

Before you begin your journey, you will need:

- · Backpack with:
 - · This worksheet
 - Pen or pencil
 - Snacks
 - Water
 - First Aid kit
 - Bicycle repair kit/air pump
 - Cell phone
- Bicycle
- Bicycle helmet (helmets are required for all youth 16 years of age and younger)

The responsibilities of the railroad conductor included making sure the train stayed on schedule, ensuring the train engineer followed safety rules and practices, performing customer service duties on passenger trains, and overseeing the proper pickup and delivery of cargo on freight trains.

As you bike along the trail, you'll be directed to stop at certain landmarks to learn more about the conductor's important job as a railroad employee. Let's begin!

Before you begin your ride, check the time and make note of it here:	
Your ride to the next railroad town (Sparks) will be in approximately 3 miles. At what	
time do you think you'll arrive? Remember, you'll be making some stops along the wa	ay!
Write your prediction here:	
Like a conductor, you'll be responsible for making sure you arrive "on time!" Check the	ne
time table below to see how long it took the train to depart Cockeysville and arrive at	t
Sparks:	

NORTHERN CENTRAL BAILWAY LINE.

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J. D. CAMERON, Pres., Harrisburg, Pa. C. G. MILLER, Vice Pres., New York, John S. Leib, Treas., Baltimore, Md.
Stephen Little, Auditor. Robert S. Hollins, Secretary, Baltimore, Md.
J. N. DeBarry, Gen. Superintendent, Harrisburg, Pa. J. A. Redfield, Asst. Gen. Supt., Elmira, N.Y.
Edwin S. Young, General Ticket Agent. J. M. Drill, General Eastern Freight Agent, Baltimore, Md.
E. L. Bubarry, Assist. Supt., Harrisburg, Pa. S. S. Blair, Supt., Baltimore Division, Baltimore, M.
E. S. Bowen, Division Superinte, dent, Elmira, N.Y. A. R. Fiske, Supt., Shanokin Div., Shamokin, Pa.
Hugh Pitcairn, Superintendent, Susquehana Division, Harrisburg, Pa. H. S. Goodwin, Chief Engineer.
Isaac M. Schermerhorn, General Western Freight Agent, Buffalo, N.Y.

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PAGE 2 OF 6

Now it's time to begin our bike ride! First, head North on the trail, by turning right onto the trail from the asphalt path.

You'll soon pass a red, yellow and black marker on the side of the trail. This is a mileage marker that indicates where you are on the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail. The Rail Trail begins in Ashland, at mile 0, and ends at the Pennsylvania line, falling just short of 18 miles. Keep riding!



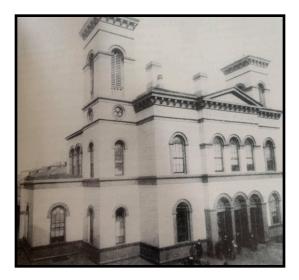


As you continue to ride, a little after half a mile you'll pass another marker on the side of the trail! This white post with black numbers painted on each side facing the trail were used to tell the train engineer where they were on the trail. Facing the marker, the mileage on the right side indicates the distance to Sunbury, Pennsylvania and on the left side, the distance to the former site of the railroad's Calvert Street Station in Baltimore.

Conductors would also keep a written log of the journey. Let's start a log for your journey!

CONDUCTOR''S LOG (your name here!)
How many miles away from Sunbury, PA are you?
How many miles away from Baltimore are you?
What's the weather like?
What are the trail conditions like?
Have you seen any cool things on the trail?

Now that you've started your log, let's continue the ride. We'll be taking another break once we reach the Phoenix parking lot. Once you've arrived, find the interpretive panel on the righthand side of the trail. Read over it, and reflect on the scenery around you!



Conductors would check train cars to make sure they were loaded with the correct cargo and that train cars were not carrying too much weight.

Pictured to the left is the magnificent former Calvert Street Station in Baltimore. This Station once combined both passenger and cargo services. After reading through the interpretive panel, what types of goods do you think trains on the Northern Central Railway carried?

While standing in front of the interpretive panel and looking out over the parking lot, can you see the pond on the other side of the road that is the remains of the old millrace for the Phoenix Mill? Now that humans are no longer using the waterway for industrial purposes, what animals do you think now call that pond home? Draw them below:

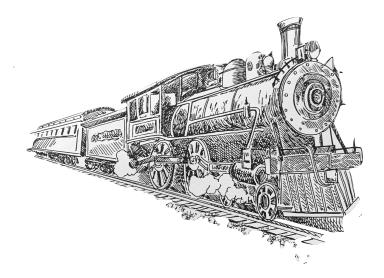


Shortly before reaching Sparks, you'll pass a large white post with a prominent black "W." These posts were installed to instruct train engineers to repeatedly sound a whistle (on steam locomotives) or air horn (on diesel-electric locomotives) as they approached a road crossing. The whistle pattern was typically two long notes, followed by a short note and another long note. Can you imitate a train whistle as you bike past?

Congratulations! You've successfully made it to Sparks. Did you arrive on time? _____

If you are visiting the trail on a Saturday or Sunday, the Sparks Bank Nature Center (formerly a bank serving the Sparks community from 1916 to 1954) is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Stop in to view some interpretive displays, meet an animal ambassador, and participate in fun family-friendly nature activities!

Be sure to stamp your passport with the stamp found in the box on the bulletin board back near the parking lot at Paper Mill! The code to open the lock on the box is 1854.



Pictures of the historic Northern Central Railway courtesy of the Maryland State Archives.