## Impact of Railroads in Iowa Target Grade Level: 6th Grade

## Full Lesson Plan: <https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Article/Impact-of-Railroads-in-Iowa>

This document is meant for you, the teacher, to use to convert the lesson plan into a virtual learning module for your students. You can use the steps outlined below to create different elements of a Google Classroom lesson or other online learning module. You can also send the steps directly to your students in a PDF, present them in a virtual meeting, or plug them into any other virtual learning platform you use. Find more virtual lessons here: [Virtual Learning.](https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Other/Virtual-Learning)

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| Engage | Today, we are going to learn about transportation. Write down as many examples of transportation as you can think of. Think about transportation that is needed to move people, food, and other things to close and distant locations. On that list, circle any types of transportation that you yourself have used.  |
| Explore | Read the article: [How did the Railroad Shape the Landscape of Iowa?](https://iowaculture.gov/history/education/educator-resources/primary-source-sets/railroads-iowa-pt-2)  |
| Explain | Now, look at this [map](https://iowaculture.gov/history/education/educator-resources/primary-source-sets/railroads-iowa-pt-1/routes) from 1851 showing the proposed routes of railroads in Iowa, and answer these questions:* What parts of the state of Iowa did the railroads have plans for in 1851?
* The railroad tracks were trying to connect Chicago and Denver allowing agricultural products to be shipped East and West. The railroad also allowed for crops and livestock to be shipped to the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers for transport by barge.
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| Elaborate | Now, let’s look at some historical images of railroads in Iowa. Using the Historical Railroad Images document, review the images carefully and answer the question after each image. Share the completed document with your teacher.* [Historic Railroad Images](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OAb8qVSE56r0X4u_FWe-O4o3hypla_pVDvHf9LiJCU/copy?usp=sharing)
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| Evaluate | By 1900, farmers in Iowa were growing corn, oats, and hay, mainly to be fed to the animals on the farm. The animals on the farm were shipped to cities like Chicago to be butchered. Some of the crops were shipped to places like Cedar Rapids and the Quaker Oats Company to be turned into cereal. Now, write a paragraph describing why it was important to build railroads in Iowa in the 1850’s and how railroads were used to transport agricultural goods.   |