



Name _____

Date _____

Student Reading 13.5: Railroads

Around the time that the **canals** were being completed, the building of **railroads** began. Rail soon replaced the canals as the major transportation system in Ohio. Railroads had three important advantages over canals. They connected communities that did not have canal service, they provided faster travel for passengers and cargo, and they did not freeze in the winter.

Most of Ohio's early rails connected towns within the state or only went a short distance to neighboring states. The first railroad completed in Ohio connected Toledo with Adrian, Michigan. This changed in the mid-1850s when the



(Deshler railroad hub. Courtesy of Ohio History Connection.)

Baltimore and Ohio
Railroad crossed the
Appalachian Mountains
and came to Ohio. This was
the first railroad to connect



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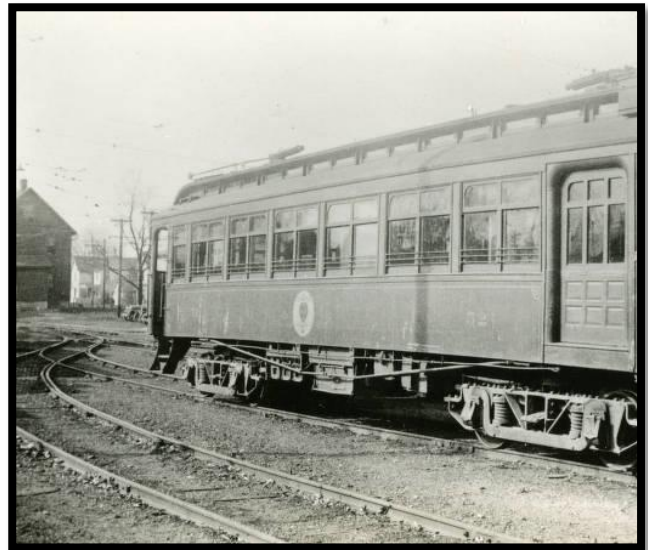
Ohio with the eastern states.

Growth and importance of railroads increased after the Civil War. By 1910, there were more than 9,500 miles of track in the state. Most new track was built to accommodate the new industrial centers like Cleveland, Youngstown, and Akron.

This growth lasted until after World War II when cars and airplanes became a more popular way for people to travel.

Today in Ohio, many railroads

have stopped service. Much of the track has been sold to cities. Towns like Newark and Cincinnati have converted the tracks to recreational areas, bike paths and walking trails. Railroads still have an important role in the transportation of freight.



(By the 1890s, cities around the nation began to replace horse-drawn trolleys and cable cars with electric cars. Courtesy of Ohio History Connection.)



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Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What are three important reasons that railroads replaced canals?

2. Most railroads today are used for transporting:

- a. People
- b. Livestock
- c. Freight
- d. Mail