



# *The Railroad Comes to Lewes*

## LESSON PLAN #6 Monday, April 27

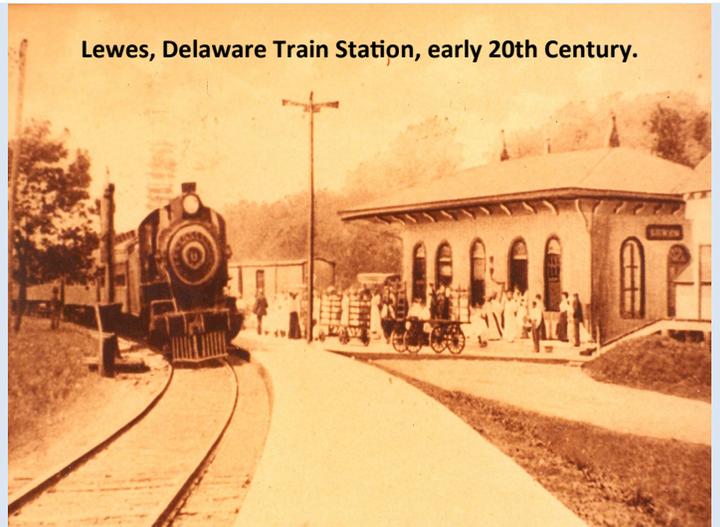
### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Railroads have played an integral part in the history of America. This country's first steam locomotive made its debut in 1830. Over the next two decades, railroad tracks called "lines" were constructed that linked many cities on the East Coast. By 1850, some 9,000 miles of track had been laid east of the Missouri River. During that same period, the first settlers began to move westward across the United States. The Transcontinental Railroad was built between 1863 and 1869. The building of the Transcontinental Railroad was an aid to western expansion, which stretched from the Midwest of the United States to the West Coast. It connected three separate parts of the country into one. No longer would people travel in long wagon trains that took months to reach the West. The general public could now travel faster, safer, and cheaper by train. In addition to people, things like mail, supplies, and trade goods could now be shipped across the country in just a few days. In Delmarva, The Queen Anne's Railroad company (in the Eastern part of the United States) was formed in 1894. Tracks ran from Kent Island, Maryland to Lewes, Delaware. In 1905, Queen Anne's Railroad became the property of the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia Railway Company (MD&V), a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad. From 1905 through the 1920s, the railroad shuttled passengers along the Kent Island to Lewes route. By the early 1930's the increased use of automobiles resulted in the closing of the MD&V.

1869 connection between Union Pacific and Central Pacific railway lines.



Lewes, Delaware Train Station, early 20th Century.



### Research Questions:

- ◆ Why did the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad have a positive effect on the economy of the United States?
- ◆ By the 1930s, the Queen Anne's line was no longer transporting passengers. What technological innovation caused many railroads to lose passengers during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?
- ◆ Are railroads still in use in America today? Give one example where railroads are being used to contribute to today's economy.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Please watch this short YouTube video on the Transcontinental Railroad:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CdAzizWiyI>

Please watch this short YouTube video on the Queen Anne's Railroad in Delaware

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWTVpeSB3j8>