**Explain two consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act (1862)**

Grade 9-7

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that a railroad was built which effectively connected the Eastern States to the western states like California. The prospect of building a railroad which stretched over 2,000km was seen as impossible by many private companies due to the large cost and difficulty of building on difficult terrain such as through the mountains of the west. This act therefore acted as incentive as it said that for every mile of track built the government would provide both the Union and Central Pacific companies with $16,000 as well as two miles of free land either side of the tracks. By May 1869, a railroad had been built from Omaha to Sacramento, California. The effect of this was the fuelling of America’s economy as it connected the western territories with the East. It meant that raw materials could be imported from Asia to the west coast and transported to the industrial areas in the west thus fuelling America’s industrial development. It also helped the cattle industries, as Texas cattlemen could transport and sell their cattle at high prices in the east via rail towns like Adeline.

A second consequence was that it fuelled westward expansion. By 1869, the government had given the two companies 45 million acres of free land, as well as $61 million. The railroad companies used marketing to encourage settlers to buy their land grants for cheap. They laid on special trips to show possible buyers the attractions of the area and even offered loans to help people buy their land. This encourage thousands of people in the east to settle in the Midwest. This had the further impact of more immigration to the United States. Rail companies sent agents to persuade people from foreign countries to settle on their land. For example; 60,000 Germans emigrated to Kansas and 10,000 Scandinavians settled in Nebraska.

**Explain two consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act (1862)**

Grade 6

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that a railroad was built across the country. This act acted as incentive as it said that for every mile of track built the government would provide both the Union and Central Pacific companies with $16,000 as well as two miles of free land either side of the tracks. By May 1869, a railroad had been built across the entire country. This had the further impact of fuelling America’s economy as it connected the western territories with the East. It meant that raw materials could be imported from Asia to the west coast and transported to the industrial areas in the west thus fuelling America’s industrial development.

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**Explain two consequences of the Pacific Railroad Act (1862)**

Grade 3

One consequence of the Pacific Railroad Act was that a railroad was built across the country. Two companies, the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, raced each other to build a railway in order to get more money and land. The government had told them that for every mile they built they would get money and land on either side of the tracks. By 1869, the had finished their railway. This was important as it helped America become more wealthy – goods could be transported much quicker.

A second consequence was that it encouraged people to go west. The railroad companies used marketing to encourage settlers to buy their land grants for cheap. They laid on special trips to show possible buyers the attractions of the area and even offered loans to help people buy their land. This encourage thousands of people in the east to settle in the Midwest. This had the further impact of more immigration to the United States.