To the Teacher

Major Theme
United States's dependence on railroad commerce

Subtheme
Struggle for racial equality

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. Match the Worker
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. Based on this looking activity, direct students to match a worker card to a partnering image that demonstrates the impact or outcome of his or her work. If desired, provide the Clues sheet before matching the image cards. (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
Struggling for Racial Equality
Grade Level: Middle and High School
Primary-source document: architectural plan for the Salisbury, North Carolina, train station
1. Answer the document-based questions.
2. Review this topic by considering the issues listed and conducting a debate.

Activity Four: What about Your Neighborhood?
Grade Level: Elementary and Middle School
Students research the region they live in and learn more about workers, industry, and racial issues.

National History Standards: ERA 7 1890–1930 Emergence of Modern America
1A industrial capitalism and the railroads
3A/B/C social tensions, impact of Jim Crow laws, early civil rights movement, great migration