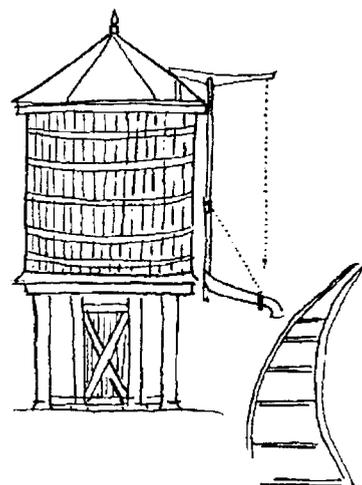


# RAILROADING

## Pre-Visit Activity

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Railroad Jargon</b>
<b>Setting</b>	Classroom
<b>Duration</b>	1 or 2 session of 30 minutes each
<b>Subject Areas</b>	Reading, Social Studies
<b>Skills</b>	Comprehension, Analyzing, Interpreting
<b>Grade Level</b>	4-5



### Objective:

Students will be able to learn past and present railroad terminology.

### WV-IGOs:

Social Studies - 4.13, 4.22, 4.25, 5.12, 5.30, 5.49

West Virginia History - WV8, WV13

## VOCABULARY

See vocabulary list on Railroad Jargon Worksheet

## MATERIALS

1. Railroad Jargon Worksheet
2. Railroad Crossing Worksheet and puzzle
3. pencils
4. dictionary, encyclopedia

## BACKGROUND

The attempts of West Virginia's citizens to overcome its geographic barriers have helped shape the state's history. In the early stages of the Mountain State's development, travel by road was slow and difficult, and much of West Virginia's interior remained remote.

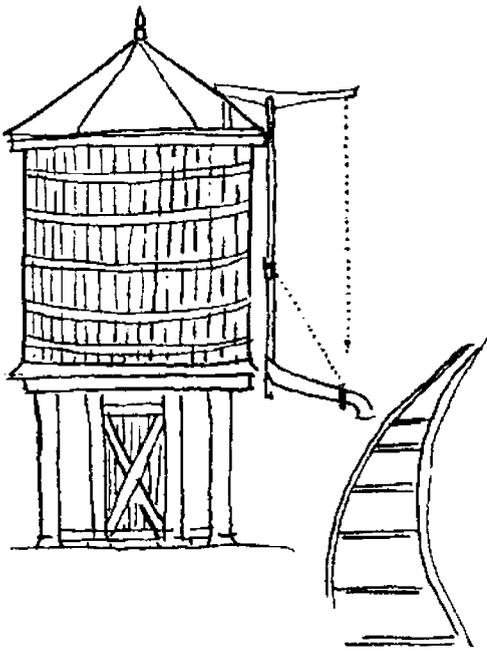
It was only following a depression in the 1870s and the beginning of the industrialization of the United States that railroad lines were constructed through West Virginia. The main goal was the recovery of the state's timber, coal, natural gas, and oil.

The railroad industry has been an important part of many West Virginia towns. It has made possible the mining operations that have fueled the state's economy for many years.

## PROCEDURES

1. Get students interested by beginning the discussion with the question: Does anyone know what a gandy dancer or a cowcatcher is? Ask if they have ever seen a deadhead or a roundhouse.
2. Explain to students that the railroad has always had a language of its own. Hold a classroom discussion providing students some background information on the history of the railroad in West Virginia and New River





## PROCEDURES *Continued*

Gorge. Use the brief background provided above, or for more detailed information use the “Riding the Rails in West Virginia” brochure and the book *Riding That New River Train* included in the kit.

3. Provide students with the Railroad Jargon Worksheet. You may want to have students take this list home to see how many words they can define for themselves. Some students may have a relative who has worked on the railroad whom they can ask.
4. Use the glossary at the end of this unit to make sure all the students are familiar with the railroad terms.
5. Assign the Railroad Crossing Worksheet for students to complete. Teacher may use own discretion whether to count this as a recorded grade and the subject area in which it should count.

## EVALUATION

Students should complete the Railroad Jargon and Railroad Crossing worksheets with 70 percent accuracy.

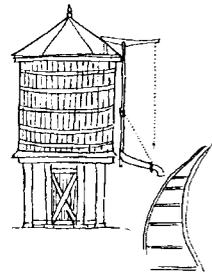
## EXTENSION

1. The teacher may want to offer bonus points to students who can bring in other terms used by railroaders — past or present.
2. Students can reinforce the terms they have learned by playing “Around the World.” Student in row 1 and seat 1 stands up beside the person sitting behind them. The teacher calls out a definition and the first student with the correct answer moves on to the next person (the other one sits down in the seat they are beside). The game continues until someone has gone “around the world” (go back to row 1, seat 1).



# RAILROADING

## Railroad Jargon Worksheet



Directions

Find the definition for each word listed below

**Brakeman**

**Derailment**

**Hobo**

**Conductor**

**Gandy dancers**

**Spike**

**Turntable**

**Station master**

**Porter**

**Fireman**

**Roundhouse**

**Hot box**

**Cowcatcher**

**News butch**

**Caboose**

**Green flag**

**Yard engine**

**Branch**

**Milepost**

**Baggage car**

**Box car**

**Engineer**

**Bituminous coal**

**Red flag**

**Steam locomotive**



# RAILROADING

## Railroad Crossing Worksheet



### Directions

Using the words from the Railroad Jargon Worksheet, complete the crossword puzzle according to the definitions below.

### Across

1. a small locomotive used to move cars around in the railroad yards (also known as a switch engine)
3. a person who rode the trains illegally, going from town to town seeking work
6. a train order, so-called because it is printed on lightweight paper
7. occurs when the wheels of a locomotive slide off the rails
8. a soft type of coal that looks like charcoal and breaks apart easily
10. a steel nail used to secure a rail in place
11. the device on the front of a locomotive used to move debris from the tracks
14. the person who had the dangerous job of stopping the train
16. overheated axle bearing
17. a round building with stalls where quick inspections and adjustments were made to steam locomotives
18. a car that carried the baggage for passengers riding the train
19. the railroad car usually found at the rear of the train
22. this person worked in the Pullman cars preparing beds, handling baggage, cleaning cars, and pampering passengers
23. a group of track workers who do track repair, replacement, and inspections
24. the colored flag used by the yardman to tell the engineer to move the train forward, backward, or to stop

### Down

2. this person works for the engineer shoveling coal into the firebox providing fuel and steam pressure so that the engineer can run the train
3. a coal/oil lamp
4. the person who sold tickets, handled the baggage, directed the loading and unloading of cargo, and used the telegraph to send messages to the train's conductors and engineer
5. a concrete marker near the tracks that shows how many miles the train has traveled
9. a feeder line to the main line
12. the person in charge of the train who communicates with the engineer by using flags, lanterns, or radios
13. one of the many jobs of young children at the beginning of the twentieth century (these children sold peanuts, popcorn, candy, soda, chewing gum, cigars, and the latest papers)
14. a rectangular car that carried food, and other items
15. a type of train locomotive that burns wood or coal to produce steam
20. the person in charge of operating the engine
21. a colored flag used by the yardman to tell the engineer to stop the train or indicate danger ahead or behind

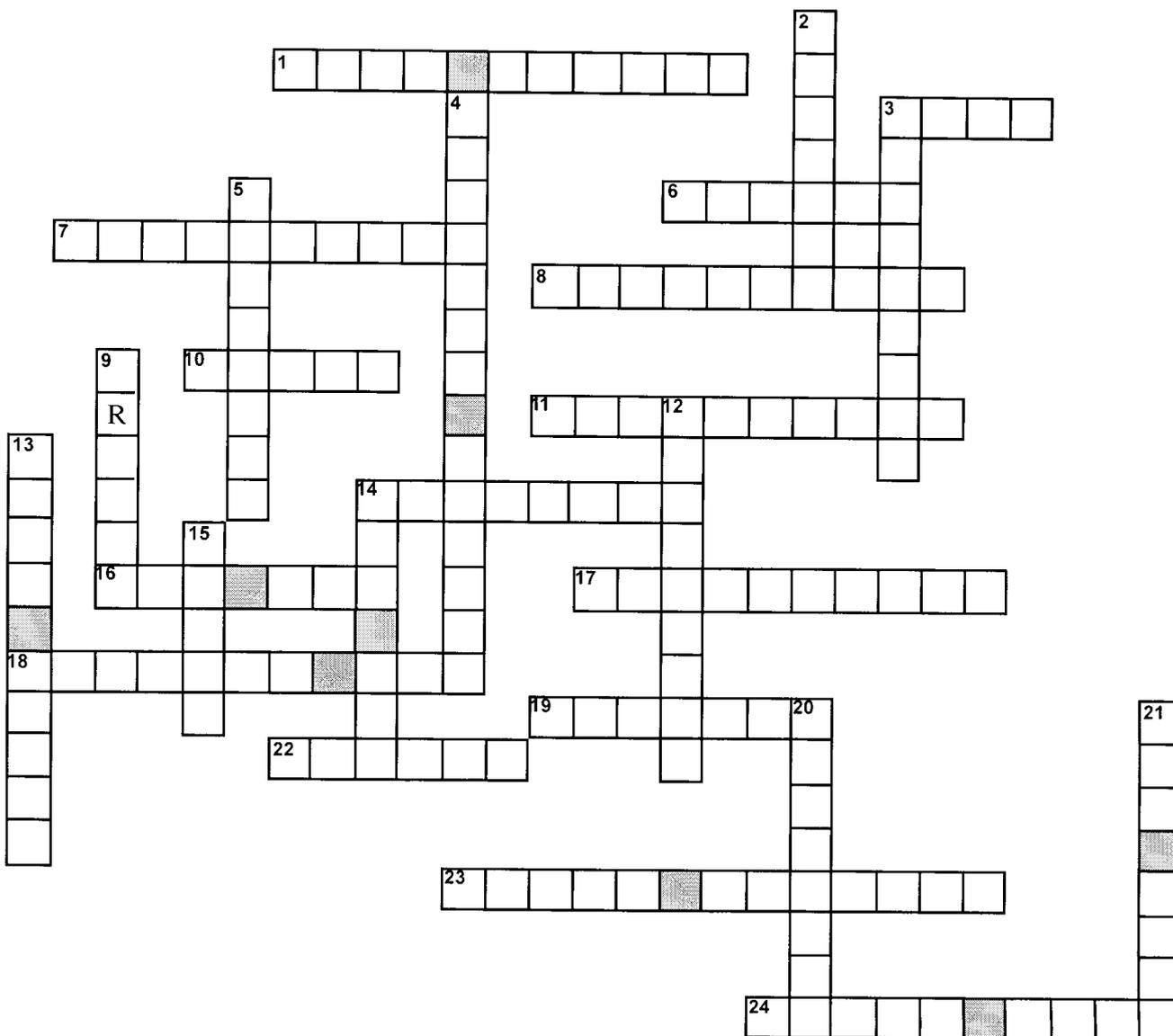
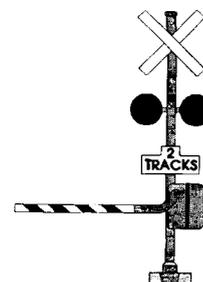


# RAILROADING

## Crossword Puzzle

Directions

Using the words from the Railroad Jargon Worksheet, complete the crossword puzzle below.



# RAILROADING

## Crossword Puzzle Answer Key

