



California Gold Rush

The Gold Rush had a profound impact on the U.S. transportation system. Before 1848, most travel was done by horse and carriage. Miners could spend three to six months just getting to California. But travel to California increased exponentially in 1849, and continued for years. Though the gold rush was considered over by 1855, people continued to want to travel to California. Support increased for the Transcontinental Railroad project, which began construction in 1863.

Was the expedited construction of the Transcontinental Railroad a positive or a negative effect of the gold rush for the country as a whole?

Was it a positive or a negative effect of the gold rush for California?