



Research Report

Topic “How did trains and railroads change life in America?”

Level : L7

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We traveled by horse before the 1800s when there weren't any trains or railroads. After the 1800s, we traveled by train because it was safer and faster than horses. It also cost less than horses. We use trains for traveling and business. Trains are faster, safer, and cheaper, while horses are dangerous, slower, and expensive. So would every person travel by train or horse? Did trains make life easier?





Trains reduced transportation time drastically. It also made traveling more comfortable. They allowed things like meat, vegetables, and another food products to be delivered across the country. They have beds for us to sleep well so we won't be too cold or in danger while traveling. Before railroads, it took almost six months to travel from California to New York. With railroads, it only cost US\$150 and took one week.



Cornelius Vanderbilt built Grand Central Terminal in New York City and over 40% of the US' railways, creating 180,000 jobs. He said that he would contract all the railways in the United States. However, at the time he was almost 70 years old. He knew that the railways would become a new mode of transportation that everyone would use, so he sold his company and invested all of his money in railways. He became a railroad tycoon.

Amtrak (a portmanteau of the words America and train) employs more than 20,000 people. Its national total route is 35,000km long, and its service covers 46 US states and three provinces in Canada, with a total of about 500 stations. In 2012, a total of 31.2 million passengers were transported, with a cumulative income of US\$2 billion. It operates 1250 trains every day, but its derailment accident rate is only 1%.

In conclusion, I think Cornelius Vanderbilt is very smart. He changed life in America with railways. There is a famous saying by Cornelius Vanderbilt: "You have undertaken to cheat me. I won't sue you, for the law is too slow. I'll ruin you." I like his spirit and I think he is a very intelligent person.

