**Railroads in Iowa Pt. 1**

**Geological Picnic in Iowa**

The geologists in this photo were exploring the land. Looking at the landscape in the photo, do you think this would be a good place to build railroad tracks? Why or why not?

**Kansan Topography in Coralville, Iowa**

The railroad surveyors, architects and engineers had to consider many different landforms in Iowa. What would be involved with planning and laying a railroad line in this area?

**Limestone Cliff in Durango, Iowa**

Notice the geography in this area. What would have been challenging for people to plan and build a railroad line in this particular area?

**Railroad Cut Through Maquoketa Shales**

What do you notice about the hillside and the railroad tracks in this photo?How might the land around railroad tracks impact the trains?

**Iowa Map Issued by the Board of Railroad Commissioners**

What do you notice about where the railroads meet? What do you predict that the rail cars are carrying?

**Routes of Proposed Railroads in Iowa**

What parts of the state of Iowa did the railroads have plans for in 1851? Why would they have plans for these areas? Based on this map, what were the railroads trying to connect?

**Railroads in Iowa Pt. 2**

**Business Done by Railroad in Pella, Iowa**

If you were to categorize this list of shipments, what would the category headings be? How did having access to railroad provide trade opportunities for the people in and around Pella, Iowa?

**Freight Traffic by Commodities from Union Pacific Annual Reports**

Which commodities increased from 1922 to 1931? Which decreased? These annual reports tell totals from all over the United States. Based on what you know, which commodities could have originated in Iowa?

**Iowa Grain Facilities Rail Map**

Which areas of the state have more grain distribution locations? Why do you think this is the case? How would having close access to grain distribution locations help farmers or manufacturers?

**What Fits in a Rail Car? Infographic**

Why do you think the American Association of Railroads highlighted these materials for their infographic?

**Farmers Load Potatoes onto Trian**

Most people think of Iowa farmers raising corn and soybeans today. What commodity did these farmers load onto the rail car? What could this tell us about how the commodities that Iowa farmers produce change over time?

**Pacific Fruit Express**

How did access to refrigeration change trade for perishable items such as meat, cheese and produce? Infer how that may affect people and society both positively and negatively. How were goods transported between producers and consumers before the railroad? Predict how changes in transportation methods benefitted the consumer. The producer? Who would be negatively impacted by these changes?

