

Lesson 7: The Railroad

WORD BANK

1. depot – (noun) a railroad station
2. developer – (noun) a person or thing that develops something
3. found – (verb) to establish something to last a long time
4. grain – (noun) wheat or other cereal crop used as food
5. livestock – (noun) farm animals

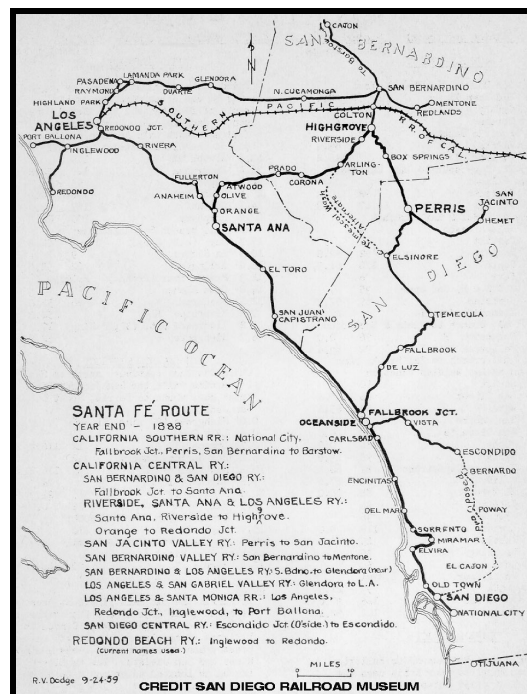
Activity 1:

Directions: Use the words in the Word Bank to complete the paragraph below.

The California Southern Railroad was _____ on October 12, 1880. The railroad began at National City, and traveled north to San Bernardino. It took three years to construct the railroad. On September 13, 1883, the first passenger train arrived in Murrieta. Property along the railroad was sold to land _____. The towns of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar and Perris were established because of the railroad.

During the Flood of 1891, the railroad tracks were washed out of the Santa Margarita Canyon. The company decided not to rebuild the damaged tracks. Temecula became the end of line. The railroad continued to be used to ship Murrieta _____ and _____ to markets in Los Angeles and San Bernardino.

By the 1930s, transporting Murrieta goods by the railroad had declined. On March 18, 1935, the last train left the Murrieta Depot. Then the railroad tracks were removed south of Lake Elsinore and the train _____ was taken apart and carted away. Later the railroad became a paved automobile road called New Clay Road.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Activity 2: Think About It

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

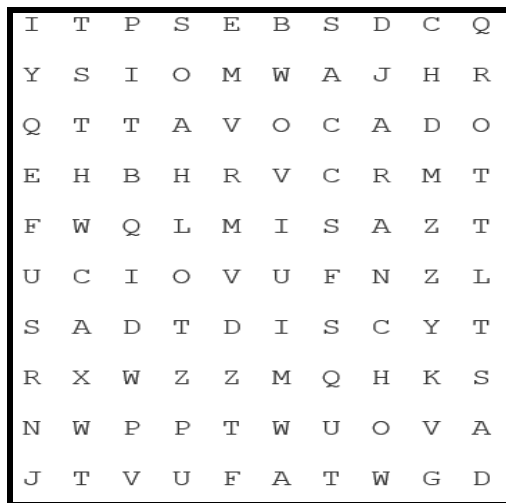
1. Temecula residents told the train company that building the railroad through the Santa Margarita Canyon was a bad idea. What was wrong with laying the tracks through the canyon? _____

2. What would have been a better railroad route? _____

3. Why is it better to build a road on high ground rather than on low ground? _____

Activity 3: Word Search

Directions: Find the following words: depot, developer, found, grain, livestock



Extra Activity:

Directions: With a partner or in a small group study the map on page 1.

1. If the railroad tracks were missing between Temecula and Oceanside, how would a Murrieta resident take the train to San Diego? _____

2. What would be a shorter route for a Murrieta resident to travel to San Diego? _____

3. What are two reasons why the railroad tracks should be rebuilt between Temecula and Oceanside? _____

4. Create a small poster asking for money to rebuild the railroad. List reasons why people should contribute to your cause.