

Names _____

Big Projects Investigation Guide

Big Project: _____

Directions: Using the websites and resources provided by your teacher, complete this investigation guide for your big project. Your answers should be thorough and factual. You will use this information to create a movie trailer or radio-podcast advertisement promoting a fictitious documentary devoted to the big project, similar to what you saw in the Iron Rails opening section titled "An Impossible Dream."

1) During what years was this big project developed or built? _____

2) What motivated this big project, or why was it built. *For example, the Copper River and Northwestern Railway was built to transport copper ore from Kennecott to Cordova.*

3) Describe some of the main players who were involved with this big project. What role did they serve and how would you describe them? *For example, Mike Heney was considered one of the best railroad construction foremen in the world. He was a no nonsense guy. He was driven, and believed he could conquer any geographic obstacle that stood in the way of his railroad.*

4) Describe some of the hardships or difficulties that were faced by the men who worked on this project? *For example, the men who built the Copper River and Northwestern Railway had to contend with avalanches, rock slides, permafrost, calving glaciers, mosquitoes, and temperatures that dropped to 50 - 60 below zero.*

5) How did this project change Alaska? What was the long-term impact of this project? *For example, the copper railway project fueled by Progressivism in America forced the federal government to battle against monopolies that sought to control Alaska's resources. The whole experience with the Morgan Guggenheim Syndicate prompted the federal government to build the first government railroad, the Alaska Railroad. Bob Bartlett, a delegate to the 1955 Alaska Constitutional Convention, spoke about the importance of creating a state constitution where the state managed its own resources to protect against outside monopolies such as the Morgan Guggenheim Syndicate.*

6) Write down any pithy, or memorable, quotes from some of the readings you encountered.
