

Name _____

Date _____

Main Idea Puzzler

Title: _____

When the first train tracks were put into place across the entire United States in 1869, officials had a problem. Each town along the way set its clock by the noonday sun. So, the time was never exactly the same from place to place. It was hard to have a reliable train schedule with this system. So, in 1883, railroad owners, scientists, and businessmen came up with four time zones across the country: Eastern Time, Central Time, Mountain Time, and Pacific Time. This new system was called Standard Railway Time. Today, these are the time zones in use across the United States.

Detail:	Main Idea:	Detail:
Detail:		Detail:



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Answer the multiple choice questions below using the passage above.

- 1) The main idea of the passage is
 - (a) The first cross-country railroad
 - (b) Trains that were never on time
 - (c) Different times in different places
 - (d) How railroads resulted in time zones.

- 2) One detail from the passage is
 - (a) Standard Railway Time was set up
 - (b) Sometimes the sun didn't shine
 - (c) There were 80 time zones in 1869
 - (d) Towns built railroad stations