travel from one place to another. They made trips up rivers cheaper and easier. Shipping goods from East to West, West to East, or overseas also was easier.

Sometimes the changes in transportation led to legal conflicts. In a landmark case, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, the court ruled that federal shipping laws overruled state shipping laws.

How did steamboats affect shipping?

AMERICAN RAILROADS

In 1830 **Peter Cooper** built the *Tom Thumb*, a small but fast train. Excitement over rail travel grew in the mid-1800s. By 1860 about 30,000 miles of railroad tracks joined nearly every major eastern U.S. city. Trains took goods to faraway markets. Train travel averaged about 20 miles per hour and could be dangerous because of fires and derailment. But the dangers did not discourage travelers who wanted to go places faster.

Circle the sentence that explains why travelers put up with the dangers of railroad travel.

TRANSPORTATION REVOLUTION BRINGS CHANGES

Trains brought new residents and raw materials for industry to cities, spurring growth. Coal replaced wood as a source of fuel because of its greater efficiency. That led to growth in the mining industry. Steel was used for railroad tracks, so the demand for steel increased. Railroad transportation also helped logging expand because wood was needed to build new houses in the growing cities. Chicago, on Lake Michigan, became a hub for national transportation.

What helped the steel industry?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Designing Design a four-page brochure advertising the wonders of travel by steamboat or train.