

# MARTINSBURG ROUNDHOUSE VIRTUAL TOUR



## GRADES 6-8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# SOURCES FROM THE RAILROAD

**Definitions:** Primary source is a original record or item from historical periods or events and are written or made by people who were at that event. Examples of primary sources are letters or diaries. A secondary source is a document or video that speaks about historical people and events but is one step removed, written in a different time or by a person who was not there. Examples of secondary sources are books written after the events happened.

**Directions:** Identify if these items are primary or secondary sources by filling in the bubble.

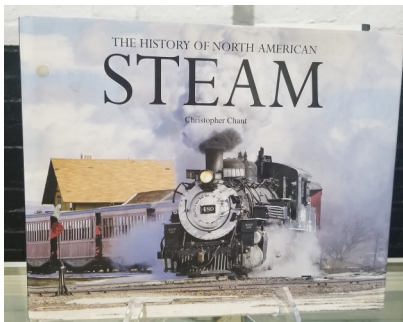


1. This is a ticket stub for a person travelling to Huntington, West Virginia in the 1930s. The ticket stub is from the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company.

Primary  Secondary

2. These are railroad spikes. These were used to hold railroad tracks to the ground.

Primary  Secondary

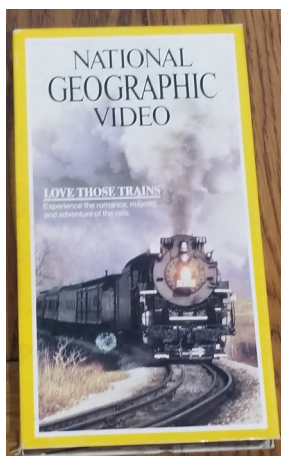


3. This is a book about steam engine history.

Primary  Secondary

4. This is a newspaper article about the closing of the roundhouse written in the year the roundhouse closed.

Primary  Secondary



5. This is a National Geographic documentary "Love Those Trains"

Primary  Secondary

# Local History: Martinsburg Roundhouse

Name:

Date:

Period:

Use information from the Martinsburg Roundhouse virtual tour to complete the following sentence. For each sentence determine the appropriate word from the word bank to complete the statement.

**Belle Boyd**

**Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company**

**1877**

**frog and switch**

**37**

**Mothers**

**wood**

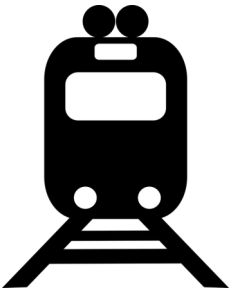
**Fire**

**blacksmith**

**national railroad strike**

**Jackson's Raid**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was a spy for the Confederacy during the Civil War.
2. Martinsburg went back and forth between the Union and Confederate armies a total of \_\_\_\_\_ times.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ owned the Martinsburg Roundhouse and arrived in Martinsburg in 1842.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are types of track used to move the direction of the train and from one track to another.
5. A train wreck and \_\_\_\_\_ are the two disasters that happened in the East Roundhouse.
6. The friction saw at the roundhouse was so loud that \_\_\_\_\_ protested to have the saw shut down for two hours a day.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ made parts for trains and tools for the roundhouse shops.
8. So the metal wouldn't shatter the floors were made of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Miles of track and the Martinsburg Roundhouse were destroyed during \_\_\_\_\_.
10. In \_\_\_\_\_ workers at the Martinsburg Roundhouse worked together to protest and start a \_\_\_\_\_.



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# The Martinsburg Roundhouse

**Directions:** Reflect on the information you learned in the video and then answer the questions below.

1. What are did you learn about Civil War in the Martinsburg Roundhouse video?

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2. In the video the tour guide mentions the split loyalties between the Union and Confederacy in Martinsburg, explain some reasons why Berkeley County was split between the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War.

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3. What are some the unique engineering marvels that exist in Martinsburg? What do you think were some of the impacts this technology?

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4. Name a few of the impacts that the railroad and roundhouse had on the city of Martinsburg.

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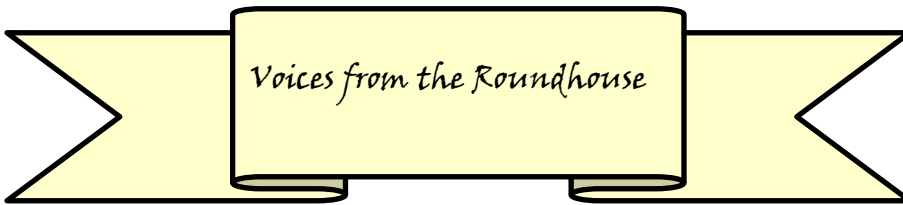
5. What more would you like to learn about Martinsburg, the railroad, or the Civil War?

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The information below describes the variety of jobs that people could work there and the timeline of events. Use this information in the activity on the next sheet.**

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## What?

Some of the jobs for the railroad and the roundhouse included; brakeman, fireman, laborer, blacksmith, machinist, trackman, foreman, conductor, and yard clerk. Here are some brief definitions of what these jobs entailed.

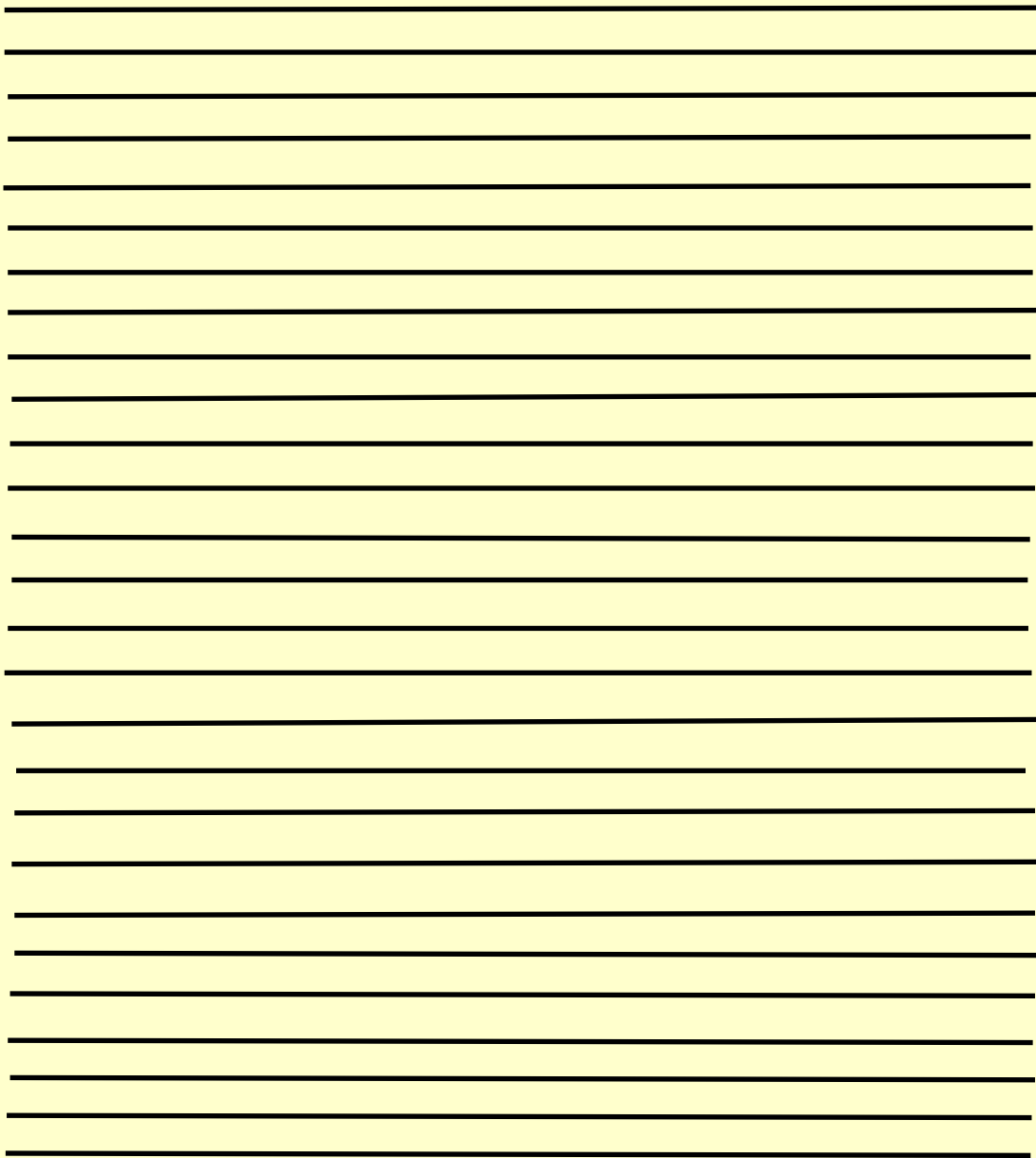
- **Brakeman**—these people worked on the train, they assisted in the braking of the train and individual cars
- **Fireman**— tended to the fire and running the boiler which would power the steam engine
- **Laborer**— did manual labor and odd jobs around on the railroad and at the roundhouse, entry position to working at the roundhouse and on the railroad
- **Blacksmith**— a person who made things, tools, and repairs in iron by hand
- **Machinist**— operated machines in the Frog and Switch shop, Bridge and Machine shop, and the roundhouse
- **Yard clerk**— kept records of the cars in the yard, reports movement of railroad cars, prepares orders of trains
- **Conductor**— check tickets, ensure passenger safety, and oversee train cargo
- **Foreman**— manage and delegate daily tasks, ensure safety procedures, and oversee the site
- **Trackman**— construct and maintain railroad track and bridges, this includes replacing old railroad spikes

## When?

- The railroad arrived in Martinsburg in 1842, and a roundhouse was then built in the town in 1849. The roundhouse serviced trains from Baltimore. This site operated as a roundhouse until 1861 when it was burned down. The destruction of the roundhouse was part of a year long military attack on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad by the Confederates. General Sharp ordered the then Colonel Jackson to capture locomotives and destroy the trains and supplies that could not easily be moved. The locomotives, tracks, and tools were all moved south to Strasburg. This was a part of the Confederate efforts against the Union during the Civil War.
- The Martinsburg Roundhouse was rebuilt promptly after the end of the Civil War, the war ended in 1865 and the roundhouse and its shops (West Roundhouse, Frog and Switch Shop, and Bridge and Machine Shop) were reconstructed in 1866.
- Another important event that occurred at the Martinsburg complex was the start of the 1877 Railroad Strike. On July 11th, 1877 the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company announced that they were going to cut their workers wages. Then on July 16, 1877 the strike began when firemen and brakemen blocked freight trains from leaving and passing through Martinsburg. This strike spread across the nation.
- The Martinsburg Roundhouse complex became a maintenance away shop in the 1930s, performing needed repairs to trains and construct bridge kits.
- The roundhouse complex became a part of the CSX Transportation company and was owned by CSX until it closed in 1989.

# Voices from the Roundhouse

**Directions:** Using the information on the first page, the information from the virtual tour, and your imagination write a fake letter as a person who works at the Martinsburg Roundhouse to someone who lives outside of West Virginia. What year is it? What's going on in Martinsburg and the United States? What trains are coming through?



A large yellow scroll with a black outline, designed to look like a piece of parchment or a letter. The scroll is unrolled, showing a series of horizontal black lines for writing. The top and bottom edges of the scroll are curved, and there are small circular tabs at the top and bottom left corners, suggesting where the scroll would be rolled up. The scroll is positioned in the lower half of the page, below the directions.

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Period:**

# The Martinsburg Roundhouse

**Directions:** Draw a line and match the cause with its effect

## Cause

1. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company announces a mass pay cut of their employees wages in 1877.
2. General Jackson was ordered to capture and destroy locomotives at the Martinsburg Roundhouse.
3. Mothers in the residential neighborhood near the roundhouse protested at the roundhouse because of how loud the saw was.
4. The Martinsburg Roundhouse was burnt down during the Confederate raid of the railroad.
5. The roundhouse became a maintenance away shop in 1930s.
6. In 1849 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built a roundhouse in Martinsburg.

## Effect

1. Multiple people in Martinsburg lost there job, and impacted the town's loyalties during the Civil War.
2. A blacksmith shop had to be added to the roundhouse complex, as well as the converting the car shop into a frog and switch shop, and the wood and machine shop became the bridge and machine shop.
3. Employees at the Martinsburg Roundhouse started a strike which spread across the United States.
4. The Martinsburg Roundhouse shut down the friction saw from the hours of 11 am to 1 pm.
5. A new industry came to Martinsburg, adding new jobs to the town.
6. Jackson and Confederate soldiers burnt down the Martinsburg Roundhouse in 1861.

**Name:**

**Directions:** Match the event or person with the definition

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad  
Jackson's Raid

1877 Railroad Strike  
Albert Fink

Belle Boyd

1. This company was established in 1828 and first came to Martinsburg in 1842. They then built a roundhouse in Martinsburg in 1849.

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2. This person grew up in Martinsburg. She served as a spy for the Confederacy starting in 1861. She was imprisoned multiple times between 1863 and 1864. Eventually she exiled to Canada and then moved to England. There she became an actress.

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3. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company announced numerous pay cuts for their workers. On July 16 the employees of the Martinsburg Roundhouse started a protest. These workers damaged freight trains and only allowed mail and passenger trains to pass. This protest then spread to other B & O sites and railroad companies.

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4. During the Civil War the Confederates under the direction of this general destroyed miles of railroad track. One of the targets of this attack was the Martinsburg Roundhouse which was burned down in 1861.

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5. The person who designed the architectural style of the roundhouse, which is a spider web of octagonal support columns with a combination of a dome and shed roof.

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