The 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, signed a document called the Pacific Railway Act that created Union Pacific Railroad in 1862.
To connect the United States by rail, the Central Pacific Railroad built east from California and the Union Pacific Railroad built west from the Iowa/Nebraska border. On May 10, 1869, they met at Promontory Summit in Utah, and the whole country celebrated.
Locomotives have changed a lot over time — from steam to diesel. But they still do the same job — pull the train!
Union Pacific trains travel all over the West from the mountains to the sea – more than 32,000 miles.
Planet Earth loves trains because they are the greenest way to travel. Modern locomotives can carry one ton of freight about 450 miles on just one gallon of diesel fuel.
Trains are the safest way to move things over land.
Did you know that trains carry almost everything like food, clothes, cars, TVs and teddy bears?
Many of our trains run at more than 70 mph. That's faster than most animals. However, that's not as fast as the Peregrine falcon that can reach speeds of more than 200 mph.
Trains are like big polar bears. They are super cool, but keep your distance because they are dangerous up close.
Beware when crossing train tracks! If the lights are flashing:
stop, and wait for the train to pass and the gates to go back up.
Never try to beat a train.
When I grow up, I want to be a railroader. I could build bridges and design computer software, or I could be an engineer and operate the train.