

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# **1877 National Railroad Strike**

In 1877 there was a national recession in the United States. One of the primary industries affected was the railroad industry. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company had reduced their employees wages by fifty percent.

On July 11th, 1877 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company announced an additional ten percent wage cut that would take effect on July 16th, 1877. On that day, July 16th a strike began at the Martinsburg Roundhouse. They shut down the Martinsburg yard, and obstructed incoming freight trains, only allowing mail and passenger trains to pass through. The West Virginia governor called in the state militia to end the strike. As the strike continued the President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, sent federal troops to Martinsburg.

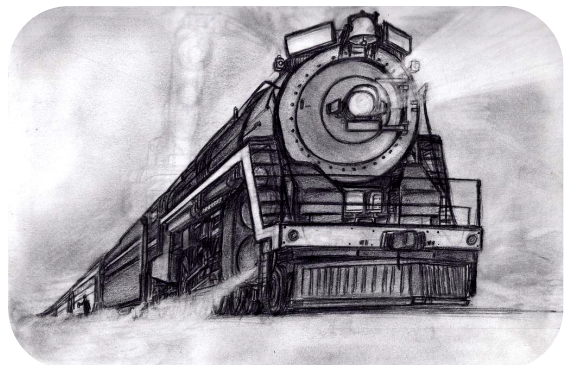
The strike spread to other Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company sites, and then to other railroad companies across the nation. Some cities that were main sites of unrest were Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Baltimore. Governors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Illinois also called in their state militias to suppress the strikes by rail workers. The militiamen sent to Pittsburgh eventually joined the strike. National troops were then sent from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

The strikes eventually dissipated due to the disorganized nature of the strikes. There was no official leadership and a lack of communication between rail workers. The railroad strike last forty-five days. There were no tangible consequences to the National Railroad Strike of 1877 as no reforms were made to the wages or working conditions.

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**Answer the following questions based on the reading and your knowledge of local history.**

1. The Baltimore & Ohio railroad cut their employees wages by an additional \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - a) 10%
  - b) 50%
  - c) 25%
  
2. What event was the main result of the pay cut? What actions were taken during this event?
  
3. What were the national impacts that this event had? Why is this significant?
  
4. How did cities and governors respond to these events?
  
5. Who was the President of the United States when
  - a) Zachary Taylor
  - b) Rutherford B. Hayes
  - c) James A. Garfield
6. In which city did the militia join the strike?
  - a) Chicago
  - b) Pittsburgh
  - c) Baltimore
7. What were some of the long term consequences of the 1877 National Railroad Strike?





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## Civil War Source Analysis

**Directions:** Read the excerpts from the Civil War letters. Interpret the letter to answer the questions below.

Quartermaster's Office Strasburg, VA Aug. 10, 1861

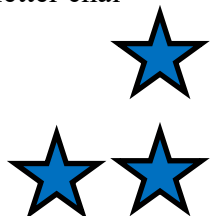
Col. Angus McDonald: My Dear Sir:

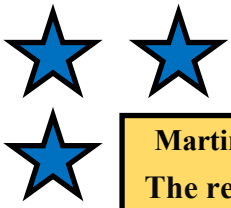
I introduce to your acquaintance and particular attention to my friend, Mr. Sharpe, the "Special Agent of the Confederate States." I have no doubt you are fully aware of the important services Mr. Sharpe has rendered in his prompt and successful removal of a large number of locomotives to this place from Martinsburg for the use of the Southern Confederacy. He has just returned from a most remarkable and eminently successful enterprise, vix., the removal of two splendid engines from Leesburg to Piedmont Depot on the M.J.R.R, the accomplishment of which has attracted the attention and elicited the admiration of all in that section of the country and the congratulations and thanks to the officers of the R.R Company. Mr. Sharpe now only needs your protecting wing to complete his valuable labours in another direction, the importance of which, I feel confident you will fully appreciate, and after his explanation and evidence of his authority to embark in the matter, will elicit your full approbation and protection. Knowing your eagerness to "prey upon the enemy" and engage in all that would add to our cause and their discomfort, I leave Mr. Sharpe to explain everything to you himself.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

W.T Jones

1. Who wrote this letter? From the information and tone of the letter what side of the war was the author on and explain why you think so?
2. What type of source is this? Why does this material fall into that category?
3. What event is this letter describing?
4. How does the author describe this event and what does their description tell the reader about the event and the author?
5. Who does this letter attribute the success of the train raid to? How does the information in this letter challenge popular depictions of Jackson's Raid of the railroad?





**Martinsburg, Virginia March, 1862**

**The rebels have left their mark here. Forty-four locomotives stand on the track here-all a perfect wreck; a fine bridge, some 300 feet long, built on 16 stone pillars, formerly a splendid structure is now a heap of rubbish; 2-3 miles out of the city on the railroad track there is a deep run completely filled with demolished locomotives, passenger and other cars; the workshops have been stripped of all their tools and machinery, and the wonder is that they too are not destroyed-even the turn-tables are all gone. It would be gratifying to see the fiends that accomplished this whole sale destruction of property hanging from tall gibbets along the ling of the operations. The Union vote in the county of Berkeley was 800.**

**Signed Proch, Co. G, 14th Indiana Regiment**

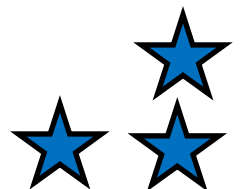
6. Based on the tone and information in the letter, who is this letter from and how do they feel about the raid on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad?

7. What information is provided in this letter that is not provide in the first letter? How does this add to the understanding of the event?

8. How does this description of the raid differ from the first letter?

9. What were the consequences of the destruction? What evidence leads you to that conclusion?

10. What have these two letters in conjunction with each other taught you about the Confederate Raid of the Railroad?



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# Internet Scavenger Hunt:

## Martinsburg Roundhouse



The Martinsburg Roundhouse was an integral part of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company. It was also one of the economic hubs of Martinsburg, and of Berkeley County. Currently, it serves as a venue site and is a National Historic Landmark. Use the roundhouse website and find an additional website to answer the questions below.

**Website:** The Martinsburg Roundhouse

**Url:** <https://www.themartinsburgroundhouse.com/history>

**Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Url:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name one event that effected the Martinsburg Roundhouse and what impacts did it have?

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2. What was one interesting fact about the roundhouse or local history, and why did you find that interesting?

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3. What impact did the Martinsburg Roundhouse have on city?

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4. Why does the Martinsburg Roundhouse matter historically?

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5. What questions do you still have about the Martinsburg Roundhouse?

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# S.P.I.C.E CHART

**Directions:** Write down observations and information about the local, state, and national history discussed in the video that apply to each of these categories.

<p><b>Social</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>General Lifestyle</b></li><li>• <b>Gender Roles &amp; Relations</b></li><li>• <b>Social &amp; Economic Class</b></li></ul>	
<p><b>Political</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Leaders &amp; Elites</b></li><li>• <b>Political Structures</b></li><li>• <b>Revolts &amp; Revolutions</b></li></ul>	
<p><b>Interaction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Demography &amp; Disease</b></li><li>• <b>Migration</b></li><li>• <b>Technology</b></li></ul>	
<p><b>Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Religions</b></li><li>• <b>Belief Systems</b></li><li>• <b>Science &amp; Technology</b></li></ul>	
<p><b>Economics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Trade &amp; Commerce</b></li><li>• <b>Industrialization</b></li><li>• <b>Labor Systems</b></li></ul>	