

READING COMPREHENSION

GRADE 5

READ AND DISCOVER

Directions: Read "The Pony Express" and answer the questions.

1. What was the primary purpose of the Pony Express?
 A delivering gold to California
 B providing horses for cowboys
 C cutting travel time for mail delivery
 D building stagecoaches
2. In which year did the Pony Express start its mail service?
 A 1830
 B 1845
 C 1850
 D 1870
3. How long did the Pony Express take to deliver mail from Missouri to California?

THE PONY EXPRESS

Today, there are many ways to quickly send messages halfway across the world, whether it's a text, email, or even video chat. It is very easy for us to talk to people far away. That was not always the case. Long ago, people relied on the postal service to communicate with others.

In 1850, it took about 25 days to send a letter from one side of the United States to California. In those days, California was quickly growing. Thousands of people moved to California in hopes of finding gold. The problem was that because they moved so far away, it was hard to communicate with family and friends they had left behind on the other side of the country. It took a very long time to deliver messages, newspapers, and mail.

In 1850, three businessmen, William H. Russell, Alexander Majors, and William B. Waddell, made a solution. Together, they started the Pony Express. The Pony Express was a mail service that started in Joseph, Missouri. It stretched for 1,900 miles to Sacramento, California. They wanted to cut the travel time in half, so they wanted to be able to get a letter from Missouri to California in only 10 days. Many people thought this was impossible.

The three men knew that having riders instead of stagecoaches would be much faster and easier. They hired 120 riders and bought 400 horses. They also built 154 stations. Riders had to be under 125 pounds so that the horses didn't have to carry a heavy load. The riders were only allowed to take a gun for protection, some food, and their mochila.

The mochila (Spanish for backpack) was a pouch that carried the letters. Each pouch could hold up to 20 pounds of mail. There was a station every ten miles along the 1,900-mile route. The riders would ride a horse of full speed from one station to the next. They would then switch to a fresh horse and ride the next leg. They would ride both day and night.

Even though it worked well, the Pony Express only lasted for 19 months. Part of the reason was that it was very expensive to send a letter through the Pony Express. At first, the price was \$5 per 1/2 ounce. That would be about \$130 in today's money. The price was lowered, but a lot of people still couldn't afford it. The invention of the telegraph also caused the Pony Express to end. The telegraph allowed instant communication across the country. The Pony Express couldn't compete with that. On October 26, 1861, the Pony Express closed. This was just two days after the announcement of the transcontinental telegraph.

The Pony Express was an amazing service. It may seem very old-fashioned to us. When you think about it, though, it should make us much more thankful for the quick ways that we can communicate with people all over the world today.



Shelly Rees

Fan Favorite Reading Comprehension Workbook

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Fan Favorite Reading Comprehension Workbook:

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Growing Readers Kathy Collins, 2004 Primary grade teachers face an important challenge teaching children how to read while enabling them to build good habits so they fall in love with reading Many teachers find the independent reading workshop to be the component of reading instruction that meets this challenge because it makes it possible to teach the reading skills and strategies children need and guides them toward independence intention and joy as readers In Growing Readers Kathy Collins helps teachers plan for independent reading workshops in their own classrooms She describes the structure of the independent reading workshop and other components of a balanced literacy program that work together to ensure young students grow into strong well rounded readers Kathy outlines a sequence of possible units of study for a yearlong curriculum Chapters are devoted to the individual units of study and include a sample curriculum as well as examples of mini lessons and reading conferences There are also four Getting Ready sections that suggest some behind the scenes work teachers can do to prepare for the units Topics explored in these units include print and comprehension strategies reading in genres such as poetry and nonfiction connecting in school reading and out of school reading developing the strategies and habits of lifelong readers A series of planning sheets and management tips are presented throughout to help ensure smooth implementation We want our students to learn to read and we want them to love to read To do this we need to lay a foundation on which children build rich and purposeful reading lives that extend beyond the school day The ideas found in Growing Readers create the kind of primary classrooms where that happens **Southern Observer** ,1953

New Outlook ,1921 **Storytown Ride the Edge Theme 3 Grade 5** Harcourt School Publishers, Isabel L. Beck, 2005 *The Bookman's Journal and Print Collector* ,1923 Best Sellers ,1978 **The Forum** ,1928 The Mechanical Engineer's Reference Book for Machine and Boiler Construction Nelson Foley, 1891 **Youth's Companion** ,1920 **The Golden Book Magazine** ,1928 **The Video Source Book** David J. WEINER, 1990 **The Mentor** ,1926 *The Mentor-world Traveler* ,1929 **The Literary Digest International Book Review** Clifford Smyth, 1923 Drama ,1927 *Reading Professional Development Institute: Reading comprehension, vocabulary, & wide reading* ,1999 **Saturday**

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