Pullman’s Company Town

In 1880 George Pullman, the founder of the Pullman Palace Car Company, built a town named after himself near Chicago, Illinois. The company’s workers who lived in the town of Pullman paid high rents. When an economic depression began in 1893, Pullman cut his workers’ wages, but he did not lower their rent. In response, the workers began a bitter labor dispute that became known as the Pullman strike.

MAP ACTIVITY

1. Use a bright color to trace the railroad routes that pointed south from Pullman.

2. Use a different color to shade the shortest route that one would travel from Pullman to Minneapolis.

3. Shade the area that shows where visitors might stay in Pullman.
4. Circle the area on the map that shows where Pullman workers might have shopped.

5. Draw a square around the area where the Pullman Company stored wood.

**ANALYZING MAPS**

1. **Location** Describe the location of the town of Pullman.

2. **Identifying** In what part of Pullman did the company produce its goods?

3. **Movement** Why do you think a railroad line ran alongside the town of Pullman? What other features of the town may have been used for transportation?

4. **Evaluating** During the Pullman strike, many rail lines around Chicago shut down. Use the map to evaluate how the strike may have affected the nation’s transportation system.

5. **Human/Environment Interaction** List the advantages and disadvantages of living in Pullman as an employee of the company.