To the Teacher

Major Theme
How trains effected change on the growth of cities and farms

Subtheme
Immigrant and migrant workers

Preparation
Make 4 copies of the image cards (cut apart), the Clues sheet, and the Mapping the Big Idea sheet.

Activity One: Image Cards
Grade Level: All
1. What’s the Connection?
Divide the class into 4 groups. Give each group a photocopy of the 6 image cards and questions for visual analysis. Assign an image to each student. Direct students to answer the questions for their image. Then have them hypothesize how each image might be connected to the locomotive. (20 minutes)

2. Using Secondary Sources
Pass out the Clues sheet to each group. Ask students to read the additional information about their images to each other (perhaps in a round-robin format), then adjust their group hypotheses. Each group should share their conclusions with the class. (15 minutes)

Activity Two: Mapping the Big Idea
Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School
Each group should review the map and synthesize the information by answering the questions. (20 minutes)

Activity Three: Taking a Deeper Look
Chinese Exclusion Act
Grade Level: Middle and High School
Primary-source document: political cartoon
1. Answer the document-based questions.
2. Divide the class into 5 groups, each representing a specific point of view listed on the activity sheet. Each group must share its point of view on this issue. Begin by referring to the Clues sheet from Activity One. Additional research is suggested on the activity sheet.

Activity Four: What about Your Neighborhood?
Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School
Students research the region they live in and learn more about food and families during this time period.

National History Standards: ERA 6 1870–1900 Development of the Industrial United States
1A availability of new consumer goods; 1B immigration and migrations of workers;
1C relationship of transportation and farming
2A/B ethnic conflict, anti-Chinese movements; 2C new forms of leisure
3A/C the Populist Movement and railroad monopoly building