In the beginning of the 1800s, it took a long time to travel from the east side of the United States to the west side. People had to travel by wagon. Some people wanted a faster way. They wanted a railroad to connect the east and west.

In 1862, the United States government decided where the first railroad that would go across the country would be built. This was a transcontinental railroad. It was decided that two railroad companies would build the railroad.
They were the Union Pacific and Central Pacific.

The Union Pacific started building the railroad from Nebraska and went west. More than 8,000 Irish, German, and Italian immigrants worked for the Union Pacific.

The Central Pacific started building the railroad from California and went east. More than 10,000 Chinese immigrants worked for the company. The Chinese workers made up about 90% of all Central Pacific Railroad workers.

Building the transcontinental railroad was very difficult. The air temperature was sometimes very hot or very cold. Railroad workers also had to put tracks across or through rivers and mountains.

On May 10, 1869, the railroad was completed. After it opened, the railroad was a success. People could travel between the two sides much faster. By 1900, four more transcontinental railroads were completed.
1. In the beginning of the 1800s, it took a long time to travel from the east side of the United States to the west side. How did people have to travel across the country at this time?

   A. by train
   B. by wagon
   C. by walking

2. The text describes how the first transcontinental railroad was made. How does the text describe this process?

   A. very difficult
   B. very easy
   C. very confusing

3. Read the following sentences:

"The Union Pacific started building the railroad from Nebraska and went west. More than 8,000 Irish, German, and Italian immigrants worked for the Union Pacific.

The Central Pacific started building the railroad from California and went east. More than 10,000 Chinese immigrants worked for the company. The Chinese workers made up about 90% of all Central Pacific Railroad workers."

What does this information tell us about the people who worked to build the transcontinental railroad?

   A. Many of the people who worked on the railroad had been born and raised in America.
   B. Many of the people who worked on the railroad were either very old or very young.
   C. Many of the people who worked on the railroad had come to America from different parts of the world.
4. The transcontinental railroad made it possible for people to travel between the east and west sides of America much faster. Why did the transcontinental railroad make this possible?

   A. because it traveled from the east side to the west side of the country
   B. because its trains traveled a lot more quickly than any other trains made before it
   C. because it could get around traffic by traveling underground

5. What is the main idea of this text?

   A. In the beginning of the 1800s, it took a long time to travel from the east side of the United States to the west side. People had to travel by wagon.
   B. The first transcontinental railroad in America went from the east side to the west side of the country. This made it possible for people to travel across the country much more quickly.
   C. Building the first transcontinental railroad in America was very difficult. The air temperature was sometimes very hot or very cold.